

Instantly gripped by the vivid characterisation of the people speaking from within the story. And though, when I listened to "The Man of Lawes Tale" the following Friday, it seemed altogether more pedestrian, I shall certainly tune in again. Personal delvings into Chaucer, though pleasant, have not been deep. These, and a picture of him reading his poems to "a noble company," had not prepared me to meet a people's poet, but that shorn of the old English is what he undoubtedly is.

—Westcliff

Help Wanted

THE housewife's social conscience, so often diluted by dishwater and beginning and ending at home, seemed to be offered a chance to develop a little in 2YA's well-presented Tuesday morning series *Other People's Problems* (which might, however, be more aptly entitled *Other People's Solutions*). So far we have had experts speaking on such topics as Speech Therapy, Child Welfare, the Play Centre Movement, the After Care Association. These have been valuable both in their approach to listeners' own problems, and also in suggesting fields for voluntary effort, but I think the series could well be followed up by something that offers more specific help. Not quite Dorothy Dix or George Anthiel perhaps (though a really intimate session would rank high on any self-respecting popularity poll), but a practical off-shoot of the women's discussion panel. Of course, such a session would unfortunately soon suffer the same embarrassments as 2YD's Saturday night request session, whose compere told us with bated breath the other night not to get excited, but in three weeks' time—please, not a minute sooner—he will again be open to suggestions.

—M.B.

When Do We Have Fun?

IN a letter in the press recently a listener argued that a good way of suiting all tastes was to have each station devoted to one kind of programme only, and then suggested that one station might give "high-class vaudeville." I can imagine the programme organisers sadly shaking their heads and saying, "If only we could get it." First-class humour is the most difficult thing to get, great comedians are rare on the stage and rarer still on the air. When one makes his appearance the eager listeners who never miss one of their favourite broadcasts give some indication of the demand, for whether you like Spike Jones or Palestrina, Bach or boogie-woogie, you probably gave an anticipatory smile at the words "Good morning, sir, was there something?" I see that I used the past tense unconsciously there, for I have sadly watched the decline of *Much-Binding*, of which I was very fond. I would be equally fond of *Take It From Here* if it were not for the, to me, quite inexplicable NZBS habit of giving *Much-Binding* from a number of different stations at varying days in the week, and of restricting *Take It From Here* (apart

COOK ISLANDS ANNIVERSARY

NEXT Monday (June 11) marks the end of the first fifty years of New Zealand administration in the Cook Islands. Why was New Zealand interested enough to want to go to all the bother and fuss of annexing the group: fifteen islands (Niue has a separate administration), with a total area about a quarter that of the Chatham Islands, scattered across 850,000 square miles of the Pacific? This is one of the questions that Dr. Ernest Beaglehole, Professor of Psychology at Victoria University College, will discuss in three talks from 2YC on *The Cook Islands: Fifty Years of New Zealand Administration*.

Listeners will hear in the first talk how the islands became New Zealand territory. (They were actually annexed, of course, some months before their new form of government was established.) Professor Beaglehole discusses Seddon's ripening wish to annex the group and Parliament's subsequent decision to do so after a debate in the House of Representatives which lasted till a quarter to three on a Saturday morning. He sketches in a background, too, of European influences on life in the islands from the time they were discovered by Cook.

The New Zealand administration, Professor Beaglehole makes it plain, faced some pretty big headaches when it took over the islands. It looked like another case of smoothing the pillow of a dying race. But it turned out otherwise, and in his second and third talks Professor Beaglehole shows how social, political and economic problems of the islands have been solved or have solved themselves during the fifty years since annexation. These talks on the Cook Islands will be broadcast by 2YC at 7.45 p.m. on Mondays, the first of them on June 11.

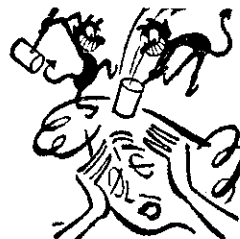
With the talks 2YC will also broadcast three programmes, *Songs from the Cook Islands*. The first, at 7.25 p.m. on June 11 (immediately before Professor Beaglehole's first talk), makes some comparisons between the music of Cook Islanders and Maoris. It suggests that Cook Island harmony is nearer than that of any other island group to Maori harmony, though there is a much stronger European influence in Maori music. The songs (and some dances) are linked by comment. These programmes were produced by the Short-wave Division of the NZBS, which has already broadcast the first from Radio New Zealand.

from one or two X stations) to Sunday evenings only. This means that if, like me, you are not able to listen on Sunday evening, you miss the broadcast completely. Why so lavish with one programme and so niggardly with the other? It cannot be that the Service assumes that you can't hear a funny broadcast twice, for this is belied by the use over and over again of records by comedians. Nor can it be that the broadcast is tied in with advertising, for it is not. I cannot explain, I can only deplore.

—D.M.



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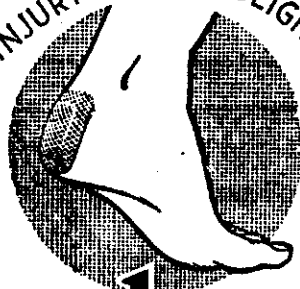
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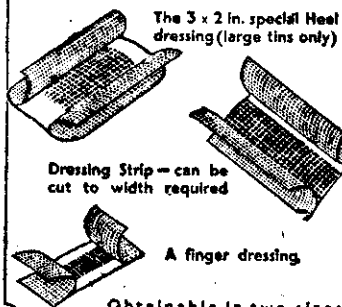


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