

we hear the true measure of her playing. Variations on a Theme of Paganini by Brahms is quite a tour-de-force, for Constance Keene's technique not only copes easily with the virtuosity of the music, her imagination gives us the poetry which is something in this work that doesn't come from every pianist.

The Roth String Quartet's Mozart Quartets No. 16 in E Flat, K.428, and No. 17 in B Flat, K.458 (Mercury MG 10109), lack lustre, not the happiest of Mozart.

#### For the Children

Excerpts from Shakespeare's *Troilus and Cressida* is for children as well as adults, but more, perhaps, for children because this Shakespeare is presented by children. The boys of Sloane Grammar School, Chelsea, have been doing Shakespeare under their headmaster, Guy Boas, since 1930. Latterly, girls from a near-by school have come into the picture and one of them plays Cressida very assuredly in this production. This is a most remarkable recording, which should be enjoyed by boys and girls here—and studied with profit; to say nothing of what their seniors may get from it (Oriole MG 20008).

A batch of discs from the Mercury "Childcraft" series has nothing to do with Shakespeare. Some may object to the American accent, but if we share that objection it would not be for a performance for something more BBC, but a little homely New Zealand touch. However, I shouldn't think the Americanisms are likely to have any permanently debilitating effect on the child mind or accent. Children we have tried the discs on find them fun.

There is 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea (Mercury CM 55), potted versions of *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* (Mercury CM 46), and Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (Mercury CM 41), *The Happy Prince* (Mercury CM 50), and *Real Train Sounds* (Mercury CM 57).

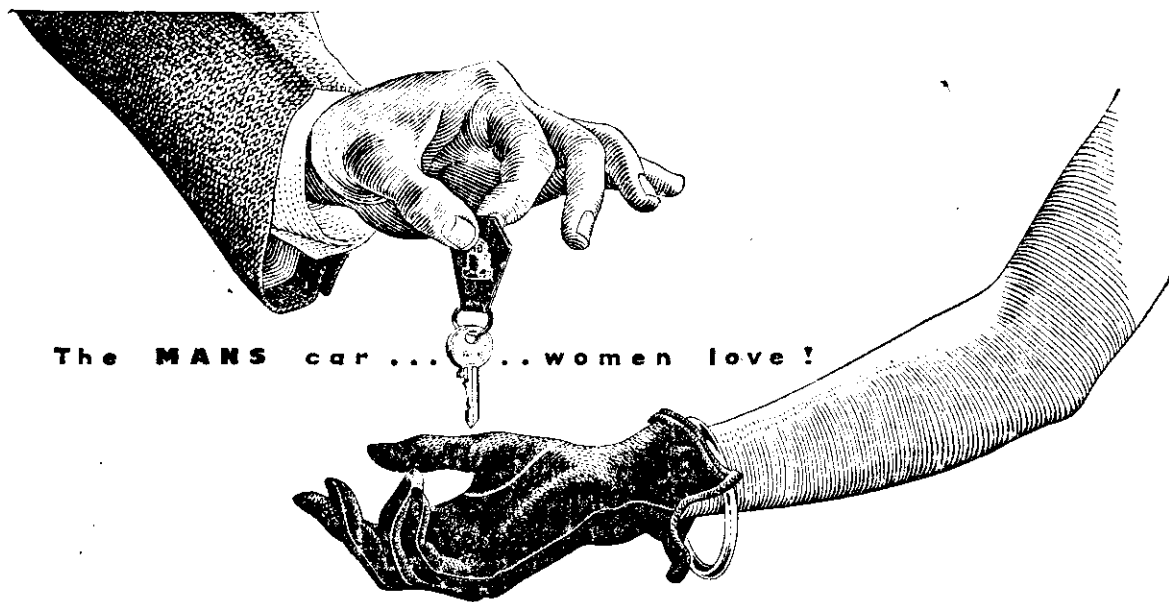
#### Bruce MacDonald



N.P.S. photograph

R. B. (BRUCE) MacDONALD, Station Manager at 1YZ, who died suddenly at Rotorua on February 22, entered broadcasting as an announcer and programme officer at 4ZB in 1937. In 1940 he went to Head Office, where for several years before he became Station Manager at 1YZ in 1954, he was officer in charge of the Transcription Section. In his younger days Bruce MacDonald was prominent in a number of sports; later he became a concert and radio singer. He had also been a keen amateur photographer, and more recently took an interest in pastel and oil painting.

N.Z. LISTENER, MARCH 8, 1957.



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