

# A Run Through The Programmes



The story of this Gilbertian variety, to be broadcast by 1YA on Friday, December 29, at 8 p.m., comes from the book by Fred Thompson. For the BBC production Clifford Thomson wrote the lyrics with music by Howard Talbot and Ivor Novello.

## Nativity Play

With centuries of tradition behind her to make novelty seem impossible and innovation tactless, Dorothy Sayers has somehow contrived to avoid the many possible errors and achieve everything she set out to achieve when she turned to the job of writing a nativity play. The story of her decidedly novel departure from clever detective fiction to sacred drama was told in our last issue, but we must remind listeners that they should not miss "He That Should Come," from 2YA at 9.30 p.m. on Sunday, December 24. The time, by the way, has been altered by five minutes.

## Topsy-Turvy

Opera is jazzed and The Lambeth Walk is treated as a classic by the Fol-de-Rols, a BBC concert party, who will broadcast (from a BBC recording) from 3YA at 8 p.m. on Friday, December 29. This bright variety show will also be heard in Southland from 4YZ at 9.30 p.m. on Monday, December 25.

## Sisters

Beatrice Harrison, who charmed night-ingles to sing with her 'cello, and Carlotta Patti, who sang, some say, as well as the more famous Adelina, are among the people who supplied "Brains in the Family" for the new feature to start from 2YA at 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 24. The first of the series will interest itself in famous sisters; the second, in brothers. Besides the Pattis, both coloratura sopranos, and the Harrisons ('cello, violin, and piano) there will be the Terrys, Ellen and Kate. The compère of the item knows a man who'd heard both Pattis and vouched for Carlotta's ability; but he leaves comparison of the abilities of Kate and Ellen Terry in the controversial air. Carlotta Patti was a cripple, so could not act in opera.

## Blind Pionist

Some years ago, a blind student passed out through the portals of London's Trinity College, sacred home of musical knowledge. He was Alec Templeton. Perhaps he had no great love for old masters of music, or perhaps he thought classical music would not pay. Anyway, he started in a different line. Now he is famous for his Concert Hall, radio, and

stage presentations of musical impressions, satirical sketches, improvisations on popular tunes. This nothing-if-not-versatile young man, who started his career with a terrible handicap but triumphed over it, will present 15 minutes of entertainment at 9.25 p.m. on Christmas Day from 2YA, Wellington.

## Old Barney

Some people, like Somerset Maugham, for instance, are inclined to think that philanthropy is the final stage of vice, being taken up when all else has become stale and flat;



but those who hear W. Graeme-Holder's play, "Unimportant People," will find it hard to agree. The author tells the story of Old Barney, a toy-vender, who has such compassion that by a generous action he saves a child's life; and of Toby, the old man's dog. This simple, yet pleasing little play will be presented at 2 p.m. on Monday, December 25, from 2YA, Wellington.

## Old London

London is not, as any true-blue Englishman will tell you, what it was. Once Saint Martin-in-the-Fields really was in the fields. Once there were banks of wild primroses on the Thames's shore where now grubby old tramp steamers wallow together amid the grime of factory smoke. The London of the Regency days, Dickens's London, even the London of the years before 1914, is fast vanishing beneath chromium-plated offices. But the old city is preserved in song, and Vera Martin will present songs which may evoke vivid memories, from 2YA, Wellington, at 9.25 p.m. on Thursday, December 28.



## SHORTWAVES

THE Berlin dailies report that, because of the war, Hitler hasn't time to eat anything . . . . Licking Stalin's boots apparently is sufficient food.—Walter Winchell, in the "New York Daily Mirror."

A LEADER of Mr. Churchill's calibre is worth more than an army corps.—New York Herald Tribune.

WHEN my Fuehrer shook hands with me it was the finest moment in my life, but more happiness followed when he invited all of us to lunch.—Member of the German submarine crew which sank the "Royal Oak."

IN my garden at Lambeth Palace is a barrage balloon which the men are good enough to call the Archblimp.—The Archbishop of Canterbury.

THERE is nothing so bad or so good that you will not find an Englishman doing it; but you will never find an Englishman in the wrong. He does everything on principle. He fights you on patriotic principles; he robs you on business principles; he enslaves you on imperial principles.—Bernard Shaw in "The Man of Destiny."

STALIN speaks in short, clear sentences which strike the ear of the listener in quick succession. Everything that Stalin says — whether he speaks from notes or spontaneously — is precise and dictated by an objective judgment. — Frankfurter Zeitung.

HITLER'S diet contains too many eggs and too much fat. His chef has to cook eggs in thirty different ways, and he is very fond of vegetables done with fat. Too much of eggs and fat tend to upset the liver. A man with a torpid liver is usually bad-tempered, unreasonable, and hard to live with.—Mrs. Eileen Murphy.

IT was perfectly dreadful that these horrible London children should go into clean country homes. I examined some thousands of them, and their state was simply appalling.—Dr. G. Lawrence, on the evacuation.

HITLER threatens an intensified submarine campaign. He would sink anything to win the war, including his differences with Stalin.—The New Yorker.