

Your Side of the MICROPHONE



MANY suggestions are sent in from week to week for improvements or additions to our radio fare. But rarely does anybody suggest items we could do without. Now it certainly sounds unkind to say we would be better without "God's s-creechers" — in other words sopranos — and our very regular Sunday operas, more especially those entirely sung in a foreign language. Another unwanted item is that overworked instrument the "Wurlitzer organ," and last, but not least, the "crooner." The female of the species

This week's prize-winners are: "Nicodemus," Tauranga (7/6); "Tui," Timaru; "One of Them," Hikurangi; "M.M.," Murchison; "The Duck Lady," Hawera (2/6) each. Send your entries (not more than 150 words each) to "SAFETY VALVE," P.O. Box 1680, Wellington. Prize-money will be forwarded at the end of each month.

crippled bodies or death if their mothers were "made to think."—"The Duck Lady," Hawera.

More Home Life

POST-WAR years witnessed a changed aspect toward the home and home life. Sons and daughters

from their early teens, father, and even mother, declared a "stay-out-of-the-home-as-much-as-possible" strike. The home became a place in which to eat and sleep; evenings found the home left to itself. Broadcasting has brought a farewell to all that, and the reason? ... serial stories (not one instalment must be missed), favoured artists, talks, dramatists, and a host of sundry broadcasting items, including crooners. Again, music suitable for home dances has meant overtime for the family furniture, linos, carpets, and floor boards. Back into popularity has swept the home, borne forward on the crest of the broadcasting wave. The family, it is estimated, now spends at least 50 per cent. more of its time in the home in comparison with a decade ago, and it's all to the national good—thanks to broadcasting!"—"Domestic," Auckland.

TELL THE STORY

Make Opera Music More Interesting

WOULD "Tales From Operas" make a suitable session for Mr. D'Arcy Cresswell to give us? In my schooldays, when we were too lazy to work but not too tired to be entertained, our teacher would take from his desk a book of "Stories From Wagner" and read us into wonderland.

I had forgotten these Friday afternoons until recently, after 20 years, I heard the music from Wagner's Operas come over the air. I often listen to classical music and enjoy it, but it leaves me strained and tired. Then it dawned on me that whenever any of Wagner's music came over I could listen easily and with more pleasure. I think it must be because I know the story behind the music.

—"Nicodemus" (Tauranga).

sounds the most unpleasant. The time occupied by these unwelcome items could be used to better advantage and only very few listeners would miss them.—"Tui," Timaru.

Plays On Saturday

THERE are radio listeners in the country who do not have the chance to go to the pictures or some other place of amusement on Saturday evening and so look to their sets to supply this lack. For the sake of these listeners could not one of the main stations put on a good play? I am sure this would be appreciated by many edly many children would be saved

country people, as Saturday is the evening when most people can allow themselves a good listen-in, not having to think of early rising the next morning.—"One of Them," Hikurangi.

Classical Music

WHY oh why must classical items be announced in so uninteresting—I almost wrote revolting—a manner? We are told that we will hear Quintet in E flat major, Opus 44, or some such thing; that the movements are allegretto, molto vivace, etc.

Personally I like listening to classical music, but this announcement conveys nothing to me—it merely annoys. Many people of my acquaintance turn to another station as soon as the announcer begins, whereas if they listened a little longer they could scarcely help being captivated by the grand singing tones of an orchestra performing a masterpiece.

Need we have these technical terms which do not help the ordinary listeners at all? Would not a simple explanation of the arrangement of the work and its theme help to make the great music of all time more attractive?—"M.M.," Murchison.

Careless Mothers

WHAT a wealth of tragedy there is in the simple notices in the daily papers, "Baby pulls boiling water over and dies from burns," "Child swallows plum stone and chokes to death," "Woman fractures leg slipping on too highly polished floors," "Child drowned in trough in two feet of water." Couldn't we have a short talk a couple of times a week giving simple stories of these happenings and how easily they could be avoided? So many of us listen in all day while we are doing our work and many of the accidents that happen in the home could be avoided with a little thought. Many a thoughtless woman would push that knife back out of the reach of clutching baby fingers or would see that that teapot of boiling tea or that kettle of boiling water is well back on the stove if a quiet voice over the radio warned her of the consequences of carelessness. Undoubt-

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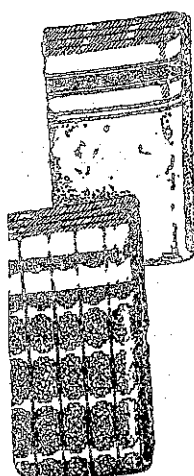
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