

logic of most of the White Knight's conversation. A. P. Harper, in his book *Memories of Mountains and Men*, tells a story of Carroll—or rather Dodgson—in which the latter actually puts his delightful false logic into practice. Dodgson's favourite jest, it appears, was to go into a pastrycook's shop and, having chosen a cake, at the last moment change his mind and choose another instead. When the unfortunate shop-girl asked him, as he was leaving, to pay for the cake, he would ask innocently, "Which cake?" "The one you have there, Sir." "But I gave you the other in exchange for it." "Yes, Sir, but you didn't pay for the other." "Of course I didn't," from Dodgson, with supreme logic, "Because I didn't take it!" All no doubt quite as confusing to the girl as "Jam yesterday and jam to-morrow" was to Alice; but we are relieved to hear that he ended by paying for both cakes.

### Early Canterbury

THE early days of Canterbury should provide material of very wide interest for a Winter Course series—for South Islanders, that is. It is a good idea to relieve the monotony of one-person-talking and make it two-people-talking; but unfortunately even two people talking does not necessarily constitute a discussion, and is perhaps rather a lame sort of compromise. The second of the series on Shipping dealt with the advent of steam. There were, it is true, moments of genuine interest in which some light was really thrown on this subject—we learnt, for instance, that the early steamships preferred to sail down the coast, only getting up steam in order to chug proudly but painfully into the harbour. But on the whole it gave the impression of having been culled from the official records, with little or no help from less prosaic if less unquestionable sources. The short space into which the information had to be crammed was, of course, a disadvantage; but it did seem a little unnecessary to include a list of ships' names when there must be any number of eye-witness accounts of the early days—a trifle highly-coloured by memory, perhaps, but certainly more palatable than the no-colour of officialdom.

### The Orchestra

AT the time of writing this, I have heard the first Dunedin concert of the NZBS Symphony Orchestra, but not the second (a much more interesting programme) which I intend to hear and see at the same time. In my opinion, the Symphony Orchestra is very, very good indeed—and I can't help feeling that anybody who tells me otherwise is a perfectionist who will never be musically satisfied until he attends in person a concert by the immortals themselves. There is another type of critic who annoys me in the matter of these orchestral concerts: this is the person who tells us in a condescending tone that this is a unique opportunity since we poor benighted New Zealanders, of course, have no idea of what a symphony orchestra sounds like or looks like either, and our knowledge of performances is limited by what we have heard on the radio. This presupposes that no cultured New Zealander ever travels beyond the borders of his own country; and, alternatively, that no symphonic combination has ever existed in New Zealand apart from visiting overseas orchestras. I am not for a moment

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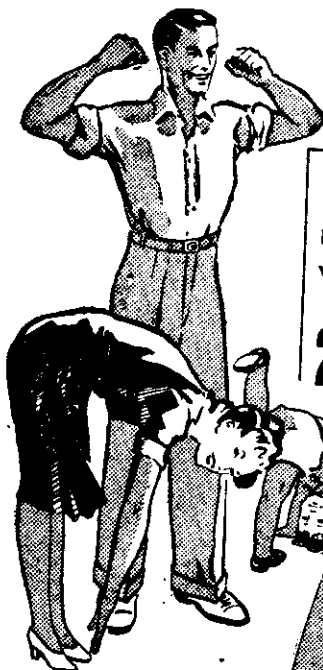


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