



# NEWS FROM THE ZB STATIONS

**1** ZB's Sunday Request Session for farmers' wives brought in hundreds of letters for the broadcast a week or so back. Interesting point about this was that they were all anti-Bing Crosby and pro-Tauber. Their favourite record was "The Prairie is a Lonesome Place at Night!"

## Voluntary Service

During a recent 2ZB Hospital Session, a studio presentation was given by Harmi Bennett's Hawaiian Band. This is a combination of players consisting of Harmi Bennett, who plays the electric guitar (and plays it very well indeed), two Spanish guitars and a ukelele. They have a charming vocalist, and they play with rare ability the lilting Hawaiian music which seems always to be very much in favour. But the most interesting point about this particular broadcast was the fact that it was arranged by one whose work among the sick people of Ewart Hospital is a by-word. For that institution George Burton has done a great deal of excellent service. It occurred to him that the patients might enjoy a programme which had been specially arranged for them, to be presented in the 2ZB Hospital Session. Accordingly, he approached the Station Director, and Harmi Bennett's Band was given an audition. It was so good that their offer to broadcast a short programme for the benefit of the Ewart Hospital was accepted at once. It should be noted that the services of all the artists who broadcast in the 2ZB Hospital Sessions are invariably voluntary.

## The Pipes Got Hot!

Listeners to 3ZB have a date with their radios at 9 o'clock every Saturday night, when the broadcast from the Christchurch Welcome Club dance is timed to begin. A general air of good fellowship prevails. This, in addition to a good dance band, and an endless variety of novelty items from the Burnham Camp lads, is in itself sufficient to ensure most enjoyable broadcasts. In inviting items from these lads, 3ZB has unearthed some really excellent talent, and members of the Forces are assured of bright entertainment wherever they may be stationed in the future.

The highlight of a recent Saturday's broadcast from the Welcome Club was a novelty turn put on by a piper, late of the Highland Light Infantry Regiment, who surprised and delighted both

the radio audience and the large gathering in the Old Art Gallery Hall, where the weekly function is held. For this occasion, he had little consideration for the shades of his ancestors, bewildering them with such untraditional music as "The Donkey's Serenade," "Song of the Islands," and "Daisy Bell."

Although to the true Scot the bagpipes are sacred to the interpretation of reels, strathspeys and other forms of national music, the items by this talented piper were none the less appreciated. It is said that the bagpipes are the only instrument not included in the modern orchestra; after listening to this artist's rendering of "popular" music one might ask—why?

(See photograph on page 49)

## Polar Adventure

Comprising stirring stories of the men who sailed north and discovered the secrets of the Pole, the new radio feature "Heroes of the Frozen Wild," is broadcast from 1ZB on Mondays and Fridays at 6.45 p.m. Each broadcast is a complete episode in the colourful careers of men whose names became history in their own lifetime. Nansen, Frobisher, Amundsen, Perry, Sir Hubert Wilkins, Hudson, and Others the Viking, are but a few of the explorers dealt with in this exciting radio serial.

## Original Compositions

On Sunday afternoons at 3 o'clock for the past two or three weeks, 2ZB has been broadcasting a quarter hour's programme of original verse and music by New Zealand authors and composers. The idea behind this programme is one which was prompted by the celebration of New Zealand's Centennial. It was decided to ask New Zealand authors and composers to submit to the station any of their original work. The response to the appeal has been most gratifying. The presentation is in the capable hands of L. E. Strachan, one of the earliest and best-known radio people in New Zealand. Mr. Strachan has the difficult task of collating most of the material and arranging it for programme purposes, and his very wide experience in matters musical and literary are employed to good effect in this work.

Already many fine songs and much excellent verse have been broadcast in the Sunday afternoon programme, and as the programme becomes more widely

known, interest should be stimulated to an even greater extent.

## Christmas Concert

Christmas time and the family reunion are inseparable in the sentiment of the season, as expressed in story, song and poetry. 3ZB is making this the theme of the concert being staged at the St. James's Theatre on Christmas Eve in aid of the St. John Ambulance funds.



**BILL MEREDITH, 1ZB's popular sports commentator**

3ZB concerts have set a high standard in the past, and every effort is being made to eclipse past successes. Something more than ordinary concert presentation is being aimed at on this occasion. The combination of music, humour and clever characterisation in one complete production should certainly set a new standard.

## Wet Sunday

Weather conditions in Dunedin of late have been very good during the week, but on one or two Sundays it has been wet. Such a Sunday afternoon was November 26, when the station, realising that most people were confined to their homes, ran a special programme from 3.30 till 4 p.m. Members of the Great North China Troupe entertained with Reg. Morgan at the piano. Later

Lionel Seats conducted a musical competition entitled "Do You Know Your Stars?" The fact that the afternoon's programme was appreciated is indicated by the fact that over 600 entries were received for the competition.

## "The Great Goldwyn"

After the surfeit of magazine stories about the stars of Filmdom, the new feature, "The Great Goldwyn," broadcast from 1ZB on Wednesdays at 7.45 p.m., puts the spotlight on Hollywood from a new angle. It tells the story of the man who has made as many stars and produced as many notable films as any other mogul of moviedom — Samuel Goldwyn. Goldwyn has lived alongside the movie industry since 1913, watching it develop from primitive beginnings to a point where millions are spent on a single story. Interspersed with musical excerpts from the film successes associated with Goldwyn's name over twenty-five years, "The Great Goldwyn" is a combination of racy biography, Goldwynian wit and Hollywood history.

## Studio Stars "At Home"

On a recent Sunday, some of the members of the Concert Party recently formed by the staff of 2ZB put on half-an-hour's entertainment. The broadcast was in the nature of an "At Home," and listeners were invited to join the company during the time of the broadcast. Among the staff members who performed were Bryan O'Brien, who sings far too little according to most listeners. His song was that fascinating Irish number, "In the Garden Where the Praties Grow." Leslie Hall and Ella Thompson gave a tip-top performance in a duet, "Two Sleepy People," and Eric Bell provided two numbers, Schumann's "Devotion," and a light popular number, "Heart and Soul." Stan Asquith, the advertising manager, gave an excellent series of imitations of farm animals, which were brought into his presentation as characters in a story. The versatile Bill Hoffmeister showed how an electric guitar should be played — "Drifting and Dreaming" was his number. The lovely little tale set to music entitled "Nursery Rhymes" was sung as a solo by Leslie Hall, and Ella Thompson also sang "The Piper from Over the Way." Listeners were not slow to show their appreciation, and the telephonist was kept busy for some time afterward acknowledging the thanks of listeners.

THIS IS THE COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING SERVICE