

(continued from previous page)  
micro-organisms and earthworms in the soil. Well, do they? and if so, is it harmful? We are not told. The experiments quoted dealt with hydroponics, a method of growing which does make an attempt to provide the plant with every possible element it might need. This would not seem to be exactly comparable to growing plants in land to which has been added, over a long term, a limited number of minerals only. This may have no deleterious effect, but it does not follow *a priori*.

It is explained that since produce is exported the minerals lost must be replaced. This is a fact that has to be faced, but it does not prove that artificial manures are not injurious to our health. Perhaps they should be used with the utmost discrimination, or perhaps new and less harmful methods of application could be devised. What we want are the facts of the matter, which could only be determined by long-term and carefully controlled experiments. Personal opinions and soothing statements are not scientific fact.

PUZZLED LAYMAN (Lower Hutt).

#### "SUMMER IS A-COMING IN"

Sir,—After the above item was given one evening recently the announcer said something to this effect, "Thus sang the monks at Reading . . . in the winter . . . to welcome the spring."

While the above rendering is unexceptionable for the sake of rhythm, it should have been remembered that in the 13th Century original, "Sumer is icumen in," the word "icumen" is "come," not "coming," and the monks would be singing after the advent of summer. RUTHERFOORD LEE (Mangakino).

#### POINTS FROM LETTERS

S. W. BOYCE (Foxton), would like to hear more of Phyllis Williams who sang Maori songs from 2YA recently.

SYLVIA M. POPE (Christchurch), asks that the Norman Corwin series, *One World Flight*, be sent round the National stations, and if John Gundry's play *The End is the Beginning* could be heard from 3YA.

BRIAN FISHER (Auckland) dislikes the fact that we don't call eminent men "Mister."

DISGUSTED (Takapuna) is disgusted about "the way the various programme organisers disregard the published programmes," frequently deviating from schedule without apology or apparent reason.

G.L.H. (Dunedin), who says he heard a YA announcer yawn during a breakfast session and then excuse himself flippantly, suggests that the "personal touch" should be reserved for ZB announcers.

H.C.G. (Wellington) says that a recent performance of *Hiawatha* from 1YA was "marred by the orchestra, the members of which ought to be more conversant with the method of tuning their instruments than they appear to be."

JEAN COPLAND (Christchurch), replying to E. Ryan (Wellington) wants to know how "If Russia did not steal . . . a large part of Poland," the Soviet Union now finds itself in possession of a large part of the unfortunate country in whose cause we went to war.

"SEARCHER" (Takapuna) endorses the suggestion of our *Viewsreel* commentator that local stations should collaborate with the National Orchestra by

presenting at least one of the major works before each concert, and after it too, if possible.

H. G. WICKENS (Kilbirnie) asks that "the thousands of people who literally worship Beethoven's immortal nine symphonies and his five piano concertos, in the Wellington district," should be given an opportunity to hear more of them through the medium of radio.

"MORE OF THE BEST" (Christchurch) says that, since the New Zealand visit of the Negro singer Todd Duncan, who was hailed with enthusiasm, he has scanned the programmes in the hope of hearing records of Duncan's singing—but so far with no success.

## SOME POPULAR TITLES

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF J. S. BACH, Van Loon, 9/3 posted. A life of Bach for the person who wants common sense, sympathy, and a lively sense of personality, showing why Bach wrote the sort of music he did.

A BANNED BROADCAST AND OTHER ESSAYS, J. B. S. Haldane, 16/3 posted. 56 Essays by Britain's best known scientist, touching on diverse subjects and marked by the author's clear reasoning and stimulating outlook.

FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES, Don Davin, 13/- posted. A finely-written novel of the 2nd Division by an outstanding N.Z. writer in England, evoking a real background to their epic story.

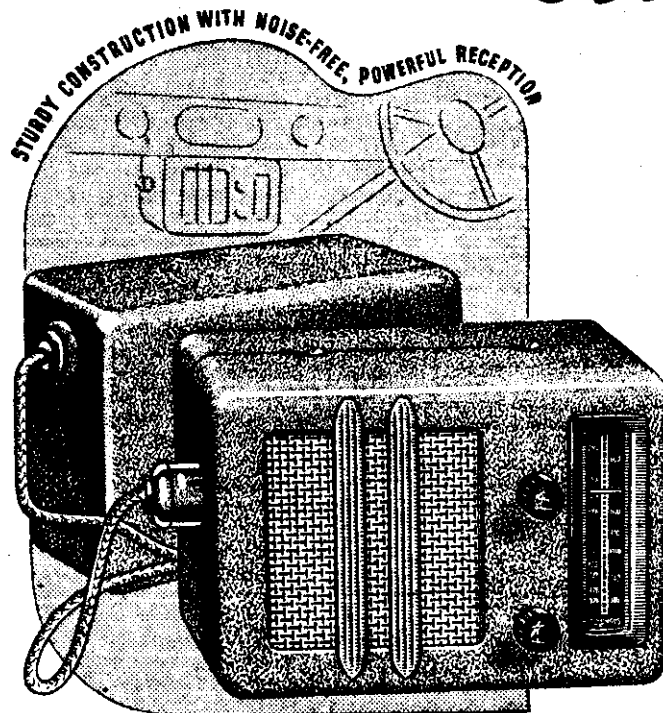
TOYS: THEIR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION, J. Kay and C. T. White, 14/6 posted. Illustrated with many photographs and designs, this is a comprehensive description of the art of toymaking in the home and in the workshop.

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