

# From the Woman's Point of View.

By VERITY.

## WHAT I WANT FROM RADIO!

Many interesting suggestions and sound, sensible comments have been made by our lady listeners in this week, in response to our competition, and a great number of them are going to do a good deal towards helping us in the achievement of our object of combined service. "Quiet hours" carries away the laurels for her simplicity of style, the gentle dignity with which she sets forth her plea, and her sympathy in understanding the needs of the country dweller. May they soon be supplied!

"Constant" will be delighted to know that a "Radio Relative" will broadcast bed-time stories from 2YA in the near future—beginning August 26. There will be stories for children of all ages, with a special half hour, from 6-6.30 p.m., to be devoted to the very tiny tots.

Everyone will be interested to learn that in connection with 2YA afternoon sessions, which have already commenced, arrangements have been made to broadcast talks on cookery, gas and electric, and also on fashions. Miss Marian Christian (Liverpool School of Cookery Diploma) is lecturing on gas cooking, and Miss Florence Sinclair, demonstrator for S. Brown, Ltd., will speak on cooking by electricity. Madame Fleck, of Kirkecaldie and Stains, is talking on current fashions, and Miss Britten, of the D.I.C., and late of Debenham and Freebody's, London, will speak on Spring fashions. These lecturettes are to be a weekly occurrence. The afternoons will also comprise selected gramophone records.

## THE WINNING ESSAY.

Wireless is the townsman's toy; his pet scientific hobby; to the dweller in the far places it is the link which binds him to civilisation. Travel through the lonely, sparsely-settled parts of New Zealand and see on what wind-swept ridges, and in what lonely gullies the aerial rears its head. It is the outward and visible token that, though through the day the dwellers here look out on nothing but tussocks and great hills, where but seldom the voice of even a neighbour is heard, still at night, when the curtains are drawn, the family sits round the fire and spends an hour with the great minds—past and present—of the world; Beethoven makes music for them; Shakespeare spreads his wisdom before them; Dickens his droll humour.

So it is for the country dweller that I chiefly make my plea.

First, and all the time, we want the human touch—a sense of companionship—the talks of one woman to another. Talks after the manner of the travelling sister writing to the stay-at-home.

We want to know what is going on in the world of men and affairs; just a brief talk about the men who are doing things; what they are doing, and what it is going to mean to the world in general, and New Zealand in particular.

A summary of important world happenings, simply put, so that those who have neither time nor opportunity to follow the papers may not be hopelessly behind the times.

A talk on new, worth-while books—such as the assault on Mount Everest.

breezily-told travels, and perhaps occasionally something humorous.

Talks on the latest fancy-work—no elaborate outfit required; directions easily followed.

And, most of all, hints and instructions for making dainty trifles to send as offerings to our friends next Christmas.

Talks on clothes—nothing elaborate, just hints as to materials and simple, prevailing styles for our summer outfit to be made at home. We would not be feminine did we not dread licking up the dust with our skirts, while they still soar waistwards, and how humiliating to wear one's hat on the nape of the neck when it should rest on the tip of the nose!

Talks on making over our rooms at spring-cleaning time. Taking, say, an old-fashioned (varnished) wainscoting (st. high) living room with hideous painted mantelpiece, and transforming it into, if not a thing of beauty, yet into something that does not offend the eye.

Labour-saving devices and ways of conserving time and strength in cooking and work of house.

Do I want much for my money, and will you raise my wireless set tax? I hope not, sincerely, because I am looking forward to many interesting "darning" hours—previously abhorred.

## SELECTED COMMENT.

From a number of other excellent essays I cannot resist making the following brief extracts. Our competition was, I think, a splendid success,

and soon we may have another. Meantime your ideas will undoubtedly be a great help to our programme organisers.

"Linda": Radio has come into my house like a good fairy. It has banished loneliness and depression; it has brightened and mysteriously shortened the hours by giving me new tunes to sing and new thoughts to entertain while I work.

I expect much from my radio. I want to be amused and taught, to be kept in constant touch with the outside world. I want to hear music, classic and a little jazz, the latest song hits, the most popular musical comedies, the most famous operas, sung and played by good artists. Records by world-famous singers and players are always welcome. I want to hear what women the whole world over are doing, the new successes they are finding in business, the new freedoms they are gaining, the new and original clubs they are forming, and—the new dresses and hats they are wearing, the latest little touches in ribbons and laces and frills. I want to hear little talks on gardening, on poultry keeping, on photography, on simple ways to keep the body and mind healthy and alert. I want the whole world brought into my little country house, strange lands and people with their quaint customs, wonderful buildings, and places rich in history and romance.

In fact, I want the whole history of the world as it unfolds day by day. I want my radio to be an animated newspaper. But I don't expect to get everything I want, every day, nor once a week, nor once a month. I know other people have other tastes. I pick out what I want quickly and eagerly, and listen politely to those things that are amusing other people, for my radio has taught me to be tolerant, and I sympathise with programme organisers who have to arrange entertainments to suit a whole country full of people all as different as chalk from cheese.

"Constant": These projected afternoon broadcasting sessions are to cater especially for the home-keeping woman, and it is here that the wireless can help and stimulate, and keep alive in women's minds the sense of other people's lives and activities. In our own homes day after day, we are apt to become narrow in our interests and to forget the teeming world outside. How tremendously we should enjoy a talk from any celebrity who happened to be in New Zealand—actor, author, artist, or athlete! It would give us something fresh to talk about at the evening meal. We are so often stale

when our menfolk come home, with nothing to offer them but a wail about household difficulties or the idiosyncrasies of our neighbours. What a pleasure it would be to be able to talk with intelligence and understanding on some subject that would appeal equally to husband and wife.

Then books—to some of us books are an essential part of life, and we should intensely appreciate talks from some sympathetic literary person who could perhaps outline a course of reading that would be truly helpful. Just a word about humour. We should love a witty and amusing little chat on almost any subject that would make us laugh.

Again, although Uncle Jack talks to the children in the evening, lots of us have tines between three and seven who are in bed and asleep by half-past six, and the last half-hour before bath-time is often a tax on mother's ingenuity during these winter afternoons. Just imagine the joy of switching on to Uncle Jack or Aunt Joan or some other kind radio relative, and to know that the children are to be amused and entertained and given a fresh line of thought, while mother perhaps finishes that tiresome little job that simply refused to "come done" while she was racking her brains to find amusement for the children.

"Backblocks Grannie": We are keenly looking forward to the afternoon programmes from 2YA, as we live in a very isolated place, and all news from the outer world is most welcome. In dealing with cookery, may I ask for some simple and tasty ways of using up "left-overs" in meat, etc., so that the dishes may be tempting and yet not indigestible nor "messy." With reference to dressmaking and all branches of sewing, may we ask to be told exactly how much material to order for the various garments described, as patterns so often mislead in their directions? A little home nursing simply explained by a practical person would be a help, and a little straight talk on ordinary good manners would not come amiss—such as the prompt acknowledgement of receipt of a present or other kindness bestowed—or a genial return of salute in street.

"Wide World": Talks on the moral welfare of children for the guidance of parents, especially mothers, are eagerly awaited. In this connection I would like to mention books. How often are Christmas and birthday books bought at random, with never-a thought of the

lasting effect the contents and tone of the book may have on the character of the child—for what a child sees in print he accepts as "gospel," and early impressions play a vast part in the forming of the character; therefore, strict supervision should be used in the matter of literature. If the radio could advise good books, for different ages, with comments on the lives of the authors, and anything interesting in connection with the books, it would help in the choice of books. I would like to have a corner of "Radio Record" set apart for queries of any and every description—health, beauty, housekeeping, cooking, etiquette, music, gardening, authors, etc. It would serve radio listeners collectively if these questions and answers were broadcast. For the woman of leisure the broadcasting of articles relating to games, pets, automobiles, etc., would be of interest. For women motorists a reminder of "rules of the road" and the action of the law in connection thereto, would be of timely value—especially to pedestrians and other motorists!

"Mollie": I want continued evidence of a spirit of helpfulness and friendship. Radio should develop discussion. Scientifically, science has annihilated distance and it is now left to radio to eliminate misunderstandings and cement friendships between communities and individuals.

## AT PARTING

Although my feet may never walk your ways,

No other eyes will follow you so far;  
No voice rise readier to ring your praise:  
Till the swift coming of the future days,  
When the world knows you for the man you are.

You must go on, and I must stay behind;

We may not fare together, you and I.  
But though the path to fame be steep  
and blind,

Walk strong and steadfastly before mankind,

Because my heart must follow till you die.

Steadfast and strongly, scorning mean success;

Lenient to others, to yourself severe.  
If you must fall, fall not in nobleness—  
God knows all other failures I could bless.

That sent you back to find your web-come here.

# Whisperings From Hollywood

The motion picture has put its mark upon the times. It first started that broadening movement which is being continued and expanded by radio. It shows peoples to peoples, races to races. It tells stories, records events, educates and amuses.

With the dramatic side of motion pictures, with those who made the stories that thrill us, we have here a few intimate glimpses through the eyes of Mr. Lester Browne, now representative of Fox Films, formerly well known through Australia and New Zealand by management of such as Grace Palotta, Marie Eaton, Carrie Moore, Jack Carnot, Tailleu Andrews and Frank Green.

Talmadge family, comprising "Peg" Talmadge, mother of the three girls, Norma, Constance, Natalie Talmadge Keaton, and her famous husband, Buster.

In Benedict Canyon, adjoining the old Ince Estate, is a large acreage owned by Harold Lloyd and his wife. The most original feature of the Lloyd Estate is a miniature waterfall which drops from a considerable height to feed a private canoe course winding through the grounds under overhanging trees and sheltering shrubberies. Under the waterfall is a tiny summer house, where Mildred Davis Lloyd entertains her guests during warm weather, and where little Gloria plays hostess to her young friends.

Another attractive social centre is the lovely Beverley Hill Estate owned by Tom Mix, prominent Fox star, and his wife. In fact, just before I left Hollywood Mr. and Mrs. Tom Mix gave an afternoon tea party to the famous William Fox, Winfield R. Sheehan, George O'Brien, Olive Borden, J. Farrell MacDonald, Edmund Lowe, and Dolores Del Rio, of "What Price Glory" fame, and also Mr. Stanley S. Crick, managing director for Fox in Australasia, was present. It certainly was a most delightful gathering. Little Thomasina Mix often gives parties for the children of professional fathers and mothers.

The purchase of the Thomas H. Ince estate by Carl Laemmle for \$50,000 dollars is one of the noteworthy developments of recent date. This rambling Spanish home is one of the largest and most beautiful in filmdom. In Hollywoodland Mack Sennett has just commenced a large California-Spanish home on an eighteen acre estate. I am informed that the completed investment will probably represent a million dollars.

Tony Moreno and his wife remain in seclusion on the top of the hill, called Moreno Highlands, close to Los Angeles, while Colleen Moore and John McCormick intend building a beautiful place soon in Beverly. Al French Cecil R. De Mille lives in Hollywood, his main interest lies in "Paradise," a mountain home back of San Fernando. For the past five years the



This is a charming recent glimpse of the universal film favourite, Mary Pickford, resident in Hollywood, of whom and others, Mr. Lester Browne spoke recently from 2YA. Read his interesting gossip.

foreign colony has been growing steadily. Englishmen have been well represented for a long time, and the Scandinavians have been coming in for years. The Germans, the Russians, and arrivals from Central Europe are more recent.

Victor McLaglen is an Irishman. He possesses some interest to New Zealanders, as he has a brother residing in Christchurch. This fighting son of a bishop is starring in New Zealand in "What Price Glory?" the great comedy to which Charlie Chaplin referred shortly before I left Hollywood as the most thoroughly enjoyable picture he had ever seen. "I laughed, wept, and was thrilled," the little comedian told me.

McLaglen has a broken nose. This is a souvenir of an encounter for the

heavy-weight championship of the world with Jack Johnson. After serving with the British Army during the Great War in France and Mesopotamia he is now in the pictures. He is the most lusty and primitive man who ever laughed or scowled at you from the screen.

Pola Negri was in the vanguard of the celebrated European arrival. Her advent was accompanied by a great fanfare.

Among the English residents are Charles Chaplin, H. B. Warner, Alec B. Francis, Ronald Colman, Syd. Chaplin, Reginald Denny, Clive Brook, Lionel Belmore, House Peters, J. Stuart Blackton, Percy Marmont, Herbert Rawlinson, and Nigel Barrie. Dorothy MacKail and Emily Fitzroy are practically

the only English actresses of playing note.

Australia has sent Enid Bennett, Mae Busch, Frank Lloyd, John T. Murray, Sylvia Breamer, Dorothy Cumming, Louise Lovely, Harry Pollard and Leon Errol. A New Zealand star is Nola Luxford.

The English actor has never had much success in English-made films. Dorothy Gish is the biggest star in English-made pictures nowadays, and Dorothy hails from the United States. The Scandinavians constitute a picturesque portion of the colony. Anna Q. Nilsson is perhaps the best known of this section.

Others coming to the fore include Greta Garbo, Karl Dane, Greta Nissen, and Jean Hersholt. Bodil Rosing, the mother of Mrs. Monte Blue, has the charming custom of serving Danish pancakes at the open house which she keeps every Sunday morning. The beautiful Lya de Putti is about the only feminine member of the German contingent. Limited in number is the French group. Rene Adoree came to Australia with Gvy Maylev, and they were known as the Maglevs in the Review Samples, which I had the pleasure of producing at the Tivoli Theatre, Sydney. I must say that Rene Adoree made a tremendous success as a dancer in Australia. She left with Gvy Maylev to try vaudeville in the United States, but when I reached Hollywood she had attained wonderful success in filmdom.

Rose Dione, who visited New Zealand with Pauline Frederick, who will renew her acquaintance with New Zealand in "Camille," is another member of the French colony. Nazimova, not acting before the camera now, was one of the first Russians, and lived in one of Hollywood's most beautiful mansions. I might mention that the Moore brothers, Matt, Owen, and Tom, are, of course, Irish, likewise Creighton Hale, William Desmond, Belle Bennett, and Eileen Percy. George Fitzmaurice, is an Irishman born, and educated in Paris. Mary, Lottie, and Jack Pickford came from Canada, likewise Norma Shearer, Pauline Garon, Allan Dwan, Mack Sennett, and Huntly Gordon. Such stars as Mary Pickford, the Talmadges and Gishs, entered the studio so long ago that it should appear that they must surely be middle-aged—yet they are all in their early thirties. Even in their instances success was not an overnight occurrence. There were months and even years of struggle with Gloria Swanson, Mav Allison, Priscilla Dean, Phyllis Haver, Marguerite de la Motte, Billie Dove, Leatrice Joy, Estelle Taylor, Lois Wilson, Bessie Love, and Eva Novak, who was in New Zealand the other day, and none of their noses passes the thirty-one year mark. Several are as young as twenty-six and twenty-seven.