

THE Broadcasting Company brought happiness to several thousand city children on the afternoon of Saturday, February 21, when a public picnic was held under its auspices. It is estimated that four to five thousand children, parents and friends were present.

It has been the practice of the Broadcasting Company to entertain each year the young performers who help at the children's session, but this year the picnic was thrown open free for all. Notwithstanding the fact that the outing had been postponed from the previous Saturday, the children of Christchurch responded to an extent that exceeded expectations and picnicers came from as far south as Rakaiia.

The picnic was a remarkable success, not only from the attendance point of view, but also from the manner in which the children enjoyed themselves. It had been splendidly organised, the weather was ideal, and nowhere could a better site for such a picnic be found than the pretty grounds at the Addington trotting course.

From the day that the 3YA Children's Session Advisory Committee, under Mr. D. E. Parton's chairmanship, considered Mr. Harris's suggestion that the picnic should be open to all, everyone worked whole-heartedly, and Saturday's picnic was the result. To Miss Maynard Hall, organiser of the 3YA Children's Sessions, well known as "Aunt Pat," too much credit cannot be given for the success of the day's outing.

Side-shows and amusements there were in plenty and all were free. No child had a dull moment.

Throughout the whole afternoon a miniature railway carried packed loads of children up and down a hundred yards of track. There was keen competition for seats, but the Broadcasting Company officials saw that all children were fairly treated. It was no easy matter regulating this traffic, for "boys will be boys," and the stronger would have monopolised the railway. But the hard-taxed officials enjoyed it all equally as much as did the young folk. At the end of the day one re-

Christchurch Children Spend Happy Day

Huge Attendance at Radio Picnic

marked: "I've had a wonderful time. I must have put at least a thousand tiny children on that train." The train was certainly a great draw. Every time the little engine whistled everyone at the picnic knew that it pulled a full load of ecstatic young passengers.

The whirling merry-go-round was patronised to its limits; so were the ponies and the donkey and an old Cobb and Co.'s coach. The Punch and Judy man and the Jack and the Beanstalk man performed to admiring audiences crowded round their stalls. The sports and races were many and the competitors were innumerable. In some classes the wide racing field was congested, in other events as many as eight heats of twelve competitors each had to be run. Children from every school in the city vied with one another, and hundreds of prizes were won. The sports alone would have ensured the success of the picnic.

Every now and then there was a mixing-up of the children. Like the Pied Piper, an official, throwing handfuls of lollies from a large tin, would go round the ground followed by an ever-increasing swarm of children who left the various side shows to try their luck in the scramble for sweets.

The skittle alley was in much demand, and the balloon-hitting competition produced a vigorous bombardment until ammunition failed. As a consequence, quite a number of boys now have tennis balls as souvenirs of the Radio picnic.

White rats, black Pomeranians, brown Pomeranians, Angora rabbits, kittens and cats, a puppy Alsatian, dogs of all kinds, even four wide-eyed young frogs seeing the world from a floating piece of wood inside a pre-

serving jar, were among the pets brought by children to the picnic. The parade and judging took place on a raised platform. The pets had never met before, so it was a memorable day for them, particularly for one white rabbit which was chased by a dog and was rescued with difficulty. It was an unrehearsed incident which provided much diversion.

During the afternoon, 3YA'S announcer, Mr. A. L. Curry, broadcast from the ground a description of the proceedings, and listeners-in realised that it was one of the happiest outings of the year. In the background of the announcer's description they heard the New Brighton Band playing lively music, the whistle of the miniature engine and the laughing and shrieking of the children. Then, as the parade of pets was on at that moment, the young owners were engaged in conversation before the microphone, and some diverting entertainment was provided. "Aunt Pat" also joined in a dialogue. The result of this broadcast was to increase considerably the number of people at the picnic.

One of the attractions during the afternoon was dancing by junior pupils of the Scottish Society.

A great many people attended the picnic for the purpose of seeing the popular "aunts" and "uncles" heard over the air from 3YA. This they had the opportunity of doing during the Children's Session from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., which took place on the platform in front of the crowd.

It is safe to say that the Christchurch Radio Picnic given by the Radio Broadcasting Company will be a red-letter day to all who were present at the Trotting Grounds at Addington last Saturday afternoon.

Radio Concert

Earthquake Relief Fund

THE sum of £47/7/6 has been handed to the Mayor's Fund for Earthquake Relief as a result of the concert given in the Town Hall on Monday, February 23, by a number of leading Wellington professional and amateur musicians and entertainers. The gross proceeds were £72/10/-, and expenses £25/2/6. Of the expenses, advertising in two daily newspapers accounted for £23/5/-.

In response to the appeal made by Miss Worship the Mayor at the concert, and broadcast by 2YA, the following sums have been received by the "Radio Record" and handed to the Mayor's Fund:—

S.P. 2G 6/-, Mrs. Beaurefaire 5/-, Mrs. H. G. L. Gray 10/-, Mr. A. S. Baker 10/6, E.M.E. 10/-, C. Hunger £2 6d., T.J.H. 2/6, S. W. Strong 5/-, E. Grove 5/-, "A Family of Listeners" £1, J. Fair 10/-, D. Cody £1/1/-, W. S. Wauchop £1/1/-, F. Ashley 2/6, K. A. Dixon 2/6, "Listener-in" 2/6, A. L. Kirk £1, G. Kirk 10/-, Freda Goodall 3/-, Lily Kana 5/-, Collected by Mrs. F. Chase £2, "Listener-in" Waitiat 15/-, The "L" Family 10/-, "Listener" £1, F. T. Clarke 5/-, Mrs. Russell 2/6. Total, £15/4/6.

In addition to the foregoing, donations were made to the funds of the concert as follows:—

Two Listeners 7/6, Anonymous 5/-, H. Henry 5/-, D.N.K. 1/-, Listener-in, Northland 6/-, Northcote Church 2/6, J. Fletcher 6/-, A Radio Family 11/6, Khandallah List 10/-, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Meule £1, W. M. Dawson £1/1/-, J. M. E. Hott £1/1/-, Chas. Proctor £1 1/-, A. D. Paisley £1/1/-, Listener-in 7/-, Mrs. P. Fleming 5/-, C.W.R. 8/-.

IN forwarding contributions to this fund some listeners wrote very interestingly. Probably the most interesting letter was from Mrs. F. Chase, Ruatahuna. She wrote that she has a tea and luncheon room half way between Rotorna and Wairoa, and also has the only radio set in the settlement, which consists almost entirely of Maoris, there being only three school-teachers, two missionaries and herself in the total of white people. An open invitation was given to the settlement to listen to the transmission of the concert from the Town Hall for the Relief Fund, and there was quite a good attendance. As a result of passing round the hat, she was able to forward £2. "The Maoris here," Mrs. Chase writes, "are very poor, but they gave what they could, in many cases only a penny, but it was given with a good spirit." Mrs. Chase mentioned that she had daughters in Wairoa who suffered heavy losses in the earthquake, so that she felt she must help as much as she could.

An old-time Stage-coach which proved immensely popular with the children.



Part of the picnic ground. Miniature train in the foreground, round-a-bout on the left. Loud-speakers are attached to the post on the right.

Aunt Pat starts the "Dreamland Train," but hides behind the steam of the whistle, as she was shy of the photographer.

THE Dornier X, Germany's monster twelve-engined flying-boat, is equipped with the latest wireless apparatus covering a wide range of frequencies. The principal novelty is in the aerial arrangement. Owing to the enormous span of wing it has been found possible to attach a permanent aerial along the wing, thus obviating the necessity for a trailing aerial, which must be drawn in when a machine lands. The Dornier X also carries the latest in direction-finding equipment.