



"Sheepfarmers must have dogs"

your sheds and in your yards; on your roads and footpaths; in your car; in the hotels you visit, the picture theatres, your neighbours' houses, your barber's chair; sometimes, I know, they will get you in church. It is not race, or colour, or condition, or cleanliness (though dirt of course helps the enemy). It is not carelessness if you fall, or vigilance or cleverness if you escape. It is biology. They like you or they don't, bite you or don't, poison you or don't. It is fate. But don't go north of Gisborne until you know to which group you belong; and if you belong to Group One, don't go without a torch, and don't go at all unless you are sure of your ability to suffer in silence, to tingle without twitching, to be stabbed, poisoned, and over-run without

climate so warm and sunny must always bring dust. Live with dogs, cats, and dust and the fleas will get you if you are their kind. They will get you in your house and they will get you outside; in

moving a muscle or batting an eye. It will happen in church or at dinner, or in the middle of a very serious conversation, and you must be sure of your strength before you take the risk.

Poetry and the Piano

ARTHUR HIRST, who gives piano lecture recitals, is in New Zealand again after an absence of 18 years. He is a New Zealander. Forty years ago he was an employee of the New Zealand Railways Department, then he became

arts and sciences (taking the music section), and that he had lectured in more than 100 British towns, we asked him how the W.E.A. and the British Adult Schools Union had fared during the recent war.

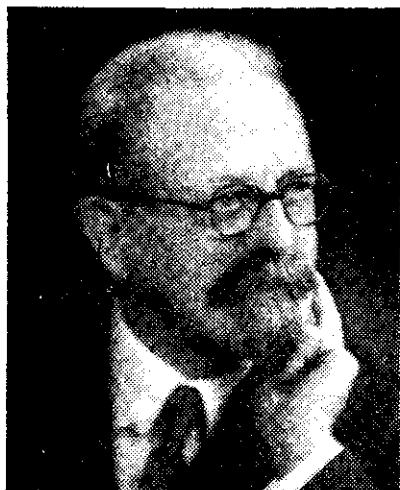
"Like other educational facilities they were severely handicapped," he said. "But they are recovering rapidly; their educational value is extremely high and so is their popularity."

Discussing his travels, he said that after spending some time at Frankfort-on-Maine, he joined the Mathilde Verne School in London, where he met the British pianist Solomon, who was working with Madame Verne. Later he went to Berlin to study with Dohnanyi, and then he became assistant to Professor Kwast, who taught Percy Grainger. "It was very happy and comfortable there till the first world war came. I then returned to England and joined the Dover Patrol. When I was invalided out, I settled down in London to do more lecturing."

Mr. Hirst told us that he had been a personal friend of Rachmaninoff, with whom he spent many summers in Switzerland, so that he had been able to contribute a section to the composer's biography. And when he returns to England in July, via New York, he hopes to meet Madame Rachmaninoff and another friend, Percy Grainger.

On the day he arrived in New Zealand he heard the debut of the New Zealand National Symphony Orchestra, which he described as a "grand moment in the Dominion's musical history. I was amazed at its excellence," he said. "As it settles down and finds its feet, it will become a fine instrument."

Mr. Hirst will be heard shortly in a recorded talk.



ARTHUR HIRST
Music called him.

a bank officer. But, he told us in an interview, music called him, and he decided to sink all his capital in its study in England and Europe.

Mr. Hirst will give a series of lectures, in New Zealand schools of more than 200 pupils, on the appreciation of great music and of English poetry, illustrating his talks with piano representations of folk music and the works of classical composers.

When he mentioned that he had been a member of a panel of lecturers on the


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