

# A Run Through The Programmes



destructive criticism can wreak. Brian Armistage, the leading character, has written a play which he knows is good. Yet, through an utterly damning notice, the show fails and the author finds himself penniless and without hope. What happens later, listeners to 4YA Dunedin, at 9.25 p.m. on Sunday, November 12, will discover. As for any stray critic who accidentally hears it—it may serve to dilute his vitriol, anyway.

## Wig as Talisman

Our grand-uncle wears a piece of greenstone on his lengthy watch-chain, and an aunt, twice-removed, has a horse's tooth she found in the wood-pile at the age of three, which she alleges brings her luck. A good many people, in fact, have some lucky charm or talisman. For example, the talisman of Billy Merson, the comedian, is an auburn wig "with a bald patch at the back of the head and two coy curls across the top of the high forehead." This he procured when he was a struggling acrobat; it, and his personality, have since brought him fame. Billy Merson will present popular songs at 9.51 p.m. on Monday, November 13, from 4YA Dunedin.

## Tasman Missed

Among the explorers who missed opportunities was Abel Tasman, who, so far as we know, was the first European to visit this country. He saw little of New Zealand, and what he saw he did not like, so he sailed away without landing on our shores, and left it to Cook to complete the charting of New Zealand's outline. Possibly the committee system of directing the expedition had something to do with this. Moreover, European ideas of what was wealth in those days were very restricted. It would have seemed a wild fantasy that this country would one day become the dairy farm of an Empire. Martin Nestor is to speak on Tasman at 2YA at 7.30 p.m. on Monday, November 13.

## A First Performance

England has not produced very many great composers compared with other countries, and when Sir Edward Elgar died two or three years ago the loss to English music was incalculable; he was one of her greatest sons. At the Wellington Symphony Orchestra concert, to be broadcast through 2YC Wellington at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 14, one of his works, "Introduction and Allegro for Strings," will be presented for the first

time in this country. The other items on the programme are by English and French composers; Elgar's ever-popular "Pomp And Circumstance No. 1" is among them. The orchestra is under the baton of Leon de Mauny.

## A Strange Tale

The ordinary and the bizarre meet in "The Kidnapped 'General'", the play adapted from a Stacy Aumonier story. We cannot tell you too much, because that would give the story away. But we can tell you



that the "General" is a General Motor Bus. The "General" takes a strange journey into the country one day, driven by a grinning ex-serviceman and packed with fearful financiers. Its end is in a bosky dell. But did the whole thing ever happen, or was it a snare and illusion? Your guess is as good as ours was, before we heard what you will hear if you tune in to 1YA Auckland, at 8.0 p.m. on Monday, November 13.

## Truth on the March

No trial in history has done more to make history than the famous, or infamous, "Dreyfus Case"—chiefly because there was a famous novelist to put it on record. It was Zola who dared to write his famous "J'Accuse," and although for this indictment of corruption in high places he was himself persecuted, "truth was on the march," and at length prevailed. Those listeners who may not know the full story of the "Dreyfus Case" should tune in to 2YA Wellington at 9.50 p.m. on Wednesday, November 15, when it will be told. And from 3ZR Greymouth, on Tuesday at 7.30, and from 4YZ Invercargill, on Sunday at 8.30, will be heard the beginning of the serial, "The Story of Emile Zola."



## SHORTWAVES

AT a tribunal for conscientious objectors in England, a Birmingham vicar appeared on behalf of an applicant who was a member of the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship; the vicar testified to the sincerity of the young man, and freely admitted that in his pacifist convictions the applicant was a consistent follower of Christ; but—added the vicar hastily—"This is in spite of all I have tried to teach him!"—*Public Opinion*.

TAKEN as a whole the universe is absurd.—*Walter Bagehot*.

MANKIND in general, not knowing what to do with this life, desire another which shall never end.—*Anatole France*.

WE believe, though perhaps we may be wrong, that most of you go to the film either to get away from the ordinary common everyday things of life, or to see a certain star, or because it's good family entertainment, or because it's nice and warm and comfortable and you can hold hands without anyone paying too much attention, or, in a small but growing number of cases, because you want to see a particular film on account of the way it has been produced, its technique and so forth.—*Oliver Bell, in an article on the movies in "The Listener"*.

EVERYTHING that happens is intrinsically like the man it happens to.—*Aldous Huxley*.

NGUS was showing Donald a second-hand car he had bought.

"Man, it'll be costing ye a bit in petrol," said Donald.

"Not so much," said Angus. "It's downhill to town, and I can get a tow home most days."—*Evening Standard*.

THE position of a speaker who tries to appeal to both youth and age at once is probably best described by that superb passage in a schoolboy's essay on Dante, which referred to the great Italian poet and his place in history by saying that "he stood with one foot in the Middle Ages while with the other he saluted the rising son of the Renaissance."—*The Hon. Vincent Massey*.

THE mystery of the beginning of all things is insoluble by us; and I for one must be content to remain an Agnostic.—*Charles Darwin*.