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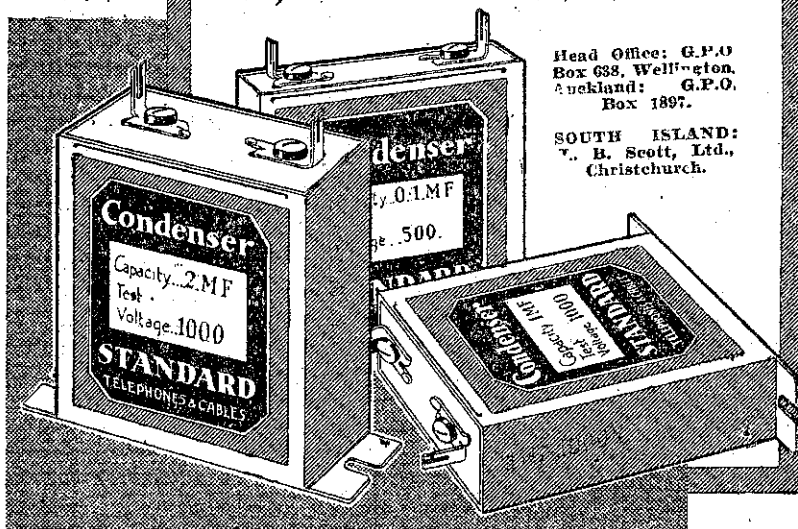
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answering questions. For instance, a witness was examined at a trial of an action for the price of some goods which had been returned because they were not up to sample. "Did you see the oats returned?" "Yes, your Honour," was the reply. "On what grounds did he refuse to accept them?" "In the back-yard, your Honour," replied the witness, much to the amusement of the court.

A magistrate heard an assault case between man and wife. The magistrate at last said: "My good man, I cannot do anything for you." "But she has cut a piece of my ear off, sir," After a moment or two the magistrate said: "Well, I will bind her over to keep the peace." "But you can't," shouted the man, "she's thrown it away."

A nervous young barrister once made a funny transposition of words when he remarked at the conclusion of his speech: "I perceive I am addressing a beery wench. I beg your Lordship's pardon—I meant to say a weary bench." These few instances serve to show how humour is easily produced under somewhat serious occasions.

The public library opens out a very wide field for the study of mankind. All sorts and conditions of men and women frequent its rooms, and during the course of my thirty-two years of library work I can recall many humorous incidents which have occurred both in New Zealand and in England. Nowadays the library is regarded as a general bureau of information, and this led an American librarian to describe humorously a day in a library.

*Folks interrupt my perfect case
By asking questions such as these:
How tall was prehistoric man?*

*How old, I pray, was sister Ann?
What should you do if cats have fits?
What woman first invented mitts?
What dictionary is the best?
Did Brummel wear a satin vest?
How do you use the catalogue?
Oh, hear that noise, is that my dog?
Have you a book on fear?
Do you mind if I leave baby here?*

Such questions asked in good faith, it is a pleasure to answer, but it often happens that the librarian is used as a tool by cross-word puzzle seekers; and it does not occur to these people that the librarian or the members of his staff have worked out the answers for themselves. But he must preserve a calm state of mind under all circumstances.

Another source of humour is that of the peculiarities of book titles, and the twists given them by borrowers. We were once asked whether we had the book "Benjamin and His Tribe," but found out that the book required was actually "Joseph and His Brethren," by Freeman. Another time we had inquiries for the "Lady With the Lamp," which at first was thought to be a life of Florence Nightingale. It turned out to be "A Lantern in Her Hand," by Bess Aldrich. One could give many instances of this kind, but time will not permit.

Finally, I turn to that latest science. Radio, and even this is not free from humour. Only last week I heard an announcement that the next item would be the "Queen of the Earth," followed by the "Wolf," which sounded rather amusing, and one hoped that the wolf did not bite the queen.

The following is a radio recipe which a young bride asked her husband to copy down. He did his best, but got two stations at once. One was

broadcasting a recipe, and the other physical exercise instructions. This is what he wrote:—

Hands on hips. Place one cup of flour on the shoulders. Raise knees and depress toes, and mix thoroughly in half a cup of milk. Repeat six times. Inhale quickly, one-half teaspoonful of baking powder, lower the legs and mash two hard boiled eggs



George Titchener,

a Christchurch humorist, who has broadcast regularly from 3YA during the past two years. He will next be heard on September 20.

—Stephano Webb, photo.

in a basin. Breathe naturally and sift into a bowl. Attention. Lie flat on the floor and roll the white of an egg until it comes to a boil. In ten minutes remove from the fire and rub smartly with a rough towel. Breathe naturally, dress in warm flannels, serve with fish.

An N.Z. Radio Pioneer

MR. H. L. CUMMINGS, A.M.I.E.E., superintending engineer, General Post Office, who retired from the service of the Post and Telegraph Department recently, was closely associated with the early development of radio in New Zealand. When the Fijian Government erected the radio station at Suva in 1912 Mr. Cummings took control, and in co-operation with other officers of the department drafted a report on the question of establishing radio connections between the outlying groups of Islands in the Pacific. Much of Mr. Cummings's work in the department was directed toward the organisation and standardisation of engineering methods, and it was under his supervision that the Wellington system of underground telephone cables and automatic telephones was established.

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