

Lodge Listens . . .



Dear Mr. Clarkson, would you please stop making your racing commentaries so exciting?

that its details are in danger of becoming blurred. The commentator's script illustrated vividly, I thought, the emotional gulf which lies between the generations of the First and Second Wars, a difference that is also apparent in the attitudes displayed by the corresponding groups of war novels. Perhaps we are too close in time to the battle of Crete, for instance, to expand emotionally about it; or perhaps the mental climate has changed. In any case, I have yet to hear a programme about the Second World War which can speak unashamedly about "heroic sacrifice" and "dedication on the altar of nationhood," even if the lofty quality of the sentiments is broken down somewhat, as in this programme, by the self-consciously rough accents presumably intended as an approximation to natural local speech. Yet this programme was to be applauded, I thought, not only for the care which had gone into its smooth presentation, but also for the idea of telling the story again, rather than merely relaying yet another Anzac Day service.

Spoken Programmes

IN the last few weeks there has been a noticeable increase in the number of programmes originating from the BBC; and this is to my mind a most welcome change. No doubt we have a supply of learned scholars, poets and artists in this country who are capable of providing programmes of great merit; but whether from lack of time, interest or worthwhile financial reward for their efforts, they rarely seem to be heard. In recent weeks we have heard C. Day Lewis speaking on modern poetry, an interesting collection by Ewan MacColl

of living ballads. Denys Page with a talk on Troy, V. Sackville-West in a tribute to Walter de la Mare, a very mixed bag of English novelists speaking about their first novels, and several excellent BBC features on science. Extensive use should continue to be made of these well-produced features, which at the present time almost invariably provide the best moments in our listening to spoken programmes.

—Loquax

Making of the Bible

"THE most valuable thing this world affords." With these words a Bible was presented to Her Majesty the Queen at her Coronation last year.

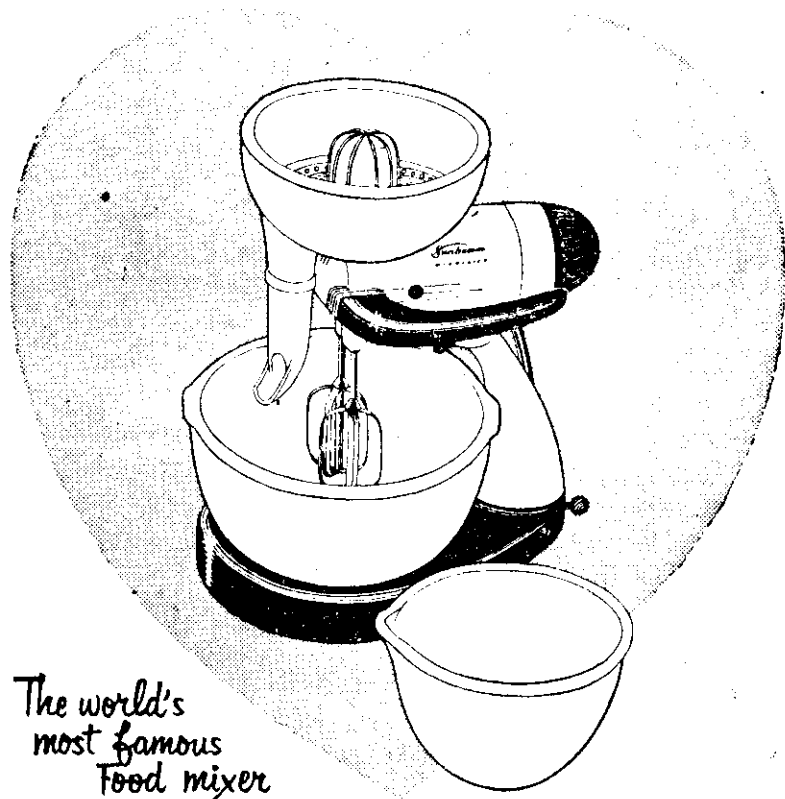
From 2YA each Sunday in May the theme of the Children's Song Service is the making of the Bible. The story of five people or groups of people who helped to give the Bible to the world is being told in dramatic form. Scripts have been prepared by the Rev. Geo. Dallard and Arnold Roseveare, and recorded by the 2YA studios with an experienced cast.

The five episodes cover Moses and the tables of stone, the rediscovery of the Book of the Law in the time of Josiah, the beginnings of the New Testament with Paul dictating a letter, the translation of the Bible by Tyndale, and the Bible today.

These presentations occupy about half of each Song Service. The Rev. W. P. Temple takes charge of the remainder of the programme.

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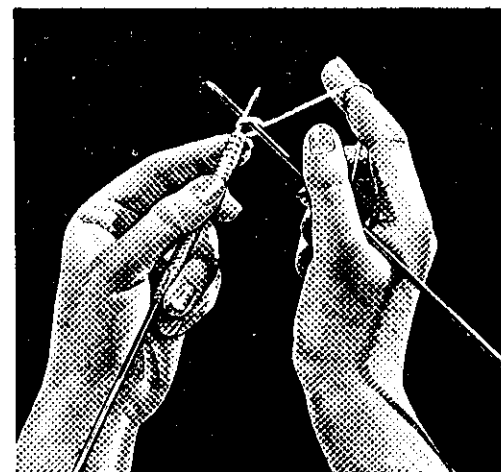
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