

Stories afford a definite proof that, had it not been for the Smith family there would have been many empty cupboards in Wellington on Christmas Day.

Read some of the typical cases:—

"It was a great pleasure to see the children opening their stockings and lift out each toy, and to see their little hearts fill with joy. To see them would have done all the Smith family good. It will be the first good day's meal we have had for many months."

"We were at our wits' end to know what we were going to have for Christmas, and it seems as though one of your family heard our wish for a good Christmas dinner. We thank you."

"We think it was very thoughtful of you including the smokes for Pop. He usually gets 'nothing at all,' as the song goes."

"As my husband is on relief work you may know how worried I was, especially as we are in arrears with the rent, which I try not to worry about at Christmas. We are pleased to say we have not always been in Poverty Street, and when we lived in Sunshine Road we knew the joy of giving. Our best wish to you is that you will have the same joy out of giving as we did at receiving in our hour of need."

"If I could only get work—I tramp about every day—but no good. During Christmas week I was on relief works in the country, and last week I was laid aside with a recurrence of war gas."

Each "Goodfellow" was asked to make a report on the case he had attended, and many of these unfold a grim story of poverty and distress.

"She is employed cleaning offices from 4 to 7 a.m., and after paying her rent has 9/6 a week to live on. She is a hard-working woman, and is anxious to get further work at cleaning, and scrubbing and washing."

"They were now penniless and without food for the morrow. Smith's help was very gratefully accepted in the spirit in which it was offered."

"The money earned by the husband, a relief worker, and the few shillings earned by the daughter, aged seventeen, had to feed ten mouths, including a baby of six months."

"It is evident that there are still plenty of people about who do give a thought to the other fellow. It merely needs the galvanic spark to set it going."

"The room into which we were invited was barely furnished, and an atmosphere of poverty and bleakness hung over it. Everything was clean and tidy, and I am sure the family needs all the help that can be given."

"I called upon the family nominated and provided them with a Christmas dinner. A side of lamb, toys, and a month's supply of groceries. There were eight in the family."

"The house was properly clean, the garden exceptionally tidy, and the kiddies were all bright, and appeared to be well fed, I fear by the personal sacrifice of the mother. I did not see the husband, but somehow gained the impression that the mother was carrying the bulk of the load. Altogether they were ordinary decent people, who are having a bad spin."

The Future.

ALTHOUGH the Smith Family was brought into being solely for the purpose of providing Christmas cheer, the valuable experience gained by those associated with the movement, and its value to any community, as proved by the results of its eight years' activities in Australia, lead inevitably

"Breaking the Ice" Bright Comedy from 2YA

NEXT Thursday, January 21, a bright one-act comedy, "Breaking the Ice," by Thomas, will be produced from 2YA by Clement May, the noted elocutionist. There are only two parts. Captain Selby will be played by Clement May himself, and Miss Margaret Martin, of Martin Towers, by Ragnhilde Mee. The story runs as follows:—

The lady is running away from home to avoid meeting a would-be suitor whom she has never seen, and to whom her father has promised her hand. She is on her way to her grandmother's when she is overtaken by a snowstorm and she is forced to seek shelter at a wayside inn. There is only one sitting-room and this she is compelled to share with an unknown man, though they are separated by a screen dividing the room. She naturally wonders what her neighbour is like, and presuming for no special reason that he must be old, she draws his portrait on the screen with some chalk she finds at hand. He also is rather curious as to the lady's identity, and he would be only too pleased to make her acquaintance, it only because the fireplace is on her side of the room.

Being at a loss to find something to do, Selby admires himself in a mirror and discourses on his own beauty. The lady overhears his eulogy and becomes both interested and amused. She finally mounts a chair and looks over the screen, breaking into a fit of laughter when she sees what he is actually doing. He is naturally very embarrassed. Finally the screen is removed and the two occupy the warmer portion of the room.

She tells the story of how she came to be on the road, and how the storm forced her to seek shelter at the inn. She is surprised also to find that the gentleman is in exactly the same position, for his people also want him to marry a woman he has never seen.

Selby eventually makes love to the lady and she, to try him, suggests he goes into the snow to gather holly. After some show of reluctance he consents. While putting on his overcoat, however, he drops a lady's glove, which she finds after he has gone, and she concludes that it belongs to another woman in whom he is interested.

On his return she confronts him and accuses him of being in love with someone else while making love to her. After some explanation she finally discovers he is actually the man she has been running away from and to whom her father has promised her hand.

They finally agree that it would be well for them to drive to Martin Towers and obtain absolution from their parents—a very satisfying solution to a charming piece of comedy work.



Clement May

to the conclusion that the movement should be organised on a permanent basis.

The "Smith Family," it is suggested, shall act as a clearing-house for the various relief organisations and charitable societies. These societies will retain their present identity and carry on the good work being done by them, but all relief work will be co-ordinated and carried on through the central office of the Smith Family. This will obviate overlapping of activities, and will ensure that accurate records are kept of all cases of distress and full investigation made of all cases reported, or applying for assistance. The Smith Family, being a permanent or-

ganisation, and having the benefit of the Australian organisation's experience, will, subject to approval, initiate various activities from time to time.

With a view to co-ordinating the various relief activities in and around Wellington, it is proposed to invite representatives of the various relief organisations to attend a conference at an early date, when detailed proposals will be placed before them.

It is proposed to appoint a full-time secretary to attend to the organisation and carrying-on of the movement, and to install a comprehensive system to ensure an adequate check on all cases dealt with.

Sub-sections of the movement will include the following auxiliaries:—

Medical Section.—Honorary physician who will attend to families requiring medical or surgical treatment. Where necessary, the Smith Family will provide necessary treatment.

Dental Section.—Honorary dentists will be enrolled, who will attend to cases requiring dental treatment, such treatment being provided by the Smith Family.

Optical Section.—Where glasses or treatment are recommended by the medical section, honorary opticians will supply these to the order of the Smith Family.

Legal Section.—Experience has shown that in many cases deserving people have been victimised by unscrupulous money-lenders, and certain hire-purchase trading concerns, owing to their inability to pay for legal advice and protection. Where cases of this nature are brought before the Smith Family, honorary solicitors will advise on the matter and the Family will take the necessary action to ensure that no deserving family is robbed of its rights.

Clothing Section.—This section will attend to the collection of clothing, etc., and arrangements will be made for its distribution to necessitous families.

Transport Section.—Honorary carriers in various districts will be enrolled who will collect or deliver goods.

"Young Smiths" Section.—Boy Scouts and children will be enrolled in a special "Young Smiths" organisation, their function being to assist poor children in various ways outlined by the Smith Family.

A special scheme is being developed to assist in finding employment for men, women, boys and girls.

Those who have been associated with the Smith Family in its work to date have expressed their willingness to continue their assistance and co-operation, and "Mr. Smith," who has had actual experience of the movement in Australia, is prepared to carry on in an honorary and supervising capacity if the movement is placed on a permanent basis.

Radio Jottings

CLEMENT MAY, elocutionist and

Dickensian actor, has been engaged to present a programme at 2YA on Saturday, February 6, marking the anniversary of the birth of the famous author. Scenes from "Tale of Two Cities," "Oliver Twist," and "The Old Curiosity Shop" will be presented under the direction of Mr. May, who will also portray the characters of Uriah Heep, Daniel Peggotty, Wilkins Micawber, and Nell's Grandfather.

MRS. JOHN HASTINGS was introduced to 2YA listeners last Tuesday evening, January 19, when she presented musical sketches. This talented entertainer, as Miss Lynda Murphy, was a very popular performer on the amateur stage in Auckland, and she will be an acquisition to the roll of radio performers in Wellington.