

from sponsors, friends and inquirers. About eleven she adjourns to a cafe nearby for coffee and sandwiches. "Then I have nothing more till I get home," she says. "That's usually about four in the afternoon, because it's easier to get a taxi then."

Since she was blown about by the wind at Kelburn terminal, Aunt Daisy avoids the cable-car. "By dint of being careful," she says with huge satisfaction, "I've paid off the mortgage on my house and I can now afford a taxi. But it was a marvellous thing to live so near the cable-car. I could get there in two and a half minutes if I ran."

"But the day I had the accident was very bad. It was not only windy, but gusty. I was standing on one foot and a half when a dreadful gust blew me against the side of the shelter and banged my eye hard. When I got to the studio the boys all said, 'How's the other bloke?' But they made me a cup of tea, and I did the Session all right. I told my listeners, 'It's very gusty this morning. Be careful. It blows people about.'"

AUNT DAISY'S relations with her sponsors are happy. "The other day one sent me a bouquet," she says, "which contained every flower in season or out. It was so tremendous that the taximan carried it up the steps for me at home." Mostly the sponsors have reason to hand out bouquets. During rationing, for instance, Aunt Daisy gave a recipe which made liver—an unrationed meat—more palatable. From end to end of New Zealand, butchers sold out of liver within an hour. She has a similarly moving effect on other lines of merchandise.

Other tributes are less welcome. So many people used to telephone asking

her advice that Aunt Daisy now has an unlisted number. "But now," she says, "they still see the name Basham in the book and they ring up Barbara. A lady got her out of bed one frosty Saturday at twenty past seven! She was going to the races and wanted to know how to get a mark off her clothes! Really! You know, they wouldn't dream of ringing a butcher, at his own home, at the weekend, and asking for some chops! Imagine!"

"When my husband was alive he'd answer the phone and say, 'No, of course I won't ask her that! What a cheek!' He used to say worse than that actually, but I couldn't say those words here. He didn't mince matters at all."

Aunt Daisy's two-storied house in North Terrace, Kelburn, is not the kind of "ideal home" one might expect of a household sage. In the sunny upper story, she has her bedroom, a dining room, "which does duty in every way, and contains the refrigerator, among other things," and a built-on kitchenette equipped with stove, sink, and an old-fashioned dresser with drawers and cupboards and cup hooks. "I have nothing at all up to date," she says. "I don't have all those beautiful things the girls have nowadays. People have often wanted to change it, but I wouldn't have it. I couldn't be bothered. I must live quietly."

ALSO in the interests of quiet living, Aunt Daisy has largely given up the heavy round of luncheon addresses, and the openings of shows and bazaars which she performed for many years. Her recent opening of the 1957 Otago Advances Fair, when she drove through the streets preceded by the St Kilda Band and hailed like visiting Royalty, was an exception.



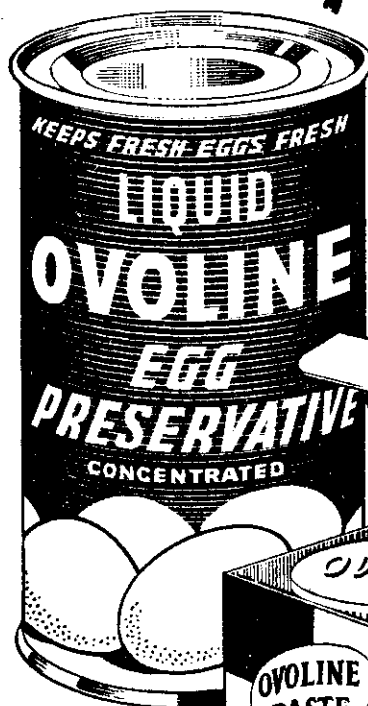
AUNT DAISY with her daughter Barbara—a photograph taken in 1947. Barbara has done two tours of duty at the microphone as deputy for her mother

The speaking engagement Aunt Daisy remembers with most amusement took place many years ago when she worked for Lewis Eady's station in Auckland. She arrived late for an ad-

dress to a group of ladies at St Heliers, creating some apprehension that she had met with an accident. The truth was that she had, by a defect in the  
(continued on next page)

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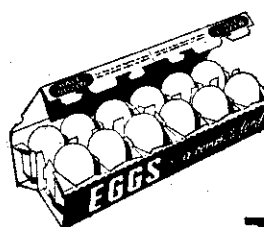
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