

A MESSAGE TO SANTA CLAUS

Continued from page 42

think the chimney's too dirty, I could get Joe to leave the window open or to hang his stockings out on the porch."

"I'm not frightened of any chimney," Santa told him; "but, you see, I don't know anything about this Joe Bailey."

"I suppose you don't," Roy said sadly, "or you'd have called there long ago. You see," he explained, "Joe's always been a cripple. He's twelve, but you wouldn't think so, for he can't walk. He's healthy enough now, and his body and his arms are all right; but there's

the chimneys haven't been swept."

"Then why is it?" asked Roy in surprise.

"It's mostly because so many people have hard hearts." Santa said sadly.

"But I thought you could go anywhere you liked," Roy protested.

"I can't," Santa put in quickly, "or I'd have called at Joe Bailey's place long ago. I've got to get a message from someone with a kind heart before I can go."

This all sounded very strange to Roy, for he had always thought that Santa had the whole thing in



"Kevin," second son of Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Walsh, Hawera
Brandon Houghton, photo

something wrong with his legs. So he has to spend all his time in a chair on wheels. If he had one of those mechanical outfits he'd be able to amuse himself fine, making things when he gets tired of learning his lessons and reading.

Then Santa stopped sorting over the messages and looked for a few minutes straight at Roy with sad, troubled eyes, as if he didn't like to hear about crippled boys who hung up their stockings but didn't get anything in them.

"It's not my fault that I'm not able to go to every crippled boy's place," Santa said, turning away and looking out across the top of the wood to hide something in his eyes. "And it isn't because they've got poor widows for mothers or because

his own hands and that, when there were empty stockings, it was Santa's fault. He was surprised to learn that quite a lot of people have a hand in the merry work that is done on Christmas Eve.

"How do you get the messages?" he asked.

"Sort of wireless," said Santa, as he dropped one on top of a pile of others. "Only people with kind hearts can send them," he added. "and I go where they say I'm to go and deliver the things they tell me to. I'm more anxious to go down widow's chimneys, even if they haven't been swept for months and months, and to put things in crippled boys' stockings than I am to go any-

Continued on page 46

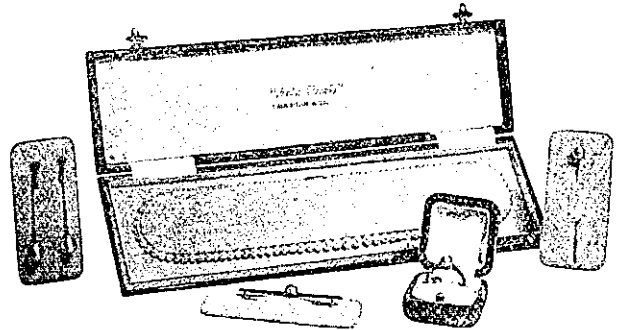


NETA PEARLS

Perfect replicas of the Real—
sent to you with a Guarantee

In their perfection of sheen, colouring and natural form, Neta Pearls possess a charm that no woman of taste can resist.

Let us prove to you that Parisienne Artistry has, by scientific means, captured their perfect fidelity to Nature. Send for any of the "Neta" Pearls portrayed below. Keep them a week, then, if they fail to satisfy you in any respect whatsoever, send them back and we will refund your money in full.



Strings of Pearls obtainable in		
Grade	Length	Price
1st	18in.	£1 15 0
2nd	18in.	1 7 6
1st	20in.	1 17 6
2nd	20in.	1 10 0

Other lengths at corresponding prices

Ring (9ct.), 17/6; Earrings (9ct.), 20/-; Brooch (9ct.), 20/-; Tie Pin (9ct.), 10/-.

(Also made in 18ct. and 15ct. gold—prices on request)

Catalogue of other interesting items
FREE ON REQUEST

LAUCHLAN & COMPANY

HEAD OFFICE—

16a VICTORIA ST., WELLINGTON

And at Palmerston North, Wanganui & London