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# THINGS TO COME

## A Run Through The Programmes

### "Merry-Go-Round"

BY the Services, for the Services, and a hot favourite with listeners in or out of uniform—that's a potted description of *Merry-Go-Round*, one of the BBC's most popular variety shows, which is about to be heard from 2YA (starting at 8.33 p.m. on Monday, June 3). In the Navy edition you are introduced to the Ship's Company of H.M.S. *Waterlogged*, Sinking-in-the-Ooze. They're anything but the Silent Service on *Waterlogged*, as the commander is Sub-Lieutenant Eric ("Heart-Throb") Barker, R.N.V.R. Eric was making London variety audiences laugh before he got into uniform, and he did the same for radio audiences whenever his naval duties let him get anywhere near a microphone. His solemn appearance (as seen in *People in the Programmes* this issue) is completely misleading, for he can see the funny side of almost anything. Pearl Hackney, who is with him in the photograph, has been his wife these eight years, and they have a small daughter, Petronella, and a Tudor cottage in the country. For particulars of the khaki and light blue editions of *Merry-Go-Round*, keep an eye on this page.

### Modern Song-Cycles

LAST year, Station 2YA and some other stations broadcast performances by local musicians of the four best-known song-cycles of Schubert and Schumann. Next week 2YA will begin a new series—this time, six song-cycles by modern British composers. The first one, to be heard at 8.28 p.m. on Tuesday, June 4, will be John Ireland's "Five Sixteenth Century Poems," which will be sung by Lex McDonald (baritone), with Edith Turner at the piano. The other cycles in the series will be Quilter's "To Julia," sung by Roy Hill (tenor) with Bessie Pollard at the piano; Elgar's "Sea Pictures" (Molly Atkinson, contralto, with Clement Howe); Quilter's "Songs of Sorrow" (Merle Gamble, soprano, with Ormi Reid); Armstrong Gibbs's "Old Wine in New Bottles" (Raymond Wentworth, bass), and Arthur Bliss's "Seven American Poems" (Ruth Sell, mezzo-contralto).

### Flow Gently, Sweet Avon

WHAT with things as they are these days, there is something to be said for the man who can point to one little spot on the map of the world where things are going along nicely and quietly, and say with Alfred Domett, "No sound was heard of clashing wars; Peace brooded o'er the hushed domain." This honour we confer on Frank Hutchens, one time of Leeston, Canterbury, now a professor of the piano at Sydney Conservatorium, who (as everybody knows) was over here a while ago. Mr. Hutchens has composed a piece for orchestra called "River Avon—Christchurch Scene," which the 3YA orchestra, conducted by his brother, Will Hutchens, will play at 8.24 p.m. on Wednesday, June 5, before going on to play some Arabesques,

and a thing about Central Asia. Arabia is restless, and something is going on in Central Asia, too, but we can all be grateful to Mr. Hutchens and Mr. Hutchens for drawing our attention to the continued existence of the placid Avon. To the Christchurch Domains Board we commend the quotation from Domett for a possible letter-head or gateway inscription, and to all who do not know the Avon's qualities we commend Mr. Hutchens's little composition, which we believe will be an agreeable musical picture of that slow-flowing drain.

### Another Detective Series

A NEW series of short detective plays by Miles Horton, produced and recorded by the BBC, is to begin at Station 2YA at 10.30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 4. It is called *Professor Burnside Investigates*, and the first play in the series is "The Case of the Headless Lady." The illustration we print here is



a *Radio Times* artist's view of one episode in this story, and to anticipate inquiries we can say that the resemblance of the man on the right to C. Aubrey Smith seems to be accidental. Professor Burnside, the solver of these mystery problems, is an elderly professor of pathology who is drawn by the nature of his job into the tangles of the crime world.

### New Serial for 4YZ

THERE will be eager listeners in the Campbell Islands, the Ross Dependency, and other southern points, when Station 4YZ begins its new serial at 8.0 p.m. on Wednesday, June 5—a serial with a local interest in these parts. It is *Lady of the Heather*, written by Will Lawson. The story is woven round Marie Armand, a grand-daughter of Bonnie Prince Charlie, who was said to have been exiled with the Jacobites, and to have found her way from France to Campbell Island, Hobart, and New Zealand. *Lady of the Heather* was first broadcast from Station 2YD in 1944, but it is entirely proper that it should have a turn on 4YZ, which we like to think

## ALSO WORTH NOTICE

### MONDAY

2YA, 7.15 p.m.: "New Zealand Looks at the Pacific" (talk).

3YA, 9.25 p.m.: *Trio in B Flat* (Schubert).

### TUESDAY

3YA, 9.25 p.m.: "The Gondoliers" (Act II).

4YA, 8.0 p.m.: "English Opera."

### WEDNESDAY

2YH, 7.18 p.m.: "Finck's Fortune" (new serial).

3YA, 9.25 p.m.: *Symphony No. 9* (Beethoven).

### THURSDAY

1YA, 7.15 p.m.: "Insects and Man" (talk).

2YD, 9.20 p.m.: "Mr. and Mrs. North" (new programme).

### FRIDAY

2YA, 8.28 p.m.: *BBC Brains Trust*.

3YA, 8.04 p.m.: "The English Theatre" (first of series).

### SATURDAY

2YC, 8.0 p.m.: *Wellington Harmonic Society*.

3YL, 9.01 p.m.: *Laurian Club String Orchestra*.

### SUNDAY

1YA, 9.33 p.m.: *Piano Concerto* (Khachaturian).

2YA, 9.25 p.m.: *Opera "Die Fledermaus"* (Strauss).

is the southernmost broadcasting station in the world—unless they have one down by the Straits of Magellan.

### Co-op.

LIKE most New Zealanders, we'd heard something about the co-op movement in Britain, with its 9,000,000 members, and huge annual turnover, amounting to almost £350,000,000. But it came as a surprise to us to learn that co-operative societies were firmly entrenched in the United States, traditionally the land of rugged individualism. In the United States, the co-operatives have only been in existence for about thirty years, yet to-day they have almost three million members. Even the refining and marketing of oil, traditionally a big business preserve, has been invaded by the co-operative societies. Harold J. Simpson, who is prominent in the American Co-operative Movement, will tell the story of Co-operatives in the U.S.A. from 2YA on Thursday, June 6. His talk will be broadcast at 7.14 p.m.

### Was it Murder?

A NEW play by Edward Harding, "Out of the Smoke," which has been produced by the NBS, will be broadcast by Station 4YA at 9.25 p.m. on Sunday, June 9. Its setting at first is a crowded railway carriage; one of the doors opens, and a girl falls out. The question is, was it murder, or was it an accident? We have heard the story ourselves and after due deliberation have decided that it will be best if we say no more about the immediate consequences of the affair, but leave listeners to hear all about it for themselves.

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