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# DEDICATED TO N.Z. CHILDREN New Song Arrangements by Alec Rowley

**T**O-DAY about 14,000 schools in Great Britain use the BBC's school radio service. Every teacher is free to take any or none of the broadcasts; and it is much the same in New Zealand where about 1,700 schools take full advantage of the free service provided by the NZBS. But, like the BBC, the NZBS does far more than broadcast educational sessions for children, for every year it supplements the radio lessons on music, travel, literature, and so on with booklets, also issued free to all schools who want them.

Some time ago the Broadcasts to Schools Department of the NZBS found difficulty in securing suitable songs for use in its sessions, so it wrote to Alec Rowley, the English composer and teacher, for advice. Mr. Rowley replied that the copyright laws of Britain were severe, and publishers were extremely reluctant to part with copyrights. He suggested that instead of selecting songs from various publishers, he should provide a complete booklet, at a nominal

fee, for school broadcasting. His generous offer was accepted gladly and 5,000 copies of the booklet, which Rowley has dedicated to the children of New Zealand, have now been printed in New Zealand for teachers who use the radio lessons.

Rowley's compositions for adult audiences are rarely heard in New Zealand, for they are written for exclusive ensembles. But his music for the young is very widely known in British educational circles. He has written chamber music, orchestral and vocal compositions. Two pianoforte concertos (one with military band accompaniment) were broadcast for the first time in 1938. A vocal suite (sung but without words) was presented by the Fleet Street Choir in 1938, and performed during the choir's European tour.

### Music and Soccer

Rowley's chamber music compositions include two trios for flute, oboe and piano, and a string quartet (broadcast by the Chelsea String Quartet in 1937) and among his orchestral works are a rhapsody for viola and orchestra, and a

concerto for oboe and orchestra which was played by Leon Goossens in the U.S. As a pianist, Rowley is best known by his broadcasts of pianoforte duets with Edgar Moy, a Trinity College examiner who visited New Zealand about two years ago. When not engaged with music Rowley is an enthusiastic follower of Association football.

The NZBS music booklet is expected to form a link with the work which has been done for many years in English schools. In a foreword to it, T. J. Young, lecturer in music at the Wellington Teachers' Training College (who conducts studio singing lessons from 2YA every Thursday throughout the year, with the help of children from the Kelburn School), says that all concerned will be grateful for the interest Rowley has shown in the musical education of the Dominion. It will not be possible to do more than introduce each song over the air, but this, it is hoped, will provide a starting-point for a subsequent week's work in the classroom. The only way to get any real benefit from the songs and to make definite progress is for the teacher to assist with each broadcast, directing the class when necessary, conducting, encouraging soft, tuneful singing, and helping individual pupils to follow instructions.

### Training Eye and Ear

It is important that notation work should not be neglected. Sight-reading is not an end in itself, but its primary function should be to train the eye and ear of the pupil so that he may grow into an intelligent listener, capable of reaching the minds of those composers whose music has something really worth-while to say. A weekly music lesson over the air is of little value without the whole-hearted active co-operation and participation of the teacher in the lesson itself, and meticulously careful attention to instructions and suggestions for follow-up lessons and daily voice exercises. With this follow-up, the entirely untrained but appreciative and enthusiastic teacher can work wonders. Without it the result is inevitable disappointment and failure both for the teacher and children.

"There is one person who holds the key to success in all radio lessons, and that is the teacher in the classroom," says Mr. Young. "He is by far the most important factor in the whole educational process. His influence is much greater than that of the broadcaster and his attitude and enthusiasm are directly reflected in the response of his class."

### Well-Variied Selection

In the booklet are three songs with words by Doris Rowley and music by Alec Rowley—*The Frog's Holiday*, *Morning and Evening Hymns*, and *Last Praise*. A two-part canon *Elves' Song*, is by Rowley, who has also written the arrangement of a Basque melody, *Born This Day*. Included in the booklet are Scots and Irish airs, nursery rhymes, folk songs, humorous songs, and rounds, while T. A. Arne, Sterndale Bennett, and



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