

## DID YOU HEAR THIS?

Extracts From Recent Talks

### Poor Old Seagull

I NOTICED one rather dignified old seagull who held himself rather aloof from the others. He strolled along the water's edge and when he had found a really tasty morsel, he picked it up and retired to the roadside in order to have his meal far from the crowd. Unfortunately, at that moment a very ramshackle motor-car driven by a youth of about eighteen years dashed along the road at a furious speed, and hit the seagull a vicious blow. Two other young fellows in the back of the car



turned round with grins on their faces and the car dashed on in a cloud of dust, leaving the bird on the road with a broken wing, and a broken leg. A young woman came on the scene and there and then picked up the injured bird very carefully and took it to her garden across the road. It was wonderful to see the way in which this young woman handled this casualty and it was even more wonderful to see how the seagull responded to her gentle handling. There were no signs of trembling on the patient's part and no signs of fear—evidently it knew that it was in good hands. I have personally made good friends with many land birds in my time, but for some reason or other, I have always looked upon seabirds as belonging to another world.—(*Just on Being Considerate*," Major F. H. Lampen, 2YA, March 5.)

### Baptism on Board

SOMETIMES there are unexpected excitements, a dance on board, a ship to be launched—always the most fascinating kind of birthday party—yearly sports, or perhaps a christening on board... this is most interesting. The captain and the padre are sounded, and their reactions being favourable, the day is fixed, preparations made, a cake ordered from ashore, or—if the cook can be trusted and anxious to show his skill—made on board, invitations, of course, sent out, and the whole ship takes



on an air of mild excitement. On the day arranged, generally a Sunday, Mrs. Naval Man goes down to the jetty with babe and accompanying friends. They are taken off to the ship which has been dressed with bunting and looks very jaunty with a white wreath slung between the masts. When she steps aboard, the bos'n's whistle shrills, and her child is "piped aboard," an honour reserved normally for the captain, other commanding officers and very senior officers in all the services when visiting the ship—this, as you may imagine, is an extremely gratifying moment. The ship's

bell is unhitched, turned upside down and in some cases is given a coat of paint for good measure, then it is filled with water, everyone gathers round and the padre does his stuff, using the bell as a font.—(*Background to the Navy: Sweethearts and Wives*," Mrs. O. J. Gerard, 2YA, February 27.)

### Cock-a-Doodle-Do!

IT would be a long job to list the European and American stars in operetta, musical comedy, and straight comedy, that Cochran introduced to London. Those that he captured, or found and made, in revue would carry the list to the horizon. Their names are scattered through *Cock-a-Doodle Do*, of course—neon-signs to their own glory, and Cocky's.



(I nerve myself to use the too familiar, but perfect, familiar nickname). And to Cocky's glory, perhaps, above all. Because the man who took so much trouble to gather the beauties of the chorus—

"Mr. Cochran's young ladies," in his own celebrated phrase—and the brilliant principals, took as much trouble, or more, to give them something to appear in. Book and music by Noel Coward, songs by Cole Porter, lyrics and dialogue by A. P. Herbert, ballet by Osbert Sitwell, William Walton, and Cecil Beaton... of course it's "showmanship" to choose and use craftsmanship of that order, but not the sort of showmanship that goes out to meet lowbrows on their own level and then sinks it a bit to be on the safe side. (From a review of C. B. Cochran's *"Cock-a-Doodle Do"*, by J. H. E. Schroder, 3YA, March 3.)

### Information Wanted

#### Earliest Performances Of "Messiah" In N.Z.

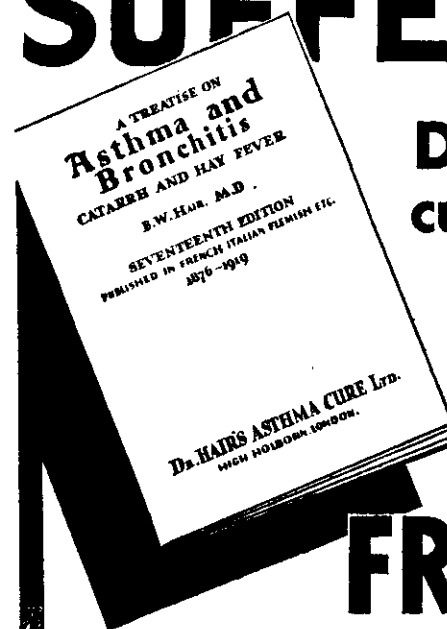
THE National Broadcasting Service asks for information from listeners about the earliest performances of Handel's "Messiah" in any part of New Zealand. The NBS would like to establish definitely what was the first performance of the "Messiah," and it would welcome any information about very early performances generally in this country. The more information about a performance the better; the Service would particularly like programmes or press cuttings, so will any listeners who have such material please send this to the:

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