



OF FEMININE INTEREST

By "Patricia"



I HAVE noticed lately a splendid range of subjects is being broadcast by the YA stations, and I am sure that every listener will be able to pick out something suited to his or her needs. The speakers chosen are generally those who have made a special study of their subject, though some of them do not always convey their personality to those who listen. Now, many people may have a slight knowledge of the matter put over the air, but expert opinion, which gives the finer details, is very welcome, and I would suggest that papers be scanned and advantage taken of these talks.

I FEEL I must congratulate 2ZW upon the success of the children's short story competition. I listened to the session when the stories were read, and was constrained to remark upon the ability of composition together with their imagination in children so young. I noticed one of the stories had the elements of plagiarism, but the others seemed to me to be distinctly original. 2ZW has rendered a good service for the children, and I trust other competitions of a similar nature will be instituted.

SOME years ago a scheme was started by a very energetic New Zealand gentleman whereby the children of the Empire communicated with one another by letter, in which incidentally, it was understood that they would mention the industries of their own town. Beside its geographical and educative value, this did much for Empire trade. Now we have the "Wool Woman" to give radio talks to the children—who until recently I suppose took woollen goods as a matter of course—about our woollen industry, from the sheep's back to the manufactured article. I hear that quite a number of children are keen on the knitting competition suggested by the "Wool Woman," and I can see many of the radio cousins busily knitting the woollen squares that are to be sewn together and made into warm rugs, which when finished are to be distributed among the poor and needy.

MR. GEOFFREY SHAW, one of his Majesty's Inspectors of Education in England, said recently that the first time he went into an elementary school the children sang to him a song called "When Mother-in-law Goes out to Shop." If this was a song they had been taught, then the most appropriate punishment would have been to cane the schoolmaster. Personally, I think the primary school children in New Zealand are better catered for musically than the English children, if the above is a sample of the curriculum.

MUSIC I think should be a part of everyone's education; by that I do not mean that everyone should be put in the way of becoming a Caruso or a Backhaus. Geniuses will look after itself, and mould its own career. Simple good choral songs should be a part of all elementary education. In secondary education musical teaching may be

carried farther, not only to make performers, but to form a musical taste. The vast majority of us can learn to train our ears just as easily as our eyes. There ought to be as high a standard of appreciation in the aesthetics of music as in the logic of verbal expression. A school which sent out its scholars unable to read easily and without preference for what is good, would be an acknowledged failure. But a school is equally a failure which sends out its boys and girls unable to listen with pleasure to good music. From 2YA the Broadcasting Board is doing good work in this direction, and I suppose we can expect the other YA stations to give educational sessions at some future date.

THAT the function of radio is not for entertainment only is emphasised by the fact that American commercial broadcasting stations are being engaged for educational purposes. This was brought to my mind while listening to 2YA's educational session on Tuesday last. Such sessions have been usual in

England for a number of years. I see now that Chicago, which has been so much in the news within the last few years, has been unable to continue fully its normal educational activities owing to a depleted exchequer. However, the educational institutions have co-operated in establishing a group system whereby schooling can be given through one of the broadcast stations. Group listening for children during the holidays is the latest idea, and if the ordinary holiday tasks are exempt this new form of group listening should have its attractions.

WE are all so used to the telephone these days, and it has been brought to such a high standard of utility that we wonder sometimes how we managed with the old-fashioned kind. The earliest telephones were almost entirely constructed of wood and metal. Wood also entered largely into the composition of the wireless set when broadcasting was a new excitement. To-day a new telephone instrument, as superior to the old in appearance and convenience as

a modern car is to a "tin Lizzie," is obtainable in colours of green, periwinkle blue, ivory or pink, and also in delightfully mottled and mosaic effects.

TO New Zealand belongs the credit of having devised what is probably the most original of the numerous war memorials. Plinths, pylons, cenotaphs, and sculptured groups abound not only in Great Britain, but in the lands of our Allies and former enemies. It was, however, left to the citizens of New Zealand to select for their national memorial one that is audible as well as visible, in the form of the carillon, the music of which is heard almost daily by the relatives and friends of Wellington men who fought and fell.

FROM the London "Listener" I gather that the manufacturers of ready-made garments in England seem to expect their customers to conform to a few rigidly-defined sizes. Nothing varies as much as the human figure, and to be able to buy clothes that took into its account more of its variations most women, we fancy, would be willing to give up some of the diversity of colours and materials that now embarrasses their choice. In England garments are usually labelled "onsize," "small women's," "matron's," or "maid's," and this is often the cause of a good deal of time and expense being spent in getting specially made clothes. In France and America they order these things better, where subtly differing categories are stocked, such as "petite plump," "stylish stout," etc., unknown in the British store. The British manufacturer should take a leaf from his foreign rival's book and aim to provide all but the most unnatural figures with well-fitting clothes straight "off the peg."

MANY talks on economic problems have been broadcast recently, and many people take a keen interest in them. Everyone recognises how important it is that this public interest should continue. If we allow economic conditions to pull us in the wrong direction our means of livelihood will disappear. We should, however, remember that material wants are not the only necessities of human beings. Manners and morals are important, too, and we all must be prepared to play the game. Unfortunately many people either from thoughtlessness or pure selfishness never think of anything but their own point of view. For instance, look at the number of motor accidents that occur every day, many of them fatal. We may be sure that no motorist really wants to kill or injure anybody, but a good many motorists act as if they are entitled to speed in any direction regardless of the risk of colliding with someone else who has as much right to the use of the road. However, the pedestrian, too, is to blame. He has certainly a legal right to the use of a part of the road, but he has no moral right to use the road in such a way as to obstruct unfairly its use by other people. The risk of

(Continued overleaf)

Hints for the Housewife

RICE will not stick to the pan when cooking if the latter is well greased first. If it is also greased to a depth of one inch round the top the rice will not boil over. To keep the grains separate and white, add a little lemon juice to the water.

Beetroot, if plunged into cold water as soon as they are cooked, and rubbed through the hand, will peel much more evenly and easily than when pared with a knife.

BISCUITS will keep fresh and crisp for many weeks, even when the tin is not perfectly air-tight, if a layer of white sugar is placed at the bottom of the box.

Housewives sometimes find that drawers have a tendency to stick. I find that if a little soap—any kind—is rubbed on the runners the drawers can be pulled out or pushed in without trouble.

BLANKETS which are too short for a bed can be lengthened with a piece of sheeting. Sew this to the bottom of a blanket and use it for tucking-in purposes.

Copying pencil stains on fabrics will usually yield to a soaking of the marked part in methylated spirit. If the marks are extensive, gently rub in the methylated spirit with a soft nail-brush.

EAU-DE-COLOGNE is a great asset to the toilet table. It may be used as a reliable astringent. If you find it difficult to persuade your powder to stay on for any length of time owing to an oily skin, a little eau-de-cologne mixed in the palm of your hand with your vanishing cream will act as a corrective and make a good powder foundation. A very good mouth wash may be made by diluting some eau-de-

cologne with a sufficient quantity of distilled water. A few spots of eau-de-cologne dabbed on those annoying "cold" sores that blister and disfigure the lips will often make them disappear before they reach the unsightly stage.

Gloves of light kid can be cleaned with milk and soft soap. Lay the gloves on a clean piece of cloth and sponge them with a piece of soft rag dipped in the mixture, frequently rinsed. Work down toward the finger tips, stretch into shape, and lay out flat to dry without rinsing.

AN enamel pan which has been badly burnt may be effectively cleaned by being rubbed with fine emery cloth which has been slightly dampened. After the cleaning, wash the pan out very carefully.

Lemons can be kept fresh for quite a long time if put into a jar and covered with cold water, which should be renewed every other day.

WHEN the knob comes off the lid of the kettle you can make a very good substitute with a screw, a cork, and a scrap of washleather. Cut a tiny circle of washleather and bore a hole through it to take the screw. Insert the screw from the inner side of the lid and gently work cork on to the point of it.

When a quantity of coal dust has collected in the coal cellar, use it up this way. Soak some newspapers in water, tear them into shreds, and mix them into the dust. After making up a fire with pieces of coal, throw a good shovelful of mixed dust and paper at the back, and you will find you will not need to put more coal on for some hours. This means a great saving in fuel and consequent economy.