



"Where are you, dear? I s'pose you heard I took the bag instead of the money?"

life in the metropolis. But is this really a "midstream" horse? I enjoyed Mr. Gerald Cox's tour de force contrasting the freedom to write in the country after the drudgery of library work, despite the fact that I knew that before Christmas, 1953, Mr. Cox was still very much in the city. From what solid basis of experience, then, did he extol the virtues of country life? With Mr. Hollis, who has moved from journalism to factory work, where "real" men live out their Hemingway existence, I cannot but feel from a much longer experience, in just such a life, that Mr. Hollis has barely begun to scratch the surface of this new and exciting world. Many of the arty-crafty people he deplores are not so insincere, nor working men so guileless, as at first may seem to be the case.

—Westcliff

### Observation Tour

THAT the series of talks on the Otago Peninsula, heard late in March in *Country Calendar*, should be repeated in May in *Countrywomen's Magazine*, seems an unnecessary duplication of audience within a short period, in spite of the interesting historical material which Margot Ross has used. In these talks, which I have particularly enjoyed, the speaker takes us on an observation tour where present and past are in equal focus, making both seem more vivid at the end of the trip. I am glad that Mrs. Ross herself read these talks, since the interest she had brought to her research was clearly communicated in her delivery. In contrast, I find 4YA's other historical series, *Dunedin Diary*, 1864, in which equally interesting

material has been collected by Rodney Grater, is somewhat marred by the aloof tone of an independent reader.

### Good Speaker

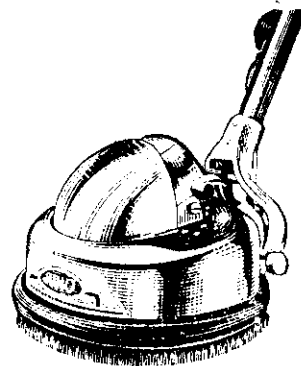
RETIREMENT is not as yet a matter of urgent decision in my life, so that it was only by an unintended running over from the previous programme that I happened to hear J. R. McClure discussing the matter; and as the speaker became involved with his subject, so did I. North or South? Town or Country? Suspense was aroused by curiosity about his eventual decision, and his comments by the way sustained our interest to the end. As I have noticed before, a good speaker, like a good cook, can make interesting fare out of apparently unpromising material.

—Loquax

### The Perfect Voice

THE voice was incomparably more beautiful than any I have heard or am ever likely to hear. It was not merely more beautiful in degree, it was different in kind. To those who never heard her it is difficult to describe the enchantment it created, but perhaps I can best do so by saying that it had a quality of moonlight. In colour it was silver, it was quite sexless, and it was utterly serene. It was like the voice of a divine boy rather than the voice of a woman, and there was no question whatever that it echoed from the Courts of Heaven."—Beverley Nichols, the well-known writer, who was once secretary to the famous singer, Dame Nellie Melba, broadcasting about her in a BBC programme.

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