

(Continued from previous page)

were known and liked abroad for our pragmatism, our self-interest, and our lack of aggressiveness. In this he took at least one word right out of Mr. Cole's mouth, since he was on the point of saying that aggressiveness and not its opposite was a national characteristic. This difference of opinion seemed to me to invalidate the theory that there is such a thing as the typical New Zealander, but fortunately there still seemed to be plenty of culture left for the germ of national consciousness to flourish in. The chairman summed up to the satisfaction of all concerned by announcing that there was such a thing as a true New Zealand culture, but that naturally we would continue to mirror overseas trends.

### Easter Music

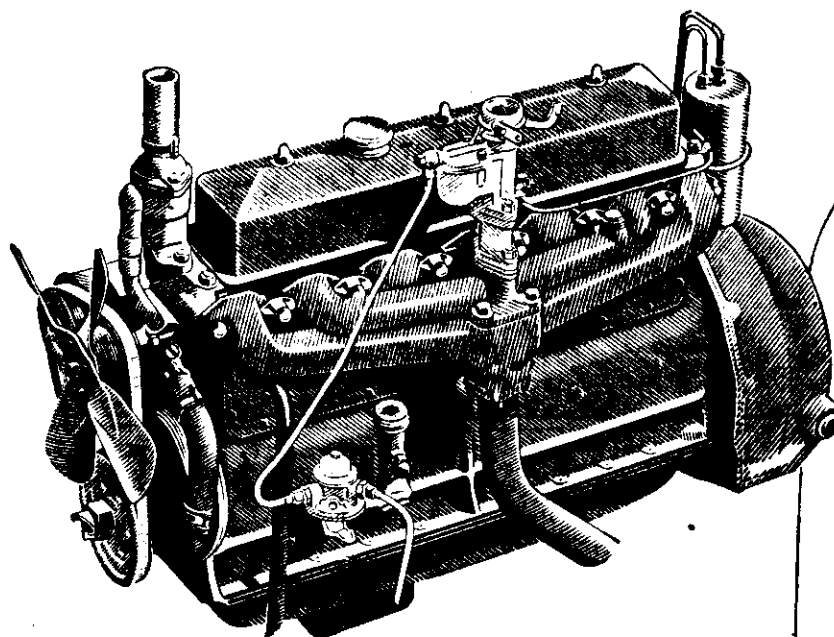
(ONE of the staples of Easter music has for many years been Stainer's *Crucifixion*. I'm afraid that this is a work whose music, as well as the composer's use of words with a very strong bearing on the merely physical aspects of the Easter story, has never appealed to me. I was therefore very interested to hear Martin Shaw's cantata *The Redeemer* broadcast on the Sunday before Easter by the Wesley Church choir. This is a work of which I had read much praise in the English press, and I found it on hearing all that it had been described. It is a refreshing composition, more straightforward than most modern choral works and its presentation by the choir, which I believe introduced the work to New Zealand, was wholly satisfying. The broadcasting of choral music from a church seems to present some difficulties to the microphone engineers, but this performance came over the air exceptionally well, the balance between choir and organ (under H. Temple White) being particularly good. It is a work I want to hear again.

### New Regime

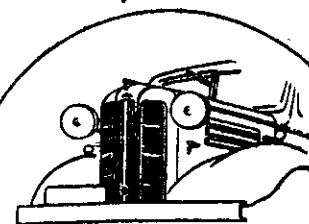
APPARENTLY Life Goes On a little earlier from 2YA than from 2ZB, for whereas Aunt Daisy and Elsie Lloyd were prepared on Easter Monday to allow the housewife to forget she was one, Miriam Pritchett was firmly on home science duty at 11.0 a.m., thus giving me my first opportunity of hearing the new Women's Session. Monday is Domestic Day: there was a fashion talk, then "Focus on Furniture" by J. E. P. Murphy (Lecturer in Design at the Otago Home Science School), and another Home Science talk on Mushrooms. The new method of presentation, with its single compere, makes for greater compactness and more interest in the session. This was particularly noticeable in the Fashion Talk, which, presented merely as a talk, would have been dull, but which blossomed out beneath Miss Pritchett's skilful interviewing technique. The furniture talk, like the modern product its speaker advocated, was smooth, sound and functional. The mushroom talk was memorable to a mushroom-eater because it revealed that the mushroom, though 90% water, is a good source of Vitamin B and rich in iron and other minerals, thus providing addicts with a good as well as a real reason for eating the things. At the end of the half-hour I felt distinctly that listening maketh a full woman.

NEW ZEALAND LISTENER, APRIL 29

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