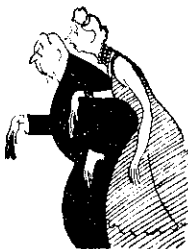


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peare). I should have loved to suggest Leonardo da Vinci. It seemed to me, listening to the speakers' reasons for their choices, that the type of brain possessed by Leonardo would have done wonders with the accumulated knowledge of the scientific age at its disposal—not to mention the antidote his sublime artistic vision would have provided for certain diseases of modern art.

Swift Analysis

THE Sunday night talk by Dr. D. Daiches Raphael, who is vacating the chair of philosophy at Otago University, was one of the very best talks yet heard in this series, as Dr. Raphael, a keen observer, had a few pungent things to tell us before leaving New Zealand. The average New Zealander, who absorbs pat-on-the-back as a sponge absorbs water, and bristles like the porcupine at the first show of criticism, may not have liked all that Dr. Raphael had to



say, but he would have to admit that the criticism was fair and constructive. Dr. Raphael poked some mild fun at various social customs (such as the Dunedinite's love of getting into evening dress on all possible occasions), but also packed into his brief quarter of an hour not only the occasional dig in the ribs but also a number of shrewdly-administered elbow-jolts; few of our institutions missed his swift analysis, from the social security legislation to the ice-cream for Christmas dinner. We could have done with not one but a series of such talks by Dr. Raphael. His radio personality is pleasant and easy to listen to, and he has much to tell us which we should hear. I was sorry that his innate tact and courtesy made him just a little too complimentary to us; I am sure the things which he left unsaid would have been even more stimulating than those he did say.


The Comedy Was Musical

BY a misprint in the programmes, a particularly good play from 4YA was credited to the BBC when it was actually an NZBS production. This was *The Savage Breast*, a really amusing comedy by William Barrow, and it concerned the rival activities of a town brass band and a newly-formed orchestral society. As one who has had some practical acquaintance with music-making in small local groups, I appreciated to the fullest extent the perfectly accurate picture of jealousies, partisan strife, and



general heart-burning among musicians and townsfolk alike. Musicians are a proud, bigoted, envious, temperamental lot, it must be confessed, and Mr. Barrow has made good capital out of these traits and their complementary ones, tolerance, kindness, and sincerity,

which can be found in everyone when occasion demands. The accents of the players were so well sustained that one might be excused for thinking them BBC personnel; and the amateur musical groups skilfully managed a difficult feat in performing so nicely just off the beat and slightly out of tune. The only false note (metaphorically speaking) was in the grand finale. Surely the rendering of *Land of Hope and Glory* was just a little too powerful, too resonant, too perfectly in time and pitch for the supposed amateur singers and a town band performing on new instruments which they hadn't yet had time to try out?



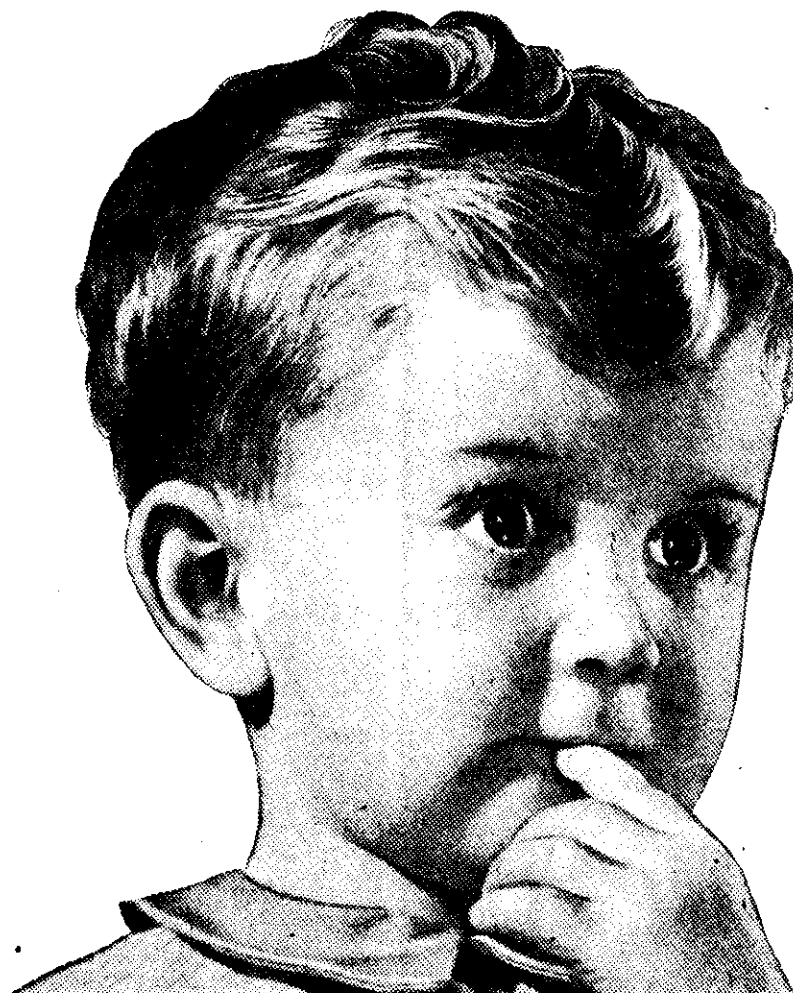
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