

"The Junior Encyclopedia"

AFTER a year on the air, the "Scrapbook" conducted by "Ebor" every Monday in 2YA's Children's session has given way to "Ebor's" "Junior Encyclopedia of the Air," which is a half hour of amusing and interesting information on a wide variety of subjects, relieved by neatly-introduced music, In the first instalment of the "Junior Encyclopedia" "Ebor" explained that just as Arthur Mee had been led to write his Children's Encyclopedia because of the many questions asked him by his small daughter, so the encyclopedia of the air would set out to supply the answers to a lot of questions he knew young listeners would like to ask.

There is nothing dry or schoolbookish about "Ebor's" encyclopedia, however. His practice is to ask a question, play some appropriate music while his listeners are thinking over the answer, and then give the answer, usually at some length. For instance, in his first instalment he asked, "Who was the 18th century navigator who took a goat on his voyage round the world to supply him with fresh milk, and whose goat on its return to England was admitted as a pensioner at Green-wich hospital?" The music selected was Percy Grainger playing "Sheep and Goat Walking to the Pasture," which "Ebor" added was written by the man who composed President Roosevelt's favourite song, "Home on the Range." The answer, of course, is Captain Cook, and "Ebor" explained that when the Lords of the British Admiralty, sitting round a big table in wigs and gorgeous uniforms, had signed a warrant admitting the goat to the privileges of an in-pensioner of Greenwich Hospital, of which Cook had been captain, Dr. Johnson wrote a Latin couplet for the goat to wear on her collar,

BOOK REVIEW

READY-MADE SPEECHES AND TOASTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS. Simple Guide Series No. 5. Whitcombe and Tombs, 1/6.

ONE is tempted to be hackneyed and use the word "comprehensive" in connection with No. 5 of Whitcombe's Simple Guide Series, for the compilers have gone so far as to include a readymade reply for those whose homes are invaded by a surprise party. Well, perhaps there is something to be said for the Boy Scout motto. And there's quite a lot to be said for this little book, which should prove itself very helpful to those who use it as a guide rather than as a text book.