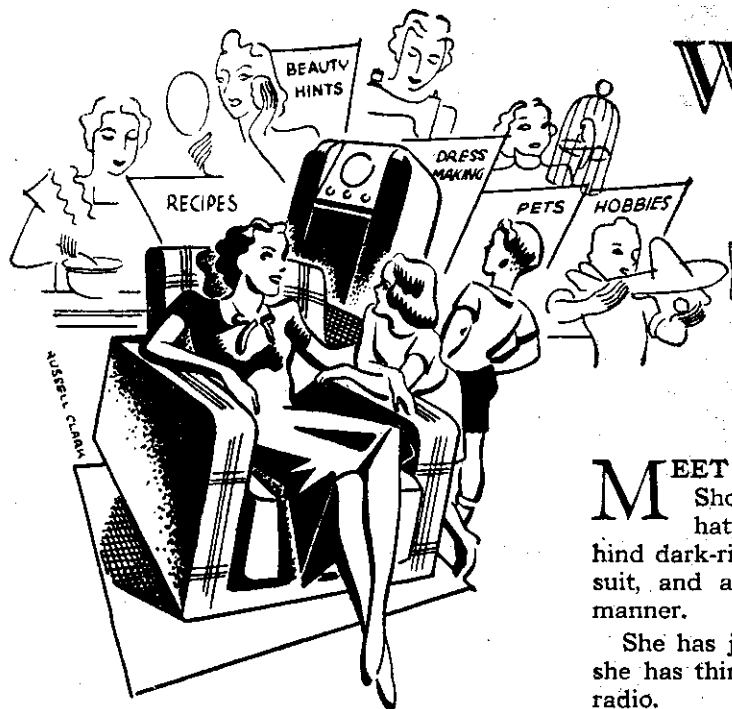


Women and the Home

Radio is the slender wire that brings the world and its affairs into the tiny kitchens and living rooms which hitherto had isolated so many housekeepers in the performance of their duties
—Margaret Bondfield

SHE FIGHTS FOR HER WORK Books For The Outback



These Should Interest You:

- A.C.E., Home Science Tutorial Section, University of Otago, talks: Monday, February 19, 1YA 3.30 p.m.; 2YA 3 p.m.; 3YA 2.30 p.m. Wednesday, February 21, 4YA 3.15 p.m. Thursday, February 22, 1YA 3.30 p.m.; 3YA 2.30 p.m. Friday, February 23, 2YA 3 p.m.; 4YA 3.15 p.m.
- "Ships and Shoes and Sealing Wax": Miss Nelle Scanlan. Tuesday, February 20 and Friday, February 23, 2YA 10.45 a.m.
- "Your Children Also Read": Miss Dorothy Neal. Tuesday, February 20, 2YA 7.30 p.m.
- "Fashions": Mrs. E. Early. Tuesday, February 20, 3YA 11.15 a.m.
- "Still Outside the Pale: Women at Cambridge": Miss Ida Lawson. Thursday, February 22, 1YA 11 a.m.
- "What Shall We Eat? (7) Facing the Facts": Dr. Elizabeth Bryson. Thursday, February 22, 1YA 7.40 p.m.
- Talk under the Auspices of the Christchurch Branch of the National Council of Women. Thursday, February 22, 3YA 11.15 a.m.
- "Music and Flowers: Flowers in the Home": Mrs. Bert McDonald. Saturday, February 24, 2YA 10.45 a.m.
- "Bringing Up the Small Child (6)": Mrs. C. E. Beeby. Saturday, February 24, 4YA 10.50 a.m.



WEEKLY RECIPE

STUFFED TOMATOES

Ingredients: Four even-sized tomatoes, 2 tablespoons fresh breadcrumbs, 1oz. chopped ham, 1 teaspoonful chopped onion, ½oz. butter, ½ teaspoonful chopped parsley, ½ teaspoonful salt, pinch of pepper, fried bread, sprigs of parsley, ½ cucumber.

Method: Wash and dry the tomatoes. Cut a small round from each tomato at the end opposite the stalk, leaving it attached at one side. Scoop out the centre with a teaspoon handle. Fry the ham and onion in the butter for 3 minutes. Add the crumbs, parsley, seasonings and pulp removed from the tomatoes. Fill the tomatoes with this mixture and pile neatly on top. Place the lids over, and bake in a moderate oven for 15 minutes.

The cucumber is used as garnish and can be cooked in the same dish. Wipe the piece of cucumber and cut down in 4 strips. Wrap these in a buttered paper and bake for 15 minutes.

Serve the tomatoes on pieces of fried bread and garnish with parsley.

MEET Mrs. Rowlatt, of Canterbury. Short, greying hair under her felt hat, brown eyes, wise and warm behind dark-rimmed glasses, a sensible tailored suit, and a "Well—let's start, shall we?" manner.

She has just returned from Australia, and she has things to say about heat waves and radio.

But we know something already, so we start asking questions.

"What put the idea into your head to start a travelling library for rural schools down in Canterbury?"

"Why — the children hadn't any books! To read, I mean. Lesson books and mother's pattern journal and an odd comic cuts! A child must have more than that — it's so important!"

"Yes — it's important all right," I agreed, "But how did it all begin?"

"Oh, well, of course — it wasn't me. It was about six of us — after hearing Miss Hollow, of Rangiora High School, speak about the great need of culture for the outback. We just made up our minds to do it." "Not so easy," I demurred. "How?" "Oh — you mean money. We canvassed for it. And when we got £200 we started — with 300 books."

"Begged, borrowed, and stolen?"

She smiled. "Nearly," she said. "That was four years ago. Now we've a £620 Government grant to carry on and 7,000 books."

"How do you get them to their destination?"

"At first, almost entirely by voluntary carriage. On lorries, buses, everything. Now a quarter rate concession on the railways. The schools receive so many books per month. The children, for a sub. of 2/-, may read as many as they can in the time. Then they are returned and a fresh batch is issued."

Good work — good woman. Maybe there's a hope yet that we'll breed minds to match our bodies.

Found she'd gone for a long walk too — "just to look around." Took six weeks — alone — from Auckland to the Far North, beyond Kaitiaki — with sleeping bag and tucker.

Sonie of the Maori villages that were off the beaten track a bit knew serious poverty and disease.

Two and a-half days on 90-Mile Beach — didn't meet a soul.

"Lonely? No! I thought out all the things I don't ordinarily get time for. It's friends — contacts — travel — life — that makes it possible to stand up to solitude."

"And books can be all these?"

"Yes! Well — nearly. A good second best. That's why we find neglect, lethargy, despondency in the remote parts of New Zealand — of any country. It's the same in Australia. Nothing for the mind to feed on. It's starvation. And it's serious."

I thought of long journeys I have taken by rail through that perishing-hot continent — of the groups of women waiting hours by the rails to grab the books and magazines we might throw them — their shouts of delight — their waving arms as we sped past into the distance. . . .

"I know," I said.

"Well, did you get the full blast of Sydney's summer over there?" I asked.

"I did. But Sydney's not the worst. It's inland — and the bush fires. You know that everywhere there are 'travellers' fireplaces' set up, and not a day passes without the national warning against carelessness sounding over the air."

"Yet, in one case, three women fired thousands of acres of grass. Two hundred volunteers were fighting day and night along a 30-mile front. Forest, fences, houses — everything went."

"The National Forest — Bulli Pass — was black when I passed through. Every season sees the bush things — the little native koala bear, for instance, dwindling."

"Did you talk on the Other side?"

"Yes, I did," said Mrs. Rowlatt. "I talked about our library scheme over here, and they were very much interested."

"What did you think of their women's programmes?"

"Better than ours. The women's voices are very poor — the men are picked and rather English. But the programmes are much more varied and interesting and spread over the day."

"For instance, any Monday there's a women's session at 10.20, carrying on to a special talk at 11.20."

"At 2.30 it's special to country women, preceded by another talk at 1.45."