

A Run Through The Programmes



of the broadcast was seen in the afternoon when thousands of cars lined the streets to Lyall Bay, full of curious folk wanting to see a dead whale. But there were "Things to Come" which created a different kind of interest a few days later.

Soprano and Guitarist

If a person can speak two or three languages, that is good; if he can speak four, that is very good; and five is excellent. But Olga Coelho, Brazilian soprano and guitarist, speaks six languages — English, French, Spanish, German, Italian, and Russian. This visiting artist will give her first broadcast from 1YA, Auckland, on Friday, August 25, and she will be interviewed from that station at 6 p.m. on Thursday, August 24.

Calisthenics in the Cold

With ice upon his beard and breath tinkling musically as it falls to the studio floor, a gallant officer from the Physical Welfare Branch has maintained his lonely vigil every morning of the last cold months. Hot, warm, or freezing, the early morning broadcasts of physical exercises continue unabated. The fourth series will be heard from the YA stations at 7 a.m. each day from August 20 to September 2.

Fantastic Japan

The Japanese love precise beauty, yet in the last two years they have done things to the Chinese which have shocked even those who witnessed the Boxer rebellion atrocities. The Japanese love ceremony and good manners, yet Edgar Mowrer says that the Japanese nation is bellicosity personified. This country of fantasy and contradiction is to be featured in the "Man Through the Ages" series from 4YA at 8.37 p.m. on August 24.

Local Talent

When the Wellington Melbas, Macfarlanes, and Moncrieffs have been culled on August 26, listeners will be able to look forward to 2YA's broadcast of the national finals of the Melba Bequest Scholarship from the Wellington Competitions on September 2. Meanwhile, entrants (usually 40 or 50) will have been given a preliminary hearing in the 2YA studios for the radio voice competition.

They Were Not Amused

When Verdi wished to use Victor Hugo's play, "Le Roi s'Amuse," for the basis of an

opera, the police flatly forbade it. After all, they could not allow a king to be presented as a rather dubious character. Verdi, however, saw possibilities in the plot, and refused to use another. Finally, the king was changed to a duke, the high intrigue to low intrigue, and then everything went smoothly. "Rigoletto" is the name of the opera, which was written in the amazingly short time of forty days, and was a complete success. It will be heard from 4YA, Dunedin, on Sunday, August 20.

Music-Hall Masterpiece

From all the old-time theatre and music-hall items which have lately been broadcast we have discovered no idea so attractive as



the idea of having a hook suspended from a rope or attached to a pole back-stage, so that artists who failed to amuse might be neatly jerked out of sight—and harm's way. There was life in the theatre in those days. Hear some of it in "Hail Variety," the BBC recorded feature to be played from 2YA on August 21, at 9.5 p.m.

On Catching Fish

It is a curious fact that much more is heard of fishing introduced into New Zealand than of native fishing, if we except the big game fishing in the North. A man will talk all evening about catching trout, and newspapers give a lot of space to this form of amusement (or mental aberration) but we don't get much about catching the New Zealand fish of the eatable variety, nor does the average New Zealander know very much about their habits. G. S. Thomson, of Dunedin, is going to supply some of this information in a series of talks from 4YA, beginning on Wednesday, August 23, at 8.40 p.m.



AUTHOR MISSING *Story of Frederick Rosse*

THOUSANDS of people must have heard Frederick Rosse's music to "The Merchant of Venice," and many more must have heard of the musician himself, but how many know how his best known composition came into being?

One day Arthur Bouchier decided to produce a play, and commissioned Frederick Rosse to write the necessary incidental music. The composer, not unnaturally, expressed a desire to meet the author, but Bouchier kept putting him off with "Not yet; there's no hurry." After some time had passed he wrote to Rosse asking him to come to the theatre to meet the others concerned in the production. At last, it seemed, Rosse was to meet the author; possibly, he thought, it would be Pinero, or Sutro, Henry Arthur Jones, or some other great playwright of the day. On arrival at the theatre he was ushered into Bouchier's sanctum. With the great man were his wife, Violet Vanbrugh, the stage manager, and the producer—but still no sign of the author. When Rosse again said he would like to meet the author Bouchier replied that he had much better compose the music first, as it would not much matter when or where he met him. Thereupon Bouchier solemnly handed over a copy of Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice!"

An interesting sequel attaches to the story. For a long time Rosse had wanted to write the music for one of Beerbohm Tree's productions, and one day Tree's manager, Henry Dana, informed the composer that at last his chance had arrived. Tree wanted him to compose the music for a new production. The welcome tidings were, however, spoilt when Rosse learnt that Tree had decided suddenly to produce "The Merchant" also, and within a few months of Bouchier's presentation. So the golden opportunity was lost.

Frederick Rosse and his young wife, Mary Lind, were living in Vienna one eventful day when Hitler's Nazis walked into Austria. Miss Lind had been studying to sing in opera, had already made a successful appearance as Elsa in "Lohengrin," and was rehearsing for "Aida." The Anschluss broke up all that, as it did so much else. Rosse has written that the "situation for a British artist was made impossible." His wife was under contract to the Second Opera House (Volks Oper), but the management was Jewish, and the contract immediately became void.

A special programme about Frederick Rosse and his works will be heard on Sunday, August 27, at 3 p.m., from 2YA, Wellington.