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SOMETHING NEW FOR WELLINGTON

Verse-Speaking Choir Makes Its Debut

WEARING gowns designed on Greek lines, the Wellington Verse Speaking Choir gave two recitals in the Blue Triangle Hall, Wellington, last week.

This choir, which is conducted by W. J. Mountjoy, junior, L.T.C.L., is doing something which is comparatively new to New Zealand audiences. Some 50 persons, ranging from small schoolboys to middle-aged men and women, with matching voices, repeat generally in unison, the writings of classic and modern poets. By standing quite still and not acting, they let the poet's words alone convey their meaning. In some pieces they are assisted by Miss Barbara Bannister, L.A.B., who plays in the rhythm of the poetry.

This verse-speaking idea was recently introduced to the Lyall Bay School when Mr. Mountjoy, now on the school staff, returned from a trip abroad where he studied the activities of this art which illustrates to a marked degree how beautiful speech can be when cultivated simply and naturally. This verse speaking has been developed to a very high standard overseas, especially on the Continent.

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Poems included in the two entertainments last week were by John Masefield, Walter de la Mare, Newbolt and other well-known poets, Some of the best items were a chorus from "Medea" with Greek movement by three dancers, "Trees," with pupils of Miss Kathleen O'Brien, giving an impressionistic dance, and "Gavotte" which had effective lighting to make the dancers appear to awaken as ghosts, live and then fade away while the choir spoke from beneath the stage.

The items by the Lyall Bay School pupils were tremendously popular and received such hearty applause that encores were i given. Children are always appealing and their interpretation of the poems was very creditable Mr. O. A. Banner, headmaster of the Lyall Bay School, conducted them, and he is to be congratulated on their fine performances.

During the entertainment, the songs by Miss Molly Atkinson and Mr. T. Hislop, were



greatly appreciated. This Verse Speaking Choir, which was originally intended for juveniles alone, but proved so popular that adults! asked to join, is hoping to give two recitals next year.

TAKE a fresh orange and stick as many cloves into it as possible. Put it into a cool oven, and when dry right through place it among your clothes. The orange gives out a delightful perfume, but moths will never come near.