



ISLAND OF ISOLATION

SOMES ISLAND, in Wellington Harbour, must be one of the most familiar sights to travellers in New Zealand. Every day it is seen by hundreds of people who pass up and down the harbour on their way from and to the Mainland. Travellers from overseas know it, too. Yet there are still many who don't know its story and couldn't tell you why it remains so much an island of isolation. Not long ago the NZBS Rural Talks Officer, James C. Taylor, spent a day on the island with a tape recorder, and the programme he

(continued from previous page)

die furtively, or try, with averted eyes, to sneak across the Jordan when God is not looking.

THERE was a smile on Jack's face when I told him the other day, that the ewes he sent us a year ago were good hurdlers. He had hoped, he said, that they would forget how to jump on the long train journey from the south; but you never knew with

APRIL 8 Romneys. In the old days three plain wires above three rows of sods kept Merinos and half-breeds in their own little worlds year in and year out. Now six wires and a barb will not always stop Romneys. Unless the wires are tight and the droppers close, the feed better where the sheep are supposed to stay than where they want to go, the inveterate fencers culled or killed, and the staples replaced as often as they fall or are pulled out. Romneys will start wandering and keep on wandering until it pleases them to come home or your neighbour to drive them home. I was lucky, Jack told me, to lose only one ewe; but I did not tell him how many musters I made with Jim, how often we drafted and counted, how many heads we raddled, and for how long a period my home tally was 17 instead of 70. All is well, I suppose, that ends (and sells) well; but if I had not been compelled to clear them all out for lack of feed, I might have ended with 50 sheep running free and 20 carrying wooden triangles on their necks with little tinkling bells.

(To be continued)

put together when he came back is now being heard from National stations.

Permission for Mr. Taylor to visit the island had first to be sought from J. E. McElwaine, Director of the Animal Industry Division of the Department of Agriculture, for Somes Island is a quarantine station, and Mr. McElwaine is responsible for enforcing our quarantine regulations. *Island of Isolation* starts with a brief call on Mr. McElwaine, but presently the launch which is the island's only link with Wellington casts off and the journey has begun.

The trip to Somes Island from the Wellington wharves takes 40 minutes, and on the way Mr. Taylor has time to give a word picture of the island, almost ringed with cliffs, with its bays and inlets, and its cover of pasture and bush. On the launch he talks with Mr. Weir, the caretaker, and, once ashore, with Mrs. Weir. They have been on the island for 20 years.

Somes Island is three-fifths of a mile long and, at its widest point, one-third of a mile across—roughly pear-shaped, with its broad base facing towards Wellington Heads. Besides giving a full account of the quarantine work done there, Mr. Taylor takes his recorder to the high points to describe for listeners the lie of the land. The island has about 10 acres reserved for quarantine animals. It runs a few milking cows for the needs of the homestead, and about 100 sheep keep down the grass on the cliffs. These sheep, as George Wickenden, a sheep and wool instructor, explains in the programme, are used also for trying out wool brands.

Though yachtsmen and holidaymakers would like to have the right to land on Somes Island, it cannot be a picnic or pleasure resort and a quarantine station too—a point which Mr. Weir makes in the programme. Every animal brought into the country is a potential menace, and many diseases that could inflict incalculable loss are being kept out of New Zealand through an ever-vigilant quarantine service—of which Somes Island is a vital part.

Island of Isolation, which has already been heard from 2YA, will be broadcast by 2ZA at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday, May 2, and from 2XN at 8.0 p.m. on May 6. It will be heard later in farm sessions from other stations.

YOUR BABY *needs* *Vitamin C*

VITAMIN C helps to lay the foundation for good health and development. Vitamin C also helps to promote strong bones, healthy gums and teeth. Robinson's Rose Hip Syrup provides nearly 5 times the Vitamin C content of the same quantity of orange juice, is more economical, easy to give and pleasant to take. The uniformity of the Vitamin C content of Robinson's Rose Hip Syrup guarantees the measured daily intake recommended, and conforms with the approved standards of 200 mgms. of Ascorbic Acid for each 100 mls.



ROBINSON'S ROSE HIP SYRUP



Reckitt & Colman (N.Z.) Ltd., 39-45 Forth Street, Dunedin.

RHS-5b

Regular Habits...

Ensure that baby has regular habits by using Steedman's famous powders. Even during the difficult teething period, baby can be happy and contented. Steedman's safely and gently cool the bloodstream and keep habits regular, from teething time up to 14 years of age. Look for the double EE symbol on the package.

Give
**STEEDMAN'S
POWDERS**

FOR CONSTIPATION
MADE IN ENGLAND AT ALL CHEMISTS

Write now for free Booklet "Hints to Mothers", Van Staveren Bros. Ltd., Lt. Taranaki St. Wellington.



21