

away with much of the seeming incivility of sudden changes of subject in rapidly succeeding questions. It might perhaps be possible for an interviewer to find about two variations for the stock "O-really." And it would surely be a good idea for interviewers to avoid asking any artist such leading questions as "And are your audiences glad to see you again?" or "And is it true, Miss X, that you have been in radio since the beginning?"

—M.M.

Children's Corner

CHILDREN'S sessions must be the most difficult of all programmes to run well, when we consider the varying ages of the listeners and the need to find fresh ideas every day. To be successful, they require an outstanding personality in charge, who combines the patience of an infant mistress with the tact of a welfare officer. One such is Cinderella, the perennial spirit of 1YA's Children's Session, who, over more years than it would be polite to record, has retained her youthful infectious manner and her gentle, lilting voice, and who emerges daily unruffled from the floods of correspondence from her loyal legions. Recently returned from a holiday in England, during which, despite the valiant efforts of a locum tenens, her absence was sorely felt, she now painlessly injects doses of historical and geographical information into her session. I am able anew to admire the skilful way she combines admonitions about spelling, writing, manners and morals with sympathy and unaffected interest in her listeners. She is ably seconded by a host of "uncles," notably the recently-acquired "Tim," an interesting speaker with a critical brother, and "Grandad," whose original rhymed fairy tales strike me as good enough to make an excellent children's book.

—J.C.R.

Crabbed Youth

I RESERVE my decision on the merits of the innovation in the 2ZB *Citizens' Forum* whereby each topic is debated by a Panel of Youth and a Panel of Maturity, pausing merely to note, (1) that it was high time something was done; and (2) the gratifying fact (gratifying to the mature listener) that Youth, bless it, is so much stoddier and more crabbed than age. On a recent Sunday the topic debated was *Is Spoonfeeding Making Our People Soft?* and certainly anything less soft than the youth panel (themselves more a product of the system than the mature) could hardly be imagined. Obviously much hard toil had gone into the preparation of those lengthy definitions and fluently-delivered speeches, and the mental outlook, even when altruistic, was predominantly pioneer. The adults, on the other hand, were of softer, more yielding intellectual clay, showing more shakiness in the hand of the potter. But their preference for the personal in argument and their inadequately justified dogmatism made them much more entertaining listening. I especially liked the gentleman who said hotly, "Anyone who says the youth

of today is soft is casting a slur on our present All Blacks"—a remark succeeded by three minutes' silence.

—M.B.

Voices Across the Sea

STATION 4YA has evidently a planned programme for keeping Dunedin, at least, in touch with the other side of the globe. Letters from England read from the studio last week reminded us of how our students overseas were faring and on Tuesday evening 4YA was back on the job with a recording from England made for the BBC by Dr. D. D. Raphael, until recently Professor of Philosophy at the University of Otago. Only it was all done a little less obtrusively this time. Dr. Raphael's talk, the first of a series of four on the subject *So This is Philosophy*, merely formed one of the usual Winter Course series. A very acceptable talk it was, too. For clarity of exposition it left nothing to be desired. Philosophers trained in the misty German school used to be thought vague and difficult to understand, but thank heaven in our day they have chosen instead the monumental task of clearing up confusions and vagueness in the meaning of words. Nowadays it is left to physicists to fashion out of airy nothing dreams beyond the comprehension of common man, while the philosophers grub about patiently and practically, driving paths through the jungle of words... At any rate it was pleasant indeed to hear again a voice we had learnt to know and like, during Dr. Raphael's all too short stay with us. What further surprises has 4YA in store, I wonder? Bringing back Dr. Raphael's voice out of the immediate past reminds us how long it is since we heard the voice of his predecessor, Dr. J. N. Findlay, who was also a remarkable speaker and who is now in England. Could the BBC be persuaded to carry on with the good work?

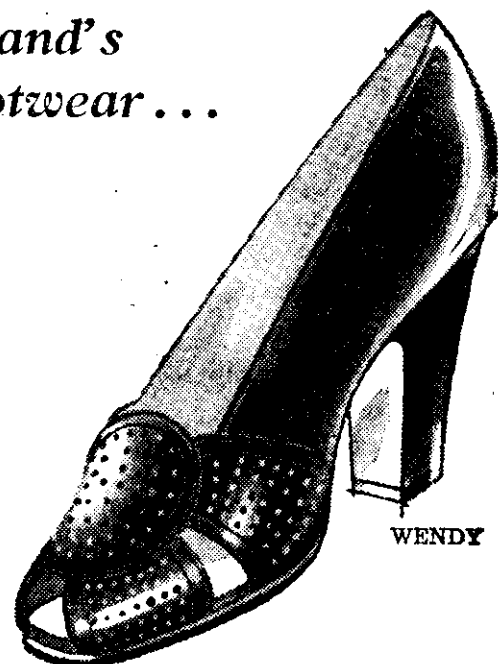
(In drawing attention to Dr. Raphael's talks "The Listener" credited the series to the BBC. The recordings were, in fact, made by the BBC, but to the order of the NZBS.)

Prizes for Gallantry

THE prize for the week should go to the NZBS announcer who attempted an actuality broadcast of the arrival of the new settlers—75 of them—in Dunedin. Wilfred Pickles himself might have quailed at having to do his stuff on a moving platform amid the hubbub of a train and with no prizes in the offing. And yet it was a laudable idea to take the microphone aboard the train and so avoid some of the banality of the inevitable station scene and formal greeting; but the train's vigorous obligato was too much, I fear, for the untrained voices of our new friends. Occasionally a remark would pierce the layer of background noise, but the announcer had to do most of the talking for anything to be heard. One immigrant who had evidently been asked too often to admire New Zealand scenery, got in a dirty left hook, by observing blandly that it was very much better than she had been led to expect. Alas for God's Own Country! Possibly a prize could also be equally divided among these 75 young men and women, who endured with so much politeness and such genuine goodwill—when we could hear them—the intrusion of our curiosity.

—K.J.S.

New Zealand's Finest Footwear...



Fashioned in New Zealand by DUCKWORTH, TURNER & CO. LTD.

Finest fluid for your lighter

RONSONOL

A flick gives you a flame when Ronsonol is in your lighter. Just as there are no better lighters than Ronson, so there is no better fuel for any lighter than Ronsonol. Flames instantly, lasts longer. 4-oz., bottle with special pourer, 2/6d.

RONSON PRODUCTS LTD., LONDON
N.Z. Representatives — Ponsford, Newman & Benson 1948 Ltd.
RONSONOL, Wholesale Distributors — Delopac (N.Z.) Ltd.
Howes Lane, Wellington.