

The Children's Corner

By "ARIEL"

HAPPY CHILDREN'S HOURS

XMAS-NEW-YEAR-WEEK PROGRAMMES

Christmas time abounds in surprises, so listen in on Monday.

How about Uncle Jasper taking you to see the magic cave on Tuesday? The animals dance there, and a real jazz band will play for them. Such a frolic as never was known. Come along all little people and enjoy the fun.

On Thursday two friends called Pat and Mike will play for you. They play five different instruments, so there will be quite a medley of music. Uncle Sandy has a wonderful story for you. You will have to wait till Wednesday to hear it.

On Friday Uncle Ernest will be away and a kind friend will be Auntie. It is whispered that a clever little trio of boys may perform for you on this night. Their numbers will be various and interesting. A juvenile musical trio! What a treat, kiddies!

On Saturday (New Year's Eve) an entertainment is being provided by the pupils of Miss Gwen. Shepherd. Choruses, duets, solos, monologues. Oh, lucky little people. Don't forget to "listen in." Aunt Gwen, too, will be there to tell you her Christmas experiences.

A GREAT SURPRISE

There is one boy who will this Christmas be supplied with an answer to the question "What's in a name?" He is a lonely little chap living on a lighthouse, and he wrote to Uncle Leo, of IYA. And Uncle Leo replied. The boy, no doubt, got his message and was perfectly delighted; but he will be more pleased and surprised still when the Christmas mail boat arrives. For, listening in on Auckland that night was a man whose name is the same as that of the boy at the lighthouse, and he rang up Uncle Leo to tell him that he would send the boy a Christmas present.

The Rev. Lionel B. Fletcher, one of the Uncles at IYA, is at present under the care of a doctor, who has ordered him to have a spell, owing to overwork. Mr. Fletcher, however, insists on carrying on his radio work for the children. "I just love it," he says emphatically and enthusiastically. So do his nephews and pieces.

A TRICK TO TRY ON YOUR FRIENDS.

On a piece of paper write ALL O. When they have guessed everything they can think of, say, "Oh, don't bother about it any more. It's nothing after all!"

MY FATHER'S A GARDENER.

In each of these sentences is a word which tells something a gardener does. The letters spelling the words are in correct order:—

1. A spark may start a fire and ignite a whole forest.
2. Take this lock to the town and ask for a key to fit it.
3. He tripped at the top and so went head over heels down the steps.
4. The 5.30 was a through train, but it stops now at Birri.
5. Look at that poor wee dog. He must be lost.
6. I shall go to Idaho early next year.
7. Let us beg a thermos flask from Aunt Kate for the journey.

Answers.—1 Dog. 2 Rake. 3 Sow. 4 Water. 5 Weed. 6 Hoe. 7 Gather.

A RIDDIE-ME-REE.

My first is in seaweed and also in sea. My second's in honey but never in bee. My third is in heather but not in ling. My fourth's not in feather—you'll find it in wing.

My fifth is in melon but not in peach. My sixth is in pebble but not in beach. My whole is a fellow brought in by the sea.

To be caught in a net and boiled for your tea.

Answer.—Shrimp.

WHAT AM I?

I am in the middle of England and am also in Ireland, Scotland and Wales. I am always found in battles, brawls, and blunders, but never in peace and quietness, yet I have something to do with the lamb as well as the lion. Without me you could not have pleasure or play, balls or balloons, lads or lassies, or laughter. I have twenty-five brothers and sisters, and am so thin that I take up very little room in the family.

Answer.—The letter "I."

THE LAST STRAW.

The parish visitor found the small boy, who had always worn his father's old suits cut down, crying bitterly. "What's the matter, my boy?" she asked.

"Father's been and shaved his face," the boy sobbed in reply, "and I don't want to wear red whiskers."

ANSWER TO WHO AM I?

Bec R
are R
oh O
tea T
h H
(h) e R
are R
Bec B
eye I
ell L
ell L

THE LITTLE BUFFALO.

Once upon a time there was a little buffalo who lived with his mother and father in a water-hole. Alfred was the little buffalo's name. He was a good little buffalo, clean and tidy in his habits and not at all greedy—for a buffalo. He always did what his mother told him at once, and he always said "sir" to his father's friends.

One day Alfred was out for a walk in the wood when he saw an enormous snake that was just going to strike an unfortunate panther at the moment when the panther was getting ready for his dinner. The panther had chosen for his dinner a large kind of rat. Now the rat had at that moment seized hold of a magpie by the tail, and was preventing the magpie from swallowing a spider which had a fine fat fly in his grasp.

"Oh, dear," said Alfred. "I wonder what I ought to do. I'm sure mother wouldn't like me to let that snake kill that panther. And yet she told me only yesterday not to interrupt people at mealtimes. I don't know what to do. I think I'd better run back and ask."

So he ran back home and told his mother that he had seen a poor fly being eaten by a poor spider that was being eaten by a poor magpie that was being eaten by a poor rat that was going to be eaten by a poor panther that was in danger of being swallowed by a horrid great python snake. What should a poor little buffalo do about it?

"Think for yourself," said Alfred's mother.

But when Alfred got back to the place there was nothing there but a very thick python snake more than half asleep.

Our Mail Bag

The Anglican Proposal.

Sir,—We gladly accept your invitation to accept any misreading of your previous article. We will adopt your categorical method in our reply, using your numbering.

(1) Although your article of November 18 did not mention our association by name, it was taken by the general public as a direct attack upon our association, as is quite evident from the number of letters we received from all parts of the Dominion, from members of the Church of England who were very concerned with what was generally understood to be the attitude of the Radio Broadcasting Company of New Zealand. It was this that led us to see the chairman of the company on the matter and to write to the managing director, and to send our protest to your paper.

(2) It is quite true that you do not in actual words describe the Anglicans as "a small percentage of the minority," etc., yet your reference is taken by Anglican readers as applying to them, for you go on to say "only a small percentage . . . would be concerned with any particular service." The members of the Church of England (and perhaps the Roman Catholics) are practically the only listeners who are concerned with any particular service. The Anglicans certainly are concerned about not being able to have their own service and are, we know, prepared to provide it every Sunday. We quite recognise that those who are not members of the old national Church cannot understand our love for prayer book services.

(3) We regret that we did not use the word "imply" instead of "state" in our protest. We evidently misread this paragraph. The words "If their own station were on the air" could apparently be taken in more than one way. The trend of your article was to alarm the public by causing them to believe that what is done in other large cities, such as Sydney and Melbourne, cannot be done in the smaller cities of New Zealand.

(4) The Radio Broadcasting Company and the Anglican Broadcasting Association quite frankly understand each others position, and we think we quite fairly set it out in our protest.

(5) You accuse us of the common failing of assuming that Auckland is New Zealand. Of course, living in the Queen City we cannot be unconscious of the fact that Auckland is the number one district and contains over one-third of the whole of the population of this Dominion. In connection with this paragraph we would like to point out that our booklet, from which you quote is issued to members of the Church of England and embodies extracts from purely church reports concerning the religious outlook of the Church of England members alone. We have no intention of entering upon a theological or denominational controversy, and the general public are not likely to take seriously your contention that the teaching of the Church of England Catechism to Church of England children scattered over the Dominion, and the regular provision of Church of England services for Church of England people, who dislike services other than the old national prayer book services, is a wild propagandist movement which will stir up dissent and religious strife. In other places the Roman Catholic Church is doing for its adherents just what we now propose doing for the Church of England people of this Dominion. No one listens to these Roman Catholic services and instructions to their young unless they wish to, and such stations have caused no religious strife. When our station is on the air no one who does not belong to the Church of England need listen to us; a flip of the dial and we are gone.

If we have unduly misread or attacked your article of November 18 we are sorry; we simply treated it as we found the general public treating it, and we thank you for so courteously publishing our protest and for giving us this further opportunity of clearing the air.—Yours faithfully, CECIL A. B. WATSON, President.

H. M. SMYTH,

Hon. Gen. Sec. pro tem.

We accept the admission of our correspondents that they misread our article on several points.—[Editor.]

Australian Stations.

"J.B." (Blenheim).—The atmospheric conditions for several weeks past have rendered long-distance reception remarkably weak. The Australian stations have suffered considerably, and the other station is also adversely handicapped. We do not think your valves are at fault.

Log of 125 Stations.

A. P. Morrison (Brooklyn).—Since writing you last, I have been successful in logging a great number more, which might be of interest to other listeners of the number of S.W. stations which can be logged. I would be very glad if any listener could give me the call sign of a station operating in South Africa on about 40 metres. I heard this station operating on Monday morning between 1.3 a.m. and 2 a.m. A musical programme was received which was equal to the strength of RIN. On his announcing I could get South Africa, but his call I could not get. It sounded like 2AE or 2AM, and also would like to know if a China station is operating on 32 metres between 4 and 5 a.m. on most mornings in the week. The new stations heard are:—2AQ, 5AH, 2BH, 3BP, 2NO, 2AJ, 1AI, 2HW, 2BA, 2AV, 2HB, 7NW, 5GC, 7NE, 7CW, 6AG, 7ZW, 6AR, 2RB, 5AI, 4GD, 4QR, 3WA, 7ZL, 2WW, 2AB, 2BC, 2BY. With the list of stations I sent you in before makes my list now 81 S.W. stations, in all, counting the stations I have received on the higher wave band my total for five years as a listener is 125 stations.

Mainly About Construction

(BY "MEGOHM")

(Continued from Page 12.)

ABOUT CATS' WHISKERS

CUTTING THE POINT.

With the ordinary galena crystal, the nature of the wire which is used as the cat's-whisker makes practically no difference at all in the resulting reception, providing the wire is made from some non-corrodible metal or alloy. There is no need to go to the expense of platinum or gold cat's-whiskers, when you can get such articles made out of non-corrodible alloy for a fraction of the price.

Silver, although it does not oxidise in the common sense of the term, rapidly acquires a film of black silver sulphide on its surface when it is exposed to gas fumes and to the smoke-laden atmospheres of industrial cities, and as silver sulphides is only a poor rectifier, the reception falls off in consequence. Silver, therefore, is not an ideal metal for cat's-whisker work, although, of course, it will afford very satisfactory results when used in a perfectly bright condition.

If you use an ordinary copper or brass cat's-whisker, it is an excellent practice to occasionally snip off the extreme end of the whisker with a pair of scissors. In fact, in many cases this simple operation alone is sufficient to cause a considerable improvement in reception which was gradually becoming poor in quality and in signal strength.

If you use carborundum as a crystal rectifier, see that it has a silvery or light bluish-grey appearance. All other specimens of this compound usually give unsatisfactory results. To get the utmost out of your crystal or crystal combination, always make the final crystal adjustment with the set detuned. Then re-tune the circuit, and then compare the result which you get.

GENUINE APPRECIATION.

Lower Hutt.—On more than one occasion, after reading the remarks of some of your "Radio Record" correspondents against 2YA programmes, I have felt that I should write to say how they are appreciated by others. It is our pleasure to invite friends to "listen-in," and the remarks generally are that the programmes are very good, especially the Symons-Ellwood Short Trio.

What has prompted me to write now is the excellence of last Sunday night's programme from the studio. It is a long time since we have had a programme in keeping with Sunday, and, on behalf of my "listening-in" friends and myself, I write to say that this programme was appreciated very much, and it is hoped you will receive sufficient encouragement to carry on.

with that obtained by making the final adjustment of the crystal with the set fully tuned.

If you want to break a crystal, rest a small penknife blade on its straightest surface, and exactly parallel to its straightest edge. Then tap the blade once or twice very lightly with a small hammer. The crystal will then break cleanly into two pieces, and with a minimum of waste.

Next Week — "Crystal Receiver Construction"

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

A.N.J. (Dunedin).—(1) No need to take condenser plates out if you put fewer turns on coil. Number of plates now in would be required to find how many to take out for given value. (2) For 24 diam. secondary coil use 70 turns. Average tickler turns, 16. (3) Certainly there is a big difference between close and space-wound coils. (4) For turns on 2½ primary you will have to experiment to suit the R.F. value. If you want voltage let me know what valves you will use. Why not keep to specifications, and build a set that will give good service, unless you are using parts already on hand?

G.A. (Wanganui).—If you find the set unsatisfactory, the originators of the circuit will be able to help you.

A.B.C. (Christchurch) asks the following:—"In what character does the human body (e.g., hand to hand) act in a radio circuit, and at what approximate value (i.e., in electrical units)?" The earth-capacity value of the human body appears to be what is required. The electrostatic capacity of the earth, considered as a sphere of conducting material, works out at 72,100,000 of a farad; that is, 720 microfarads, so that the capacity of a human body would be a proportionate fraction of this amount.

W.H.P. (near Cambridge) has completed the Browning-Drake, and says: "Commenting on the whole set, now working perfectly satisfactorily, I must say that it is the best thing I have struck in receivers during my five years' radio experimenting."

"Browning-Drake" (Stratford).—The crackle, "something like static," can be caused by a dry B battery. The short-wave converter now being described will suit you well. It works splendidly with the Browning-Drake amplifier.

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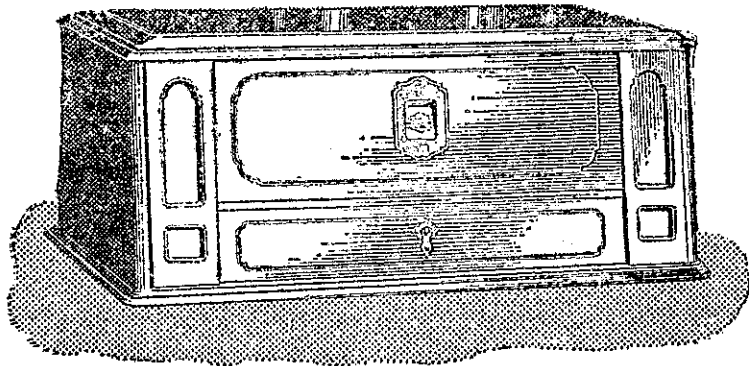
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BRITISH

A few comments—extracted from the letters of satisfied clients: "We have now installed loud-speakers in all the wards: Doctors' Matrons' and Nurses' residence (in all eight loud-speakers) and we have to decrease the volume on Australian stations."

"I can tune in Farmer's free of Wellington, and I live within one and a quarter miles of 2YA."

"There are nine different makes of American sets here, and whilst some can equal my set as to getting various stations, none can equal mine when it is a question of wonderful reproduction."

These comments refer to the famous "ELSTREE SIX." When you are told "British sets are not suitable for New Zealand conditions" let us tell you a few more facts about British parts.

HARTLE and GRAY

QUEEN and CUSTOMS STREETS AUCKLAND. For British parts and British Sets.