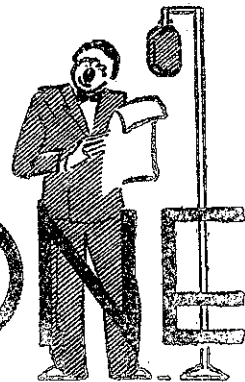


Your Side of the MICROPHONE



MY children are often puzzled as to the manner in which radio sound effects are produced—the sound of wagon wheels on a road, water-lapping, snores, a marching army, escaping steam, etc.

Couldn't we hear how some of these are done? Boys especially are interested in this subject, and I think a children's session would be the place for it.

FREE SERVICE

What They Do In England

IT'S a fact that the English Post Office operates an anti-interference radio service. It's been in force over a year and includes about 300 engineers who cure the ills of home radio equipments.

Radio users with problems only need to ask for the appropriate form at any post office, fill it up, drop it in the letter-box stamp free, and wait for the engineer to call. Within a day or two he arrives, tests wiring, aerial, earth, and the like, only stopping when the trouble is diagnosed.

If it's interference from a refrigerator or an electric motor, they'll reason with the owner, suggesting he attach an eliminator. If he should decline or get rude, the engineer will advise the set owner what apparatus he needs to cut out the offending noise. Service is 100 per cent. free. Now, how about New Zealand?—M. Keeley (Wellington).

They would like to know also how these sounds are fitted in exactly with the section of a story.—M.G.R., Auckland.

Attack On "Swing"

I WONDER if many listeners really enjoy hearing the good old tunes mutilated? The tendency of dance bands to "swing" some of our finest national songs is nothing short of piracy. How sickening it is to hear some anaemic, brilliantined person announce in a silky voice that the next number will be the "swinging" of "Annie Laurie," or some other beautiful melody. Then follows a crash of discord, like demons let loose. These musical

PRIZE-WINNERS this week are: M. Keeley, Wellington (7/6); "Oratory," Auckland (5/-); "M.G.R.," Auckland, "Tui," Timaru, "Dropkick," Auckland, and "Judy Jane," Morrinsville (2/6 each). Similar prizes are awarded each week. Send your entries (not more than 150 words each) to "SAFETY VALVE," Box 1680, Wellington. Prize-money is forwarded at the end of each month.

"heart throbs" are messing up all our really good songs in the interests of "swing."—"Tui," Timaru.

Time For Football

THE football season is at hand. Last year our national game suffered a severe shock, or was it our self-esteem? This season strenuous efforts will be made by clubs to make good the damage. What are our broadcasting authorities going to do about it? Most clubs have one evening a week devoted to team talks. I suggest that this could be supplemented by a broadcast once a week by acknowledged experts on various phases of the game. These broadcasts would have thousands of players interested. Leeway has to be made up in two directions. First, as the chairman of the Auckland union suggested, in the reluctance or inability of players to produce hard but clean football, and, secondly, in the indifferent coaching of club teams.

In this latter direction lies the chance for radio to restore our supremacy.—"Dropkick," Auckland.

"Brighter Mornings"

MIGHT I suggest something a little brighter from the YA Stations in the mornings.

We tune into 1YA first thing in the mornings and as a rule get nothing but orchestra and band music interspersed with one or two songs.

What about something a little brighter at that time of the day?

Not that good music is not appreciated, but when one begins the daily round a little humour would, I am sure, certainly make a difference to many of us.

Here's hoping for brighter and more humorous programmes in the mornings, giving us housewives something to laugh over as we go about the monotony of our work.—"Judy Jane," Morrinsville.

Air-Mindedness

WE hear a lot about encouraging air-mindedness, especially in the rising generation, but what exactly are we doing about this very important matter?

Wouldn't an "Air Session" help to

bring the desired result? Great flights could be the subject of some of these "talks," telling of the intrepid pilots and describing the wonderful lands they fly over.

The different types of machines could be described. Only the other day I heard, in passing, one small boy say (craning his neck skyward): "Look, Bill, that plane is the

same as the one that Jean Batten broke the record with."

"Garn, that's not a Percival Gull," said his companion. "You'll be calling a blessed train a tramcar next. That's a biplane and the Percival Gull is a monoplane."

This conversation gave me the idea that an air session would be a popular one, especially to the school boys.—"Deirdre Wall," Tai Tapu.

Cinderella Quest

THE interesting article "Amateurs First" in the Record of March 25 set me thinking: Why not have an Aunt Daisy Quest for the Cinderella of Broadcasting—the woman who is not so young? (I leave the age ques-

GREAT ORATORY

Let The Past Speak

SPEECHES make dull reading, but delivered with talent and understanding, make good hearing. The past is rich in orators. What a thrill it would be if these men might speak again, through the radio!

Every nation and every country is proud of its illustrious speakers, in spite of the fact that to-day, very few of us can remember their words. Give us the speakers of history. The radio audience of to-day would be as readily swayed and as profoundly moved by them as were the packed halls and galleries of yesterday.

In passing, I think of Gladstone, Lincoln, Emmett—but their name is legion!—"Oratory" (Auckland).

tion to you!) It need not be necessary for her to sing or play, but essential that she have common sense, initiative and, above all, a pleasant well-modulated speaking voice. Judging by the number of young women with shrill, harsh, affected voices one hears over the air, it must be difficult to find the ideal microphone voice.—"Talk," Auckland.