

Have YOU thought of it this way?

SCENE:—A New Zealand home on a recent paynight

- Wife:** How much this week, Jim?
- Husband:** Not bad. You can get yourself a real good winter rig-out.
- Wife:** Not this year, Jim. Last year's things will do all right.
- Husband:** What about something for the house, then?
- Wife:** I feel we ought to put the money into National Savings.
- Husband:** But I am putting ten bob a week into the Savings Group at the Works. Isn't that enough?
- Wife:** It would be enough if we couldn't afford more, Jim.
- Husband:** What's the point of making it more?
- Wife:** Two points, Jim! First, we've got to do our bit to win the war. The only way is by lending every penny we can to the Country. The second point is—the more we save now, the better off we'll be when the war is over.
- Husband:** But is there any need to stint ourselves in the meantime?
- Wife:** What's the sense of putting more clothes on our backs or more things into the home just now? The money will do more good if it's lent to the country.
- Husband:** You've won! From now on all our extra money goes into National Savings!

CHANGE "WEAKLY" TO WEEKLY

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"CRANFORD" REVISITED

Readings From Station 2YA

SOME books are to be read and some are to be read and re-read. On the whole, the books that we read at school with half an eye on examination results are tucked away and seldom looked at again, but there are often the very books that would most repay re-opening. For often it is only with an experience of life and people that these books can be properly appreciated. One book that is frequently held up in school for premature appreciation is *Cranford*. To schoolchildren, the lavender atmosphere and the elderly "ladies," with their petty economies and petty gossipings, may at times, seem insufferably tedious, but a re-reading often shows with what a sure



touch the frailties of all human beings have been sketched. And though the setting is so unmistakably early nineteenth century, it would also be true to say that *Cranford* "chooses its own inhabitants and is everywhere where people have individuality and kindness."

This was so much the most popular book by Mrs. Gaskell that it has overshadowed her other books and writings. Mrs. Gaskell herself, in a letter replying to Ruskin, says of it, "It is the only one of my own books that I can read again; but sometimes when I am ailing or ill, I take *Cranford*, and I was going to say enjoy it, but that would not be pretty—laugh over it afresh. And it is true, too, for I have seen the cow that wore the grey flannel jacket—and I know the cat that swallowed the lace that belonged to the lady that sent for the doctor that gave the . . ."

Miss Margaret Johnston is giving readings from *Cranford* from 2YA on Saturday mornings at 11 a.m., beginning this Saturday, June 20. These will take listeners through chapters of a book that first appeared in serial form. Indeed the first episode about Captain Brown was not intended to go any further. "I never meant to write more," wrote Mrs. Gaskell, "so killed Captain Brown very much against my own will." This was by way of explanation to Ruskin, who said that the first time he read *Cranford* he flew into such a rage at Captain Brown's being killed that he wouldn't go any further. But the parties, the sorting of old letters, the new carpet that had to have newspapers spread all over it, Miss Matty's bonnets and long-buried love affair, the breaking of the local bank and the ruin that it brought on Miss Matty—these are incidents that many listeners to Miss Johnston's readings will await with keen anticipation.