

"SOMEWHERE, over the rainbow," sings Judy Garland—and all of us old enough to remember go with her to a bright fairy-tale world. To some of us it may seem as fantastic as the towers of Oz itself that children are growing up who do not know this famous story, or the film version that starred Judy Garland. But there will be a chance next week to make up for lost time if they (along with father and mother) tune in to *Theatre of Music* on Saturday, May 18, when the YAs, 3YZ and 4YZ will play musical and dramatic selections from the soundtrack of the M.G.M. film. These form a complete musical play.

Of course, *The Wizard of Oz* was a classic in America before it was filmed. Frank Baum's book had sold over nine million copies, and a dramatised version had run on Broadway for four years before touring the U.S. And the film made friends all over the world for Dorothy and her odd companions on the perilous journey. It was a major success for Judy Garland, who played the young Kansas farm girl who, with her dog Toto, is whirled by a cyclone into the never-never land of Oz. Her house lands on the Wicked Witch of the East, killing her. Glinda, the Good Witch (Billie Burke), gives Dorothy the dead Witch's magic ruby shoes and sends her to the Wizard of Oz, who can help her to get home.

On her way down the Yellow Brick Road, Dorothy meets the Scarecrow (Ray Bolger), who thinks he has no brain, the Tin Man (Jack Haley), who longs for a real heart, and the cowardly Lion (Bert Lahr), who is afraid he has no courage. They all go to find the Wizard. The Wicked Witch of the West (Margaret Hamilton) constantly menaces the travellers, as they go through the weird forest of the Jitter Trees, the acres of giant hollyhocks, and the fields of poisonous poppies, right to the Witch's terrifying mountain home. At the end of the extraordinary journey the friends reach the Emerald City and



ABOVE: The Tin Man, the Cowardly Lion and the Scarecrow, and (right) little Judy Garland—as she then was—in the film version of "The Wizard of Oz"

the Wizard himself (the late Frank Morgan), who gives the friends their hearts' desires, though not quite in the way they had expected.

The second part of *Theatre of Music* will contain the "Cambodian Suite," written by King Norodom of Cambodia. This music, from a kingdom next door to Siam, is Western in style and harmony, suggesting that

Anna and her kind have been pretty successful in their education of Eastern royal families. The suite nevertheless is strongly oriental in mood, its three parts describing facets of the East, from the haunting melodies and stillness of the nights to the festivity and dancing.



Holiday Programmes for Young People

MOTHERS who have just coped with young families over what seemed a longer than usual Easter break—school breaks inevitably seem longer to mothers—will again be steeling their nerves against the impact of the term holidays and the raising of the familiar cry. "What can we do now?"

To help answer that one, Broadcasts to Schools have arranged a holiday programme which will provide at least one occupation to begin the day, as well as some that will carry on through later hours. The session has now been extended to 45 minutes, and will be heard at 9.4 a.m. each week day from May 13 to 24, from the YAs and YZs. The first 15 minutes is designed mainly for younger children, and the last 15 minutes for the 10-12-year-olds. The middle part should interest some of both sections.

Noeline Pritchard, who is "Gay" of the Children's Hour at 1YA, will conduct the programme. She will read the stories, introduce the talks, and ask the questions in the six quizzes; two for each age group. The answers will be given at the end of the session. Noeline will also remind children of the things they will need for activities such as the Scientific Stunts, described in past sessions.

Since no one wants to work in the holidays, the emphasis is on entertainment. Two of the BBC pro-

grammes to be heard deal with knights and their adventures. Saint George was a knight in shining armour who went to fight a dragon. But in the tale young listeners will hear, it was a very nice dragon, or so thought the boy who had discovered him. But the rules said that a dragon meant a battle, and the story of the fight can be heard in Kenneth Grahame's *The Reluctant Dragon*. Everyone, however, lived happily ever afterwards. The other knight wore very rusty armour, and rode an old nag of a horse. But Don Quixote thought he was a proper knight, and his adventures end with him tilting at a very active enemy indeed.

For all the stay-at-homes, the programmes include stories of travel to far away places. One traveller who visits foreign lands is a boy who joins a merchant ship going to the East. We follow him as he learns the work, and the danger, in the sea-life that he loves.

Other travellers in foreign parts—real life ones—have been Lyell Boyes, Brian Salkeld, and Bruce Broadhead. Lyell and Brian went to the Chatham Islands when the Duke of Edinburgh was there. They will tell children of the things they found on these islands, which are so close to New Zealand and yet so little known to most people.

Bruce Broadhead has been further north, and he will describe the daily life of the children in Samoa, letting us hear them singing and talking in their own language.

Nina Epton, another traveller, visited the Sahara, where travel by air, railway and motor services is lessening the caravan traffic which crosses from oasis to oasis. She tells of life in two of these oases one small and isolated, the other large and prosperous. And there will be a play about three Dutch children who visit their grandmother in Amsterdam. On their way they see many of the sights which make Amsterdam like no other city—the canals, the bicycles everywhere, the tall old houses, the barges laden with flowers for sale. Finally Mina, Piet and Henk go for a ride round the canals with their grandfather.

Water, in canals or ponds, did not quite satisfy one frog as a means of travel, as children will discover in another holiday programme. He wanted to fly, and boasted to the water rat that he had. In *The Flying Frog*, he has to justify this boast.

Finally, since the football season will be in full swing after the holidays, Ron Jarden is to start boys off in the proper spirit with a talk on sport in general and Rugby in particular. This session will probably rate tops with boys, but girls should find it interesting, too.



"The other knight wore very rusty armour and rode an old nag of a horse. . . But he thought he was a proper knight indeed"