

This, That and the Other

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called some one, who answered promptly. They exchanged a few sentences and my caller left, insisting that I let them know at once, if I had any further trouble.

I walked a block that same morning to call; for the phone was dead again in thirty minutes after the fixer left. He came back as immaculate as before, and was sadder than the first time over the way I was having to suffer. Again he found what was wrong. Again he left urging me to ask for service if any should be needed. I did, in a few hours.

Coming back from down town, I found a big truck in the side yard and men busy about the place, climbing ladders, tapping on walls, looking up at wires. Pretty soon they were through and one man came into the house to make sure the phone was all right. From the kitchen I heard him.

"Smitty," he called briskly. Then again, "Smitty," a bit doubtfully. Next he intoned pleadingly, "Smi-i-t-t-y." Then he came into the kitchen and asked me, "You say folks could get you on your phone, but you couldn't get anybody?"

I said that was right, and may have used a few gestures showing how it would seemingly be in good order, then all of a sudden would go dead.

"That's just what it's done now," he said gloomily, taking his departure.

But they hadn't quit. Back they came the next day with determination plain on their faces, with coils of wire, ladders and all

again. They were going to repair that phone, if it had to be done with a new one.

It was not long before my interrogator of the day before was back in the kitchen telling me I could talk to whom I pleased. "It's all yours," he said with a flourish as he left.

Anyway, it is working—yet. But not as hard as the Bell men did.

An amusing sidelight on primary school work was when a mother who thinks it necessary to help her child with lessons said she is not proud of the good reports brought home. "In fact," she added, "hard as I work over those lessons, it does seem I might do better than the grades show."

When this column first came into existence the first editor to take notice of it to the extent of

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Chapter No. 3 SUPERMAN

THURSDAY and FRIDAY, JANUARY 20-21—
Fred Astaire Judy Garland

Easter Parade

printing a comment was J. A. Mac-Millan, editor of *Charity and Children*. His words of commendation were precious to me, and as years passed he did not fail to offer encouragement. Only a short time before his death last week he wrote my husband a letter which contains words of praise and cheer for the family.

To me it is remarkable that a man so busy and so far from well should have taken time and thought for others to such an extent.

From now on I mean to try to be more like him in that way; for I know what he meant to me, and shall try to take up at least a part of the work he has laid down.

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