



# O'B

## FOOTWEAR FOR BOYS

MADE BY M. O'BRIEN AND CO. LTD., CHRISTCHURCH.

OB10

O'B Boots and Premier Shoes for Boys are built to give correct fitting for young feet and to stand up to rough treatment. Boys like them because they're so comfortable; parents know the brand O'B has meant good foot-wear since 1866.

"Can you keep a secret?"

— says

Mrs. Rawlins



"Only the other day Mrs.

Parkinson was saying, and you know what a pernickety person she is, that she'd never seen her linen such a good colour as she had since I came to do it. But every good laundress knows that **Reckitt's BLUE** in the final rinse keeps your linen a good colour."

RL 50

# RADIO VIEWSREEL

## What Our Commentators Say

### Good Talks

LISTENERS to 2YA at 7.15 have been fortunate lately. Following Dr. Money's excellent talks on Peru, David Tombs has begun his series on present-day Germany, and on Fridays we have H. R. G. Jefferson's talks on the London Popular Press. Then on a recent Thursday we had another of J. C. Reid's irrepressible *By-Paths of Literature*. J. C. Reid is a delightful cicerone, his only fault perhaps being a slight tendency to reach the 15-minute mark slightly ahead of his eager flock, to indicate with a nonchalant wave of the hand some curiosity worthy of his audience's eager study and hurry them on to another equally worthy, with a faint suggestion of apology in his manner for assuming that what is well known to him may not be equally well known to them. A nice change, I must confess, from the slightly heavier hand that usually steers the radio audience through Parnassian groves.

### The Return of William

JUST WILLIAM, fresh from its triumphant tour of 2ZB, as the publicity men would say, is now enjoying a triumphant return season from 2YC, which is nice for everybody. The scriptwriters have done a good job of transplanting William to radio, and have managed to leave the boyish bloom (compound of naiveté, grubbiness, and enthusiasm) still upon him, so that even those brought up on William cannot accuse radio of having cleaned him or fined him down. An attempt has been made to modernise William by making him unhappily familiar with rationing and tin hats, but the inner boy remains intact. In this week's instalment (the episode of Miss Milne's haunted pond) I noticed another endearing fact about the feature—hectoring Hubert, leader of the rival gang, sounds to be none other than the rude boy of St. Michael's, lifted straight, club-like repartee and all, from the now extinct Will Hay Show.

### Better Speech

HILDA FANCOURT'S Monday morning talks from 2YA, *The Way to Good Speech*, are noteworthy in that they are among the few modern examples of sessions requesting audience participation. In the good old days when radio was new it was fairly common (if one can go by humorous recitations still extant) to broadcast morning exercise sessions before breakfast, when all the family (or so the optimistic announcer appeared to believe) assembled in the radio room and raised obedient legs in time to the music. Lacking Hooperating, it was impossible to gauge audience response and listeners may have been as uncooperative as cinema audiences when words are flashed on the screen to be shouted in chorus, and the only fun the audience derives is from the announcer's blissful unconsciousness of the fiasco. Mrs. Fancourt, however, had more chance of getting cooperation from her housewife, since she succeeded in her first two talks in putting forward a convincing case for more careful and more melodious speech, and once convinced of the necessity for

"sighing about the house and talking to yourself" the solitary housewife is unlikely to have to suffer the sneers of the unconverted. However, I thought Mrs. Fancourt's third talk, "Vowels and Consonants," far less helpful than the preceding ones, largely because she sacrificed clearness in an effort to avoid technicality, and found difficulty in cramming the whole scale of vowel and consonant sounds into her brief 15 minutes. Mrs. Fancourt's best weapon in her fight for better speech is her very pleasant and melodious speaking voice.

### Whole or Broken English?

I DIDN'T know that *A Chinese Solomon*, from 4YA, was a local effort until it was over, so that my judgment of it was unclouded by any tinge of patriotic bias. It was an amusing trifle, the sort of thing that has to be very well done if it is not to fail altogether. This



production, I thought, kept the narrow path between over-seriousness and a too flippant treatment of a delicate theme. When treating such a selection of characters—most of whom were Chinese—it is a problem how to represent them by voice alone, as must be done on the radio. When foreigners are supposed to be conversing together in their own tongue, this should be represented by making them speak plain English; but had this been done here, half the delicious atmosphere of the story would have been lost. The different accents were varied sufficiently to indicate each person's character—the timid humble cook, the vicious house-boy, and the senile and decadent old father (the latter voice, though very difficult to listen to, was horribly effective in evoking the picture of a really despicable old man). On thinking over the play, I decided that the Solomon-theme was not unhackneyed, that possibly the play would not read as well as it sounded, but that the playwright knew how to get the best out of a radio script, and the deft and light hand of the producer had made it into something worth hearing.

### Fireside Exploration

STORIES of exploration have a perennial appeal to those of us whose lives keep us in cities and comparatively safe places, and any radio serial dealing with this subject will always command a large audience of fireside participators willing to visit the ends of the earth without personal discomfort. In this mood I tuned to the first instalment of a new 4ZB serial dealing with the well-known story of Stanley and Livingstone. When I say "well-known," I suppose this is a slight exaggeration; possibly, like

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