MORE MUSIC

FOUR PRELUDES, by Douglas Lilburn, 6/1 posted. The publication of these pianoforte pieces is a musical event in New Zealand. Through broadcast performances musicians have already learned to appreciate Lilburn's creative powers. They will be pleased*to acquire a closer knowledge of his work through his Preludes.

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SCHUBERT, by Arthur Hutchings, 11/3 posted. A new volume based on the latest research on Schubert's life and work. As a biographer the author is perceptive and sympathetic; as a critic he shows remarkable insight and knowledge.

DVORAK, by Alec Robertson, 11/3 posted. This book presents the most exhaustive study of the whole catalogue of Dvorak's music as yet written in English, for it includes some discussion of every work of importance.

THE PASSIONS OF BACH, by Charles Sanford Terry, 7/1 posted. The famous Passions according to St. Matthew and according to St. John are discussed in detail in relation to their libretti, of which new translations are given. Terry also comments on the Jesser known Passions composed by Bach and on others attributed to him.

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EROSION IN NEW ZEALAND

(continued from previous page)

The future health of the nation—and of the world—is tied closely to the future health of the land. As a nature we require to renew our acquaintance with and regard for, the soil, and reaffirm our faith in its continued and enhanced productivity. We need to pledge our selves to its care and proper treatment. Every citizen is concerned in this; no New Zealander can escape its implications. Productive soil is the life of the Dominion, though we often overlook the fact. With each passing year—as the accompanying photographs alone adequately demonstrate—this soil is vanishing. Not only the farmer but also the banker, the trade unionist, the miner, the slaughter-man, the teacher, the mechanic, and the retailer: all have a personal stake in the urgency and the thoroughness which we accord to the formulation of plans for conserving and developing

land, and a personal stake likewise in the speed with which this and other nations move to these tasks.

To defend the Dominion's soil resources and cure their ills is not merely to ensure permanent farm and station production. A comprehensive programme of wise land use implies also a resuscitation of rural life. It will make of farming a way of life rather than a means of making a living. It will tend to check the already noticeable and excessive urbanisation of population. It means more intensive use of better land, closer subdivision and room for immigrant farm families. Soil conservation has, too, its aesthetic as well as economic advantages. Tourism will remain of significance to New Zealand only if its scenic attractions are preserved. In recent years they, too, have deteriorated.

In helping to ensure nations of healthy, happy and contented people, soil conservation—"the most significant movement in agriculture in the Christian era (and) an advance in civilisation not fully to be appraised for generations"—can go far towards making possible social security in the widest sense in all nations and in establishing and guaranteeing the permanence of better international relationships.

AND there are of course the illustrations, for Mr. Cumberland is not content merely to talk to us. If our ears will not hear he is determined that our eyes shall see, and so has assembled (or had assembled) the most arresting collection of erosion photographs ever brought between two covers in New Zealand. You see some of them in this article—five out of 50 or 60. But some of the most alarming could not have been reproduced without loss of detail, even if the space had been available, and single photographs in any case convey only a faint impression of the massed effect of 20 or 30 pages.

Items From The ZB's

A MONG recent visitors to 1ZB, Auckland, were seven Fijians, five of them members of the Armed Forces. While at the station they made several recordings of native songs, including ceremonial chants. A programme of these will be presented from 1ZB shortly.

JOHN MacKENZIE, who is heard on Sunday afternoons from 1ZB in the programme "Melody for You," was a member of the Kiwi Pacific Concert Party. These Kiwis, before disbanding last October, did two complete tours of the Solomon Islands. They also went to the New Hebrides, Guadalcanal, Vella Lavella, the Treasuries, Munda, Bougainville, and Green Island. In "Melody for You," John MacKenzie shows his skill with the novachord.

RITA HARRIS' session from 4ZB, "We Discuss Books," is a popular weekly survey of what is on library shelves. The Dunedin Public Library has reported that, following these sessions, there is always a demand for books mentioned in it. "We Discuss Books" is broadcast from 4ZB each Sunday afternoon at 4.30.

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New Zealand Listener, July 20