

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



OUR MUSIC MOVES

WOMEN throughout the Dominion are doing things in music. Active in it all is a Dunedin Society of Women Musicians.

Names that crop up are Madame Betts-Vincent (Wellington pianiste) because she is also so keen an organiser; Mary Martin (Dunedin pianiste) because her compositions show charm and spirit and originality; and Ava Symons (Wellington violinist) because she plays them so delightfully. Three women of many more who are keen that music should develop more rapidly in this small country—and who contribute their talent and their energies unstintingly.

In January last I attended a concert held in the Hall of the Women's Court of the Centennial Exhibition. Original compositions attracted much attention—particularly "Phantasy for Piano and Strings" and "Maori Suite for Piano." Both were contributed and conducted by Miss Martin who, besides assisting Dr. Galway in the Music Department of Otago University is an active W.E.A. Lecturer in the subject.

Very soon to be broadcast—and well worth noting—is a programme put over by the Women's Centennial String Orchestra, when we will have a chance of hearing, and judging, original items for ourselves. The majority of the compositions will be in song form though included are several pieces for piano and strings.

These Should Interest You:

Talks prepared by the A.C.E., Home Science Tutorial Section, University of Otago:

- "Repairing Summer Wear and Tear." Monday, March 18, 1YA 3.30 p.m., 2YA 3 p.m., 3YA 2.30 p.m.
- "Use of Fowls and Feathers." Wednesday, March 20, 4YA 3.15 p.m.
- "Answers to Inquiries." Thursday, March 21, 1YA 3.30 p.m., 2YA 3 p.m., 3YA 2.30 p.m.
- "Ships and Shoes and Sealing Wax": Miss Nelle Scanlan. Tuesday, March 19, 1YA 11 a.m., 2YA 10.45 a.m.
- "Popular Fallacies in First Aid Treatment": Representative of St. John Ambulance. Tuesday, March 19, 2YA 11.30 a.m.
- "Recreation at Home and Abroad": "Takaro." Tuesday, March 19, 2YA 3.15 p.m.
- Talk under the auspices of Christchurch Branch of National Council of Women. Thursday, March 21, 3YA 11.15 a.m.
- "Still Outside the Pale: Women at Cambridge": Miss Ida Lawson. Thursday, March 21, 4YA 10.50 a.m.
- "Music and Flowers: Flowers in the Home": Mrs. Bert McDonald. Saturday, March 23, 1YA 11 a.m.
- "Music and Flowers: Flowers and the Man": Henry Jackson. Saturday, March 23, 2YA 10.45 a.m.
- "Leaves from a Backblocks Diary: Isolation": Mrs. Mary Scott. Saturday, March 23, 3YA 11 a.m.
- "Music and Flowers: Flowers and Fashions": Miss Peggy Hoyt. Saturday, March 23, 4YA 10.50 a.m.

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STA-BLOND SHAMPOOS

Film Review

"SEVEN LITTLE AUSTRALIANS"

Elocution Plus Camera

SINCE the days when I saw my childhood's elocution mistress—Marie Ney—sitting stiffly and apprehensively astride an elderly horse as the "Squatter's Daughter" I have avoided, with happy success, Australian-made films. Nevertheless, it was not altogether a penance that took me to the private screening of "Seven Little Australians." I was interested to see what the years between Then and Now had contributed. And also the extent of success or otherwise with so vital a character as "Judy"—heroine of that children's classic. Remembering again the emotional havoc wrought in me at a probably too early age by the mere reading of this book I wondered at their daring in attacking so human a theme—or might it prove stupidity?

So far as the years were concerned I found they had improved photography

—though there were still too many "scenes" to make the thing run with anything suggesting rhythm.

For the rest it was, if not stupidity, sheerly rash.

In Judy I found—instead of the vivid vital child living on nervous energy that tossed her to emotional heights and depths—a stolid and likeable but unprepossessing girl with lazy movements, aggressive good health, who was made to pronounce platitudes and heart-shaking truths in the same robust monotone.

This "wholesome" note ran throughout the film and was no doubt intentional—but somewhat painful.

One good thing: those who dread being emotionally torn to ribbons need not worry.

The final, and horribly over-stressed, suggestion that the sacrifice of Judy was necessary to the regeneration of her father is wholly nauseating. Nevertheless, projected through a series of shots depicting changing seasons, blossoming boughs, twittering birds and airy clouds afloat in a tranquil heaven we are brought to where he pauses among the tombstones of the churchyard and, to the accompaniment of bells and a thick Sabbath sanctity, turns to his young wife and promises to be a better father.

By the way, this was all before the days of "Oxford groupers," wasn't it?

—A.G.

Eat Your News!

LAATEST in diet fads comes, not from America, but from London. When Mrs. F. Rickard of Kenington Road opens her door in the morning to bring in the milk she collects at the same time two newspapers. One is for her husband to read over the breakfast coffee. The other she eats.

Though she does not appear to be out to get converts to the new diet, she insists that consuming world affairs gladdens the gastric processes and improves complexion.

Personally, we feel much of the overseas news disastrous to the digestion—even without this interesting experiment. We'd love to hear results if any of you care to try it out with our pages.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

"A.L.", Kaitiaki: Not at all. I have delivered your instructions, with note, to the firm in question from whom you will hear immediately.

* * *

"S.V.", Timaru: I should say it is more than likely that your small boy is over-strained in such an advanced standard. Do not hesitate to discuss the matter with his teacher. Health and happiness at that age, and all others, are all-important.

* * *

"A.R.", Blenheim: I think you are over-dramatising the situation. Life is not "completely upheaved" by a move from one social centre to another, however strange. Anyhow the question for you is, "Is he worth it?" Answer that and you answer both.

* * *

"O.J.", Eifflerton: Have posted detailed criticism. "Life" is hackneyed in theme. Try out your rhyming talent in word pictures of the simple things about you. Look up the word "platitude" in a really good dictionary—and then avoid them like the devil.

"Pansies" is much better, though I won't have the word "allure" at any cost: "massed in gay disorder, damp with morning mist" is better. Remember, ugliness can be interesting.

—A.S.