

# THINGS TO COME

## A Run Through The Programmes

### Dunsany Fantasy

"GOLDEN DRAGON CITY," Lord Dunsany's fantasy for broadcasting, which will be heard from 1YA on February 17 at 7.30 p.m., and from 2YA on February 21 at 8.28 p.m., is one of the series of radio plays presented by the BBC under the general title, *Mystery and Imagination*. Although that title of the series has been borrowed from Edgar Allen Poe's famous tales, Felix Felton, who is in charge of production, has eschewed the horrific. The plays all deal with the world of imagination and fantasy, to which the medium of radio is ideally suited. "Golden Dragon City" tells of a youth who buys a window from a mysterious man he meets in the street. And that window has the queerest properties. Those who looked through it saw . . . but listen to the play and hear for yourself.

### Blood Sport

WHEN Themistocles was moving with his army in close order, column of route or whatever was the military fashion those days, against the Persians, he saw a cock-fight, and stopped his troops to let them draw inspiration from the fowls' valour and obstinacy. It worked. In honour of the Greeks' victory, cock-fights were thenceforth held annually at Athens, at first in a patriotic and religious spirit, but afterwards for the love of the game. In the time of Henry II, English schoolboys took it up as a diversion on Shrove Tuesdays, the masters themselves umpiring the fights, or mains, from which they derived the reward of the dead birds. But to-day, in New Zealand at least, the sport is quite illegal. That in itself should be enough to add piquancy to the subject which Allona Priestley has chosen for her talk from 2YA at 7.15 p.m. on February 17. "Cock-fighting" will be the fifth talk in her series *People Don't Change*.

### Stravinsky Ballet Music

TO the Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Foundation, administered by the Music Division of the U.S. Library of Congress, we owe Stravinsky's *Appollon Musagètes* ballet, an excerpt from which will be heard from 1YX on Tuesday evening, February 18, at 9.10 p.m. This ballet suite, commissioned by the Foundation and first produced at Washington in 1928, reflects, when considered along with the half-dozen others which the composer produced during the "golden" period of Diaghileff, the changing vogues of Russian ballet. Where, for example, *The Rite of Spring* was a revolutionary innovation in its musical values, *Appollon Musagètes* is entirely in the classical tradition, in the strict form of an ancient dance suite, and the chastening of harmonic and orchestral colour is evident.

### Listen to the Band

CLOSE inspection of the details of 3YA's band programme for Monday evening, February 17, reveals something more than the usual run-of-the-mill session. Musically it is almost a UN show. It opens at 7.30 with the Sousa march, "Hands Across the Sea," and a *Mikado* selection follows closely afterwards. The first interlude comprises Welsh national

airs, and then, at 7.53, the Grenadier Guards Band presents Sibelius's frosty *Finlandia* (arr. Winterbottom). In a studio interlude at 8.0 Marjorie Nelson sings Scots songs and then there is a BBC recorded show by the Band of H.M. Horse Guards (Captain Thornborrow conducting), which at least sounds typically English. The pro-



gramme concludes at 8.34 with "America Marches." But what we like best is the bright little touch at 8.30 when Peter Dawson will sing "Captain Harry Morgan." Hurrah for UN and all that, but at the same time Yo-Ho for a little picturesque anarchy.

### Money-Spinners

IN the programmes for Wednesday, February 19, Station 2YA lists at 7.30 p.m. *Million-Airs*. And for the benefit of listeners who read only the first line of the item, we can explain that it has nothing to do with Nuffield, Ford or Rockefeller. *Million-Airs* is a collection of songs of which a million or so copies have been sold. And, according to the director of this studio presentation they include "Songs My Mother Taught Me," "Funiculi Funicula," "Come to the Fair," and on the still lighter side, "The Easter Parade." These established favourites will be presented by a group of studio singers.

### Songs from Switzerland

OTHMAR SCHOECK, four of whose songs will be presented from the 3YA studio by Gerald Christeller (baritone) at 8.25 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19, was born at Brunnen on Lake Lucerne in 1886, and is generally regarded to-day as the most representative composer of German Switzerland. A pupil of Max Reger, Schoeck is known chiefly as a writer of lyrics, and his song-cycles include *Elegie*, composed in 1924, *Lebendig begraben* for bass and large orchestra (1927), and *Notturmo* for string quartet and bass (1934). But he has also to his credit numerous chamber music and orchestral works, a cantata, and four large operas. His European reputation as a choral and orchestral conductor stands high.

### Nelson Revisited

WHEN the New Zealand swimming championships were held at Nelson in 1906, a young Wellington swimmer in a phenomenal display of endurance, won four national titles—the 100, 440, and 880 yds., and the mile. On Wednesday of next week he will be in Nelson for another championship meeting, but this time to declare it open, in his capacity as Governor-General. Times

## ALSO WORTH NOTICE

### MONDAY

1YX, 8.0 p.m.: "Three Merry Rogues"  
4YA, 7.30 p.m.: Suite No. 2 in B Minor (Bach)

### TUESDAY

2YA, 8.16 p.m.: Violin Concerto (Alban Berg)  
3YA, 9.30 p.m.: "Mystery and Imagination"

### WEDNESDAY

2YC, 8.0 p.m.: Mozart's Symphonies (series)  
3YA, 7.55 p.m.: Piano Concerto, K.467 (Mozart)

### THURSDAY

2YA, 9.30 p.m.: Stabat Mater (Pergolesi)  
4YA, 7.46 p.m.: Symphony No. 6 (Beethoven)

### FRIDAY

2YC, 9.0 p.m.: "Kreutzer" Sonata (Beethoven)  
3YA, 8.13 p.m.: "The Pied Piper" (Rathbone)

### SATURDAY

2YC, 8.0 p.m.: Symphony No. 6 (Sibelius)  
3YA, 8.40 p.m.: "Three Magic Words"

### SUNDAY

1YA, 8.30 p.m.: "The Damnation of Faust" (Berlioz)  
3YA, 9.22 p.m.: "H.M.N.Z.S. Philome!"

have been clipped substantially since Sir Bernard Freyberg had his four-fold win—especially the time taken to publish results throughout the country. On February 19, at 7.40 p.m., 2YN will broadcast the official opening, and commentaries on seven championship finals; further championship events will be broadcast the following evening, between 8.0 and 9.0, and again at 9.30; and on Saturday, February 22, 2YN will again be on the air from the baths between 8.0 and 8.46, and once more at 9.05 for the two Stalag Shield races (men's North Island v. South Island relay, and women's North v. South relay). For listeners outside of 2YN's range, 2YA will provide recorded commentaries at 10.0 p.m. on February 19 and 20, and a direct broadcast on February 22, at 8.0 p.m.

### Hot Spot

OF all the outposts of our far-flung Empire, few have been flung further than the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan which, at the moment of writing (and if memory and *Britannica* serve), covers some 950,000 square miles. Scene of at least one major clash between British and French imperialism (before the Entente was as cordial as it later became), the Sudan lies wholly within the tropics and now looks like joining Indonesia, Indo-China, Burma, and Palestine as one of the world's political hot-spots. As every Kipling addict knows, it is the home of Fuzzy-wuzzies, wadies, and hard drinking ("Here's to you, Fuzzy-wuzzie, etc."), but it has one natural feature of even greater importance—the Nile Valley, which is the subject of the first of a series of talks by E. R. Harries, on the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan To-day, to be heard from 1YA. "The Nile Valley" will be heard at 7.15 p.m. on Thursday, February 20.