

# A Run Through The Programmes



affairs. But apart from its significance as a presentation of a great problem—the never-ending conflict between allegiances—"Murder In The Cathedral" is a moving work by one of England's greatest living poets, and listeners should find the performance arranged by Professor W. A. Sewell and A. J. C. Fisher, from 1YA, Auckland, at 9.25 p.m. on Sunday, December 17, eminently worth hearing.

## Two Children And Gingerbread

Many great writers turned to the nursery for inspiration. Lewis Carrol wrote his "Alice in Wonderland" for a little girl, Thackeray's "The Rose and the Ring" was originally written for children; and Humperdinck was so charmed by the delightful little fairy tale of Hansel and Gretel, who were driven into the woods, where they found the gingerbread house of the Crust Witch, that he wrote his opera on the theme. Humperdinck assisted Wagner when the composer was copying "Parsifal," and wrote in the same style. Listeners may detect this relation between the man who wrote his operas on the mighty myths of antiquity and the man who wrote on simple, nursery-tale themes when "Hansel and Gretel" is presented from 4YA Dunedin, at 9.25 p.m. on Sunday, December 17.

## Open Sesame

You have gathered from the heading to this paragraph that we are talking about "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves." No two words from a story were ever better known. And of course, you remember the story (from the Arabian saga of the Thousand and One Nights) in which Ali Baba watches the thievish band enter a cave through a massive rock by saying the magic two words. He himself goes in later, there to find priceless treasures—rubies, sapphires, pearls, diamonds and gold uncounted; and then . . . but of course you know the story as well as we do. Still, we're sure that won't stop you tuning in to the pantomime version, presented by overseas artists and old pantomime favourites, from 1YA Auckland at 8 p.m. on Saturday, December 23.

## Look and See

For Mrs. B. J. Marples, who talks from 4YA at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 19, the sunny seaside is more than a place at which the gentle summer waves break upon the dimpled summer sand. There are rocks, and green, clear pools, with little fish, and shells, and queer sea insects scurrying among

them. Her theory about enjoying a holiday means seeing things a little more clearly than other people, and her talk is intended to help listeners to this magic vision, in which knowledge illuminates all small things and enlarges all small interests.

## Locusts

At one stage in his varied career, W. Graeme-Holder was on the ship *Star of Japan* off Cape Verde (it was in 1906) when a great cloud of locusts descended to drown. "In a swarm," he says, "they sound like the roar of the sea in the distance, and the sound becomes like the roar of a waterfall as they descend." About this experience he has built up a play, "Locusts" which is to be broadcast from 1YA on Monday, December 18, at 8 p.m. In the Bible, the terrible story of locust plagues was told, and still the pests come to ravage the work of helpless man. Listeners who have seen the film "The Good Earth," with its wonderful photography of an actual swarm coming in its millions through a gap in a mountain range, will only need a reminder that Mr. Holder handles dramatic subjects with dramatic force and is at his best with this particular plot.



## Glamour, B.C.

Glamour, so we are told, has now been reduced to a formula. You use so and so's face cream, this powder, that rouge, such and such a coiffure, and leave the rest to your dress-maker and the imagination. But reputations were harder come by in olden times. They had to go in for glamour in a big way to hit the ancient headlines. So listeners can be sure that the "Glamour Girls of the Ancient World" selected by Elsie K. Morton for her talk from 2YA at 10.45 a.m. on Tuesday, December 19, really earned their selection and will be worth a twist of the dial to 526 metres.



## SHORTWAVES

IT is my invincible belief that science and peace will triumph over ignorance and war; that the nations will come to an understanding, not for destruction but for construction, and that the future will be to those who have done the most for suffering humanity.—*Louis Pasteur.*

LOVE, friendship, respect, do not unite people as much as a common hatred for something.—*Anton Tchekhov.*

HATRED is the coward's revenge for being intimidated.—*Bernard Shaw.*

VIRTUE has always been conceived of as victorious resistance to one's vital desire to do this, that, or the other.—*James Branch Cabell.*

AN Irishman in the House of Commons made a statement which called from an English opponent the cry "Treason!" The Irishman replied: I would have the honourable gentleman know that what is treason in England becomes reason in Ireland—because of the absentee.—*Described in "Public Opinion" as the perfect pun.*

THAT all men are equal is a proposition to which, at ordinary times, no sane individual has ever given his assent.—*Aldous Huxley.*

THE true critic must swim with the author, not stand on the bank and object to the river. The critic must play the game, whatever game the author chooses. His province is, first to see what was the intention of the author, and afterwards to say whether the author's genius or instinct, or perhaps his intelligence, has chosen the right convention and the right method for his purpose.—*Frank Kendon.*

METHINKS I see in my mind a noble and puissant nation rousing herself like a strong man after sleep, and shaking her invincible locks. Methinks I see her as an eagle mewing her mighty youth, and kindling her undazzled eyes at the full midday beam.—*Milton.*

PHOTOGRAPHY can be turned to account as a cure for seasickness. Take your camera with you. When things get dangerous, keep your eye on the view-finder. It works.—*F. J. Mortimer, in a radio talk "I Photograph the Sea."*