

CHRISTCHURCH SUBSCRIPTION CONCERTS

IN the National Orchestra's first Christchurch subscription concert on May 8, Richard Farrell will play Ravel's "Concerto for the Left Hand" and Rachmaninoff's "Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini." In the second concert, May 10, he will be the soloist in Beethoven's Concerto No. 5 ("The Emperor"). For the concerts on July 21 and 26, the conductor and programmes will be announced later. In the last concert on September 19, Maurice Till will play Khachaturian's Piano Concerto. In the same concert Mary Pratt will be the soloist in Brahms's "Alto Rhapsody," a work for contralto, male choir and orchestra.

Written applications for new subscriptions will be received at the D.I.C., Christchurch, between Monday, April 23, and Friday, April 27. Brochures with concert information and printed application forms are available at the D.I.C.

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hour ago, when Helen came in and asked me if she had disturbed me. She had promised to take a hedgehog to

MARCH 26 History lesson, and had searched for a

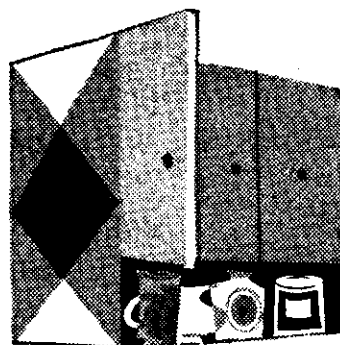
long time—first along the roads by car, and then in the paddocks—before she found one. Then she came on two near her own back door, one a very big and seedy old male, and the other a baby not long weaned. It interests me that she found a baby so late in the season. Though I have only once, as far as I can remember now, seen a nursing hedgehog with a litter, it was in the spring, and I am sure that most litters are born in New Zealand well before Christmas. In Britain, according to the remarkable book on British mammals written by L. H. Matthews, hedgehogs sometimes produce two litters in a year, one in spring and the other in autumn, but the second depends a good deal on the season. Here the same rule no doubt applies; but since every hedgehog I have seen for weeks has seemed to be hungry, thirsty, and uncertain on its legs, I am surprised that breeding should still be going on. So small a specimen as Helen found last night can only be a month or six weeks old, and since the gestation period is only a month, mating must have taken place about the middle of January.

Matthews, by the way, gives three methods of cooking hedgehogs:

The classic way of cooking a hedgehog is to gut and stuff it with sage and onion, sew it up, and plaster it over with clay; then suspend it over the fire with a length of twisted worsted as a roasting jack, and when the clay cracks it is done. But this is not the best way, because although the spines come away with the clay when it is broken open, the smaller hairs are not completely removed. It is better to singe off the prickles and hairs in the fire after gutting the animal, and then to scrape it with a very sharp knife and roast it without clay. Another method is to gut and skin the animal, wash it well, and simmer it with seasoning in a little water for several hours. When cold the whole sets to a jelly, and the "pudding" can be cut into slices like pressed meat. This is very good.

Since I am a conservative meat eater myself, one who has not yet learnt to eat pork and has only recently been persuaded to try poultry, my juices do not flow for Matthews. I give his recipes for the benefit of those who hanker after new delights.

(To be continued)



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amiable aunt Emily

Pancake-flipping, cream-sponge-loving, Aunt Emily, renowned at Mothers' Meetings for her tips on kitchencraft, blames FORMICA for her figure! "How can I resist," she says, "when FORMICA presents such a gay surface to prepare my cooking on? I can't resist making things, and can't resist eating them. And cleaning up? Just a lick of a damp cloth" (and, we note, a surreptitious lick of the cream spoon) —"and up comes that Capri FORMICA pattern that I love, fresh and attractive as new."



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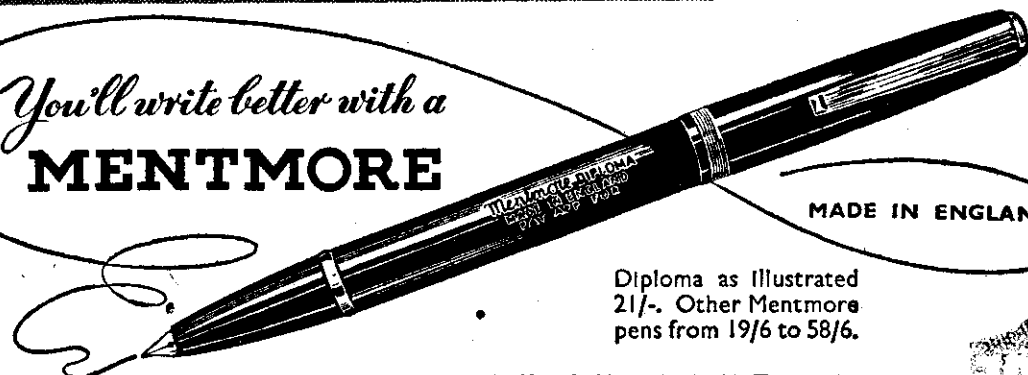


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