

Lodge Listens . . .



"Just sit quietly and look at Mummy listening to the Coronation—you may never again see her sit so still and so quiet for so long"

tiring scientists strictly to the point, and no nonsense about it. Listeners were given a slightly alarming glimpse of medical research under conditions of strict medical supervision; of the electron-microscope which—to give an almost Disneyish touch to the proceedings—could be used to take "chest X-rays of flies"; and of the radio-astronomer at work plotting a mysterious world of new stars. It was fitting that these new glimpses of the infinitely great and the almost infinitely little should come from the great laboratory which, for us, is linked with the name of Lord Rutherford. And what helped, more than anything else, to make it real was the recording of the actual noises that these things make—the keen of high-tension generators, the click of geigers, and the hissing roar of radio signals from the Milky Way. In their context, they appeared as some of the most exciting sounds in the world.

—M.K.J.

Adult and Juvenile

STATION 4YA appears to have embarked on a series of Jamaican folktales in its children's sessions, and if the first tale—*Gaulin*—is typical, this part of the programme should appeal to parents as much as to their offspring. The tale was beautifully told in strange mission-school English that by some miracle of presentation avoided the merely "quaint." Gaulin with "him flowers hat and him fancy waistcoat and him squeak-squeak shoes" assumed at once the amusing and attractive dignity

of the best of Disney's characters. During the evening parents were provided, by the same station, with a short story. Here the characters were stock-widow, poor but honest, son who stole two shillings but turned out to be the makings of a fine boy in the end—the style poor, even to the extent of a glaring misrelated participle: "On arriving home, Eddie wasn't to be seen." Whether the contrast between adult and juvenile material reflects a dearth of capable writers, or of adults who it is assumed would appreciate anything better, I am uncertain. It is difficult to believe, however, that 4YA's listeners would not appreciate a well-written story that less clearly foreshadowed its end.

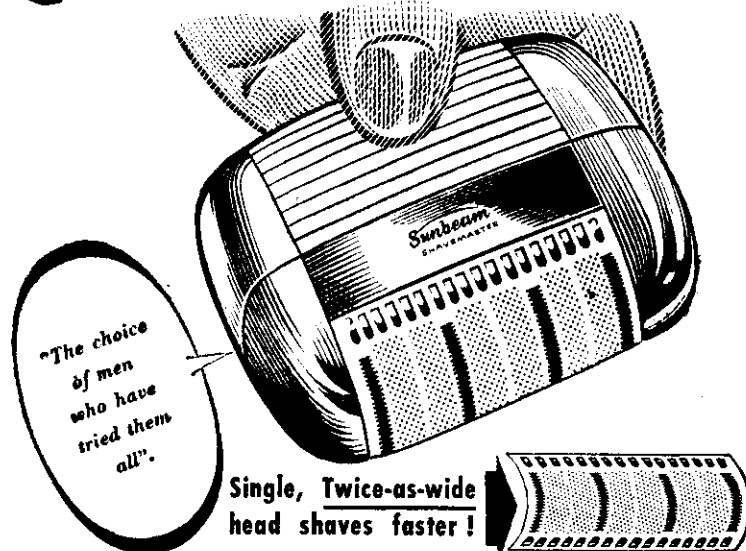
Little by Little

ONE of the most striking differences between local programmes and those from the BBC at the moment is in the brevity of New Zealand made. Did someone once have a notion that a very few minutes was all the listener could possibly bear, and that he should have his information rationed out to him in serial doses? And has this notion ever come up for re-examination? Is there any advantage in having John Starkey's reminiscences presented to us in 10-minute lots? On the contrary, would his impressions not gain in force by being given to us in one sitting? Fifteen minutes has been assessed as our maximum period of concentration from ZB and YA for the most part. I suggest we are under-rated.

—Loquax

N.Z. LISTENER, JUNE 5, 1953.

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