

It needs no ghost come from the grave to tell us this—we can hear it any night of the week from our own elders. But I do not feel inclined to condemn *The Church by the Sea* in its entirety. I merely suggest expanding the love interest, introducing an element of conflict which Phoebe Hessel (ghost or grandmother) will be instrumental in dispelling, dividing it into 12 equal parts, and serving Mondays to Fridays in the morning session.

Listening in Dunedin

AS far as Dunedin listeners are concerned, the broadcast of the inaugural concert of the National Symphony Orchestra was not a complete success. It can't be a fault in my set alone, since other listeners here complained of bad reception; and as far as I was concerned, reception that night was much better than usual for 2YA. Although I heard the whole concert and thoroughly enjoyed it, the enjoyment was not that of a critical musician or of a commentator who desires to make a few judicious remarks about the performance. During whole sections of the broadcast I switched the radio off until conditions improved; at no time could one hear all sections of the orchestra equally well; perhaps for 20 minutes in all we heard the performance as well and as clearly as is necessary to pass judgment on a new and previously unheard combination. As far as I could judge, the orchestra put on a vivacious and interesting performance, and I am eager to hear it in the concert-hall; but I think it is time that something more was done to improve listening conditions for those of us in distant centres in the case of important broadcasts of this nature. What could be more important than that all listeners in every part of New Zealand should hear every performance of our own Symphony Orchestra with as much clearness and distinctness as is technically possible? Otherwise, our enjoyment of the orchestra will be unfortunately limited to the few occasions when this body of well-trained musicians can manage to visit us on tour.

Far From Home?

THE 4ZB broadcast about the famous medium, Daniel Home, was interesting to anyone who, like myself, knows little or nothing about spiritualist phenomena, their causes and effects. But why include this subject in *History's Unsolved Mysteries*? As presented here, Home began by being a youngster of peculiar and possibly mystical insight, but developed quickly into a celebrated medium and ended by fleecing a wealthy woman in such a way as to leave the listener with the impression that he was just another cheat, whose career should more appropriately have been told in the *Prisoner at the Bar* series. There surely must have been more to Home than the obvious seance tricks related here (spirit hands, bells rung without apparent agency, and so on) to make people believe his powers to be of such high spiritual origin as he claimed. But the only thing mentioned in this programme which might have been supernatural was Home's alleged performance of levitation—and I cannot for the life of me imagine any genuine practitioner of this art (if any exist) floating in and out of a window to the accompaniment of such words as were here put into Home's mouth: "Now I assume the horizontal position, I am floating out the window," and such phrases.

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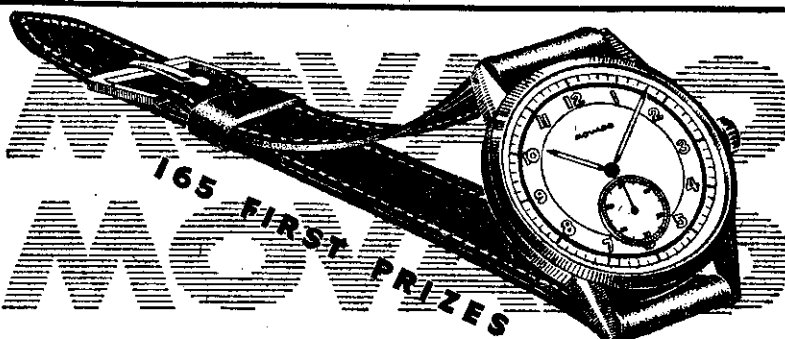


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