



# THINGS TO COME—



## CARDS ON THE TABLE

### Facts You May Not Know

**L**LEWELLYN ETHERINGTON, of Auckland, will without doubt astonish nearly everyone who listens to the talk written by him and broadcast from 2YA, Wellington, on August 25.

Out of an ordinary pack of playing cards he has extracted enough information to make the transmitter masts sway dizzily when it is broadcast.

Here are some of his facts, but by no means all of them:

The number of different deals which can be made from a pack of cards is 635,000,000,000. These hands can be dealt only in 39 patterns, which recur with varying frequency. One pattern, of 13 cards in one suit, should occur, on the law of averages, once in 158,753,389,900 deals.

Mr. Etherington also has some reassuring information for unlucky players, and a knock for superstition generally.

The talk will show card players how little they really know about cards. What, for instance, does the king of spades hold in his hand, and in which hand does he hold it? Which of the knaves are moustached, which of the kings has royal ermine on his clothes, and which of the queens holds a flower in her hand?

Chance, he says, cannot be controlled, but it can be circumvented. Mathematics cannot govern it, but they can define many of its probabilities and set them out to guide perplexed Bridge players, for instance.

Incidentally, Bridge players will be especially interested in Mr. Etherington, for from their game he has selected a good number of his examples.

He believes that Bridge is partly a game of skill, partly a game of chance, and partly a game of probabilities. It is the ability of the player to combine his fortune with his knowledge or perception of probabilities which makes him better or worse than his opponent. He uses hundreds of systems and so-called rules to help him out with his mental calculations. Mr. Etherington shows why it is possible for him to do this and how mathematicians can make a science out of system and superstition.

In 163 years, Niagara Falls poured 34,054,938,000,000 tons of water into Lake Ontario. Anyone could work that out, but not many would take the trouble to work out or collect all the information Mr. Etherington taps for his talk.

But we must leave the broadcast to tell you the rest: about the rule of chance which results from the lack of rules; about the impartiality of nature; about Bridge; and tossing coins; and half-a-dozen other things which will carry listeners on astronomical figures close to the borderland between fact and fancy.

**I**T is not easy to trace the history of nursery rhymes. If, long ago, they were printed at all they were seldom printed on anything substantial enough to survive the curious hands of those for whom they were intended. But Llewellyn Etherington has dug fairly deep and, for example, produces Old King Cole from a book published in 1632, and Three Blind Mice from a source 330 years old. He will talk about his discoveries from 1YA on Friday, August 25, at 8 p.m.

### Lucky for Both

It was a lucky chance that prompted a Christchurch lad to call at 3ZB studio for an audition one very wet Saturday. The programme department was in need of some special items to keep listeners' minds off the weather and the disappointment of missing their usual sporting interests. In Jack Brown they had just what was required—snappy cowboy songs. Since that Saturday Jack and his guitar have been a feature on the weekend programmes.

### He Hovered in the Air

The great Nijinsky, with his extraordinary power, was in his element in the ballet "Spectre de la Rose." So wonderful was his leap at entrance and exit, that it was thought he had used specially prepared shoes, or a



mechanical contrivance. When he leaped vertically, he seemed to hover in the air in a perceptible bird-like pause, before returning again to earth. Memories of the ballet "Spectre of the Rose" will be presented from 2YC, Wellington, on Tuesday, August 22, at 9.23 p.m.

### Ogboddy's Nose

It's that man Ogboddy again. He has difficulty with his memory, and proves the danger of using tricks to keep it working. To remember the name of poor old Snell he sniffs, hoping to think from "smell" to "Snell"; but starts instead to talk of "Wrench" and "Spink," much to Mrs. Ogboddy's disgust. Listen to 1YA at 9.45 p.m. on August 23 for the BBC feature, "Poor Old Snell."

### From Screen to the Air

Not many listeners are so pre-occupied with their sets that they cannot find time to take an interest in films, so it is an event of double importance when one type of entertainment can be compared with the other. From Station 3YA, for instance, a broadcast at 9.5 p.m. on August 20, of "The Case of the Frightened Lady," the Edgar Wallace thriller, will remind many that the film of that name first put Emyln Williams (author of "Night Must Fall") in the public's eye for horror men. The coming broadcast is an NBS production.

### What Do You Know?

"Musical Knowledge," 4ZB'S new session, is becoming one of the most popular sessions broadcast from that station. Records are played and listeners are asked questions, such as: "Who is the artist?" "What instruments are being played?" "What is the title of the number?" Lionel Sceats, who conducts the session, was inundated with 600 replies to the first competition.

### Pearls and Pearlers

Science has come to the aid of the pearl fisherman as it has come to the aid of every other industry, but there is still a good deal of diving that is as primitive as it was in the old days around the north coast of Australia, where large fleets of pearl luggers still work. O. E. White visited these parts a few years ago, and in a series of three talks from 2YA, beginning at 8.44 p.m. on August 21, he will describe pearlers' methods.

### Wellington's Whale

A whale does not come ashore every day, so when "Mac" of 2ZB heard about the unfortunate humpback which was discovered stranded between two rocks in Lyall Bay Beach, he sallied forth with a microphone, and 2ZB's listeners were surprised to hear a lively commentary on the event. The result