

tion. The hour was 7.40 in the morning, but the attire of the visitors suggested it was evening. Tactful inquiries revealed that the party had been present at an important ball, and the night had ended (for them) at an awkward hour when the picnics had gone home and other houses of refreshment had not opened. It had seemed such a bright idea to fill in the "dead" period by inspecting a radio station!

Generosity

TALES of Australian generosity have been brought back to New Zealand by Miss Jessie McLennan, Dunedin, for three years announcer at 4BC Brisbane. "There was a time," said Miss McLennan, "when the children in the Montrose Crippled Children's Home got the knitting bug. But they had nothing to knit with, so 4BC appealed to listeners to send along scraps of wool. Exactly 120 pounds weight of wool came in, and if you have never seen 120 pounds of loose wool in a heap you have no idea what an enormous amount it is. There was another time when we had an Easter egg drive in the interests of hospital children. I never saw so many Easter eggs together in all my life after the appeal had gone over the air." When Miss McLennan joined 4BC it was the custom to visit the three city hospitals during the week, spending two hours in each. Every time a visit was made hundreds of papers, parcels, and letters were delivered from unknowns who had responded to appeals over the air. The time was later cut down, reluctantly, to one visit only a week, the hospitals being visited in turn.

Band's Loss

AFTER having been secretary to the St. Kilda band for 11 years, Mr. A. G. Homer has now retired. His retirement is a blow, for he had at all times been unsparing in his efforts on the band's behalf. Mr. Homer was a player first, having joined the band in 1923, and proved successful on several occasions in solo competitions with the E flat bass. At the annual meeting of the band held recently Mr. Homer was given a presentation, and Mr. James Dixon, former conductor, who led the band during its remarkable period of successes from 1926 to 1935, paid tribute to Mr. Homer's services.

On Leave

THE absence of Bryan O'Brien from 2ZB's session during the past two weeks has given rise to numerous queries as to whether he had left the service. Mr. O'Brien is on annual leave in Sydney and is doing a fair amount of broadcasting during his holiday-making. He is due back about July 20.

Come-Back

TEN-MINUTE stunt that was quite impromptu in the 12B Children's Magazine of the Air last week brought quick results to a 12B man. He was "The Fun Man," a clown at the microphone and a veteran in radio. He broadcast a series of sounds and invited the juvenile listeners to identify them and offered a small prize to the successful one. The next day 334 letters arrived addressed to him, and, as you may believe, he put in a bit of gratuitous overtime that evening. He announced that the first correct entry

SEVENTY-FIVE!

DUNEDIN CHORAL SOCIETY'S BIRTHDAY

AN important stage in Dunedin's musical history will be reached next month when the Dunedin Choral Society celebrates its seventy-fifth anniversary. Preparations are well under way for a fitting celebration of this event.

Musical interest will be stimulated by three public concerts of a pleasantly varied nature. Oratorio excerpts will be presented on August 3, Dr. V. E. Galway being the guest conductor.

Selections of three works which have always been popular with Dunedin audiences will be given—Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise," Haydn's "Creation," and Handel's "Judas Macabaeus."

At the second concert, on August 9, the society's Madrigal Club, under the enthusiastic conductorship of Mr. Alfred Walmsley, will be featured. Celebrity soloists will help to make this an outstanding evening.

Artistically the climax of the festival will be the concert of modern works on August 13. The main offering will be Vaughan Williams's "Sea Symphony," which was introduced to Dunedin last year by Mr. Walmsley. This concert will also include the thrilling "Choral Dance" from "Prince Igor," the great overture and festival scene from "Tannhauser," and the novelty "Burlesque" for piano and orchestra by Richard Strauss. Miss Mavis MacDonald will be the soloist in this number, which has not before been heard in Dunedin.

The composer of "Sea Symphony," Dr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, has written to the society wishing it every success at its forthcoming festival.

opened would be the winner, but he opened and read every one without finding a correct solution and so he went through them all again and picked out the best reply. Next time "The Fun Man" thinks he'll tell a story or sing—or do something that will have a comeback.

At 12B

LAST Sunday week, on a brief visit to Auckland, the Prime Minister, the Hon. M. J. Savage, spoke from 12B during the Diggers' Hour and announced that at last a site had been bought for the new studios. He hoped the new premises would be soon under way. At the invitation of the station director, Mr. Walter Elliot, Mr. Savage went to the microphone and accepted Rod Talbot's invitation to remain in the studio during the broadcast of the Diggers' Hour.

Only Lapse

SOMETHING of a record has been established by Neddo, of 12B in his daily lunch-hour sessions during the past five weeks. Besides playing the drums and having guest artists featured on this session, Neddo has sung 150 numbers himself. Only once has he had to include a recording. That was when he broke some teeth (not his own) and was unable to sing.



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