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(signed) Mrs. A. E. BRABYN.
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BORN in Australia as long ago as 1882, and with a world-wide reputation as a performer and composer behind him, Percy Grainger (above) has come once again into public notice through his experiments in new ways of producing sound, and through his founding of *The Percy Grainger Museum* in Melbourne. Not long ago Frederick Page, senior lecturer in music at Victoria University College, visited this museum and was fortunate enough to find the composer himself at home. "An odd sight at the Melbourne University is the Grainger Museum, a hideous, squat, brick construction with something of the unwanted suburban power station about it," he described it to us. "I knocked at the door and Percy Grainger himself appeared. I had been longing to meet him since I first came across his music in 1920. It was he who first put me on to the Delius Piano Concerto through an essay of his I read by chance."

Open Microphone

NEWS OF BROADCASTERS ON AND OFF THE RECORD

a room in London where Grainger and his friends talked about and made music for hours, as it was in the early 1900's," said Mr. Page. "Then came collections of Icelandic clothes made of towels and paintings by passengers from old clipper ships—naïve, touching and absurd. There is a machine constructed to sound 1/6th tones (in this field he is again a pioneer), and a quantity of photos of Scandinavian folk singers. What interested me most was a remarkable portrait of Delius done by his wife, which I did not know existed, and there were also some of her other photographs. In some respects the Museum is touching and inept, but Grainger himself is remarkable. He is an original, he has a touch of genius, and he is a great man. One shuts the door considerably puzzled."

WHAT some New Zealanders think of Henry Moore we already know, what they would think of a recent "art" exhibition in the Press Room of the BBC London headquarters we can only guess. There was, we're told, "an element of novelty bordering on craziness" in this show, which was a display of "doodles"—those spontaneous scribbles which Foreign Ministers,

NZBS GARDEN EXPERTS—7

NEW ZEALANDERS who have never been on the West Coast might think that a garden expert there would need to be an expert only on hydroponics. The truth, of course, is very different, and though Oz Jackson, who is heard from 3YZ on Thursday evenings, admits that rainfall and salt spray from the Tasman are difficulties for gardeners on the Coast, he looks on them as difficulties to be overcome in a place where "results equal to the best in other provinces are obtainable if the gardener tries hard enough."

Mr. Jackson is a real Coaster—he was born on the Coast, and we remember from a meeting with him a few years ago a Coaster's friendliness. He tells us he has been interested in horticulture since his youth, though it has been his full-time work only in recent years, since he retired from his business as a sanitary engineer and drainage contractor. Now in partnership with his wife, he gives most of his attention to raising bedding plants and flowers and to floral work. Whatever time is left over is spent in hybridising with a variety of plants. Among his more unusual successes in this field is an abutilon which gives branches alternately throughout the plant with bright orange and chrome yellow flowers. Always interested in showing, he has succeeded with gladioli, narcissi and chrysanthemum. Nowadays he is a prominent judge at district shows.

Garden expert at 3YZ for a little more than two and a-half years, Mr. Jackson finds he had listeners both

north and south of Westland, as well as in Canterbury and in the North Island. Gardening, he admits, is much more than a job to him. He believes that it gives us a priceless reward in refreshing and steadying the mind and the emotions and in bringing us closer to life and growth and the mystical eternal forces of nature. "No person can really be happy without creative work," he says, "and there is none finer than gardening."

Oz Jackson is also keenly interested in the early history of Westland. His broadcasts on this subject have aroused Dominion-wide interest, and he was recently appointed to the regional committee of the National Historic Places Trust.



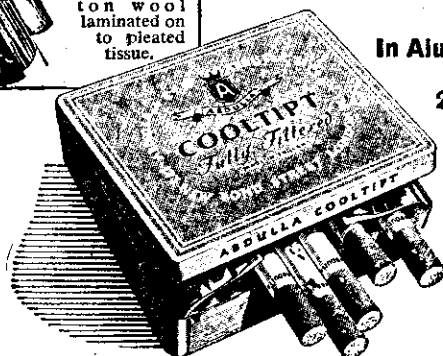
OZ JACKSON



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