

To do well in the English singing world today money and influence are needed. The best can usually win through, but it seems the average musician needs something more than ability. He needs an . . .

OLD SCHOOL TIE IN THE ARTS .. By E. R. Baker

At least that is what I inferred when Mrs. Harold Cordery, well-known young Christchurch soprano recently home from England, gave me some of her impressions.

But she had many other things to talk about first.

Along with most New Zealanders visiting England these modern days, she was amazed at the advances in television. Even today the average resident of the Dominion has the idea that visual radio is in its cradle stage.

It's not. Mrs. Cordery considers it just about 95 per cent. perfect!

AND it's all so simple! It is just like sitting in a small picture theatre, makes excellent home entertainment. The apparatus has nothing elaborate about it, so far as outward appearances go.

There is a casing to all intents and purposes the same as the console of a big wireless set. You lift the lid and, presto! there is a mirror, reflecting the horizontal screen. And you regulate it just as you would an ordinary radio set.

MRS. CORDERY was given this demonstration at the home of the composer, Evelyn Sharpe, whose husband is general manager of the big firm of Cramer. And the play she saw by television was "Who Killed Cock Robin?"

Composer's Home

One of Mrs. Cordery's teachers was Dorothy Helmrich, who toured the New Zealand stations not so long ago; later she took lessons from Evelyn Sharpe, singing, at the composer's London home, some of Miss Sharpe's own compositions, in ballad form, quaintly phrased and set to the words of poems.

NEWS of many New Zealand singers, who are making their mark comes from Mrs. Cordery. Hubert Carter is doing well and Stan. Morgan, usually known as Wainwright Morgan, is second accompanist at the Douglas Webber School of Dramatic Art. He wrote the music for the "Laughing Cavalier," a West End success.

Then there is Nancy Bowden, taking lessons from Dorothy

AND here's some advice for New Zealand singers seeking overseas fame:

"You must be very good before you can hope to gain any recognition in London," Mrs. Cordery told me. "In fact you must have influence and a lot of money."

"It seems that there is such a thing as 'the old school tie' even in the arts. There are dozens and dozens of fine singers, all worthy of a place, but the musical market is glutted with them."

"Before trying their luck in England, New Zealanders should work up as far as possible in musical knowledge and technique in the Dominion. Only then are they ready for

the attention of the big masters overseas and the subsequent acquisition of the finish that is necessary before anything like an engagement can be hoped for.

"And private teachers, it strikes me, are to be preferred to the schools, for they can give the individual attention. That, of course, costs money."

Good Voices

NO really good New Zealand singers, however, need despair. Voices heard here are every bit as good as those in any other country, Mrs. Cordery says.

But they lack the culture and the finish that can be acquired only by hearing the great artists in their own settings.

Besides, there is the inducement, when in touch with great musicians, to put the best foot forward and to emulate the technique of the stars. To see the great plays, too, helps in appreciation of the finer points of concert work.

THIS young Christchurch artist regards singing, as far as she is concerned, purely as a hobby, confesses that she would not like to have to earn her living by it. The professional singer's life appears too exacting for her tastes.

However, she sings because she loves it and delights in giving pleasure to people who like to hear her. And, after all, that is the sum and substance of all art—amateur or professional.

AS most New Zealanders do, after a trip abroad, Mrs. Cordery feels that in many things the Dominion is miles behind.

It seems a small matter in the big scheme of things, but she mentioned particularly the allowances made for the com-

fort and freedom of theatre patrons.

She was amazed, on entering a theatre to hear Florence Austral and Tudor Davies in "Cavalleria Rusticana," to find the place full of smoke. Pipes, cigars and cigarettes were in full blast, and just about every woman in the audience was cigarettng.

She wondered just how the singers fared when the curtain rose, allowing a billow of blue haze to float on to the stage from the audience. Artists, however, didn't seem to mind.

And there are very few theatres in London where one cannot smoke.

Then again, a patron merely has to give an order when going in and refreshments arrive during an interval. It is an unusual theatre that doesn't sport a bar.

One wonders what New Zealand would say if an enterprising theatre manager rigged up a cocktail counter and a beer engine in his foyer!

THOUGH she brings back vivid and delightful memories of London, there is one Mrs. Cordery will never forget.

During an interval in a West End theatre, she rose to look at somebody or other, forgot that her seat was one of the tip-up variety, sat down again—hard on the floor.

Says Mrs. Cordery: "The woman next to me laughed for about ten minutes. I thought she would never stop."



Mrs. Harold Cordery, young Christchurch soprano, takes a smiling look at England and the arts.

Solve This Simple Little Puzzle AND WIN £50 HOLIDAY MONEY

Don't miss this splendid competition! It is just a short and easily-worded paragraph about A SUICIDE RING, which appeared in a New Zealand daily newspaper some time ago, and has now been put into puzzle form by our artist. The opening words, "ON THE FINGER . . ." will tell you what it is all about, and the rest of the wording is simple, and the sense of the sentence will help you. Each picture or sign may mean part of a word, one, two or three words, but not more than three.

Solve carefully and write your solution IN INK on one side of a sheet of paper. Sign your name and residential address, and post entry to:—

PUZZLE PIE NO. 270R.,
BOX 950, G.P.O., CHRISTCHURCH.
READ THESE RULES CAREFULLY.

All entries must be postmarked not later than Wednesday, November 23.

The Prize of £50 in Cash will be awarded to the competitor whose solution of the paragraph is correct or most nearly correct. In case of ties the prize-money will be divided, but the full amount will be paid.

£50 prize-money is deposited with "Truth" (N.Z.) Ltd. The decision of the Editor of "Puzzle Pie" will be final and legally binding throughout. A postal note for 1/- must accompany each initial entry and 6d. each additional entry. Penny stamps (1/1) accepted if postal note unobtainable. Any number of attempts may be sent on plain paper. Alternatives in single entries will be disqualified. Results will be published on Friday, December 2.

RESULT "PUZZLE PIE" NO. 268.

The winning competitor in this contest is:—MR. B. COX, 343 Hereford Street, CHRISTCHURCH. His solution, containing only one error, was the most nearly correct one received, and the PRIZE OF £50 IN CASH is therefore awarded to him.

Prize-money will be posted on Monday, December 19.



SOLUTION TO "PUZZLE PIE" NO. 268.

Paragraph from the "Evening Star," July 18 1900:—"Rivers of blood still ran here, there, and everywhere. Headless, limbless bodies could be seen lying in all directions, and many dead had dropped into the river."