

RADIO VIEWSREEL (Cont'd)

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suggesting that local effort has ever before produced anything like our newest orchestra, but I think it worth remembering that there have existed a collection of enthusiastic and hard-working amateur orchestral bodies who for many years managed to give symphonic concerts to enthusiastic audiences and thus educate listeners, in the days before radio, in the possibilities of orchestral playing. It can safely be said that without early training in concerted work received in amateur societies, players would not have been so readily available for the nucleus of a professional

orchestra. So the National Orchestra is not, as is sometimes suggested, an entirely new phenomenon. It is a natural growth of our musical culture, its performers drawn from the ranks of our own hard-working amateurs and professionals, and its audiences from those musically-minded and intelligent people of the community without whose patronage no true culture can hope to flourish.

Talks by Experts

NOW is the time when the attention of Otago listeners should be drawn to the forthcoming series of Winter Course talks from 4YA, since H. M.

Gilmore, in his introductory talk, has sketched for us a series of subjects which should provide much interesting material for the selected speakers. Not so long ago I made a plea for better use of the brains of the community on the radio, and it would seem that my prayer has partly been answered. The selection embraces a wide and varied range of subjects, and each speaker seems to be an expert on his subject. Two points of criticism only occur to me. In the first place, a quarter-of-an-hour is little enough to allow each speaker, and it might allow more scope and a more detailed treatment of the subject if the period were half-an-hour. In the second place, music seems to take a back seat here—we were promised "perhaps" one or two talks on modern composers, but were not told who the speaker will be, or even whether these talks have definitely been arranged for. I hope they will be. In the meantime, we have, luckily, the continuation of the *Masterpieces of Music* series by Professor Galway, whose commentaries, unlike those of many radio speakers on music, are not merely comment, but an intrinsic and explanatory elucidation of the music itself.

Authentic Mansfield

THE lover of Katherine Mansfield might await in some trepidation any radio presentation of any of her stories, fearing that in the precarious process of adaptation some, if not all, of her unique quality might vanish into thin air. But the BBC presentation of *The Daughters of the Late Colonel* was, instead, immensely successful in capturing the authentic Katherine Mansfield atmosphere. A mixture of reading and dialogue, done by well-selected, pleasant, and sufficiently differentiated voices, it maintained an air which I can only describe as one of muted hysteria. I can't remember when I actually laughed aloud at a radio play before, but the silly episode of the meringues wrung from me an unnatural chuckle; at the same time the depiction of the pathetic, extraordinary, useless, and tragic life of the two women made me want either to scream or cry—I can't decide which. All of which suggests that, if a Katherine Mansfield story can be done successfully once, it can be done again—perhaps by the NZBS production department?

SHORTWAVE HIGHLIGHTS

THE Swiss Broadcasting Corporation in Berne may be heard on Saturday and Sunday afternoons broadcasting a programme (primarily directed to North America) which is being received at quite good strength in New Zealand at present.

Stations, Frequencies and Wavelengths: HER 4, 9.535 mc/s, 31.46 metres; HER 5, 11.865, 25.28; HER 6, 15.315, 19.59.

Included in the programmes are: 1.30 p.m., Messages and Greetings to United States from Visitors to Switzerland; 2.0, Affairs of the World (a Talk by a Swiss World Observer); 2.5, Dancing Time in Switzerland; 3.0, Home News; 3.5, Review of World Affairs (a Talk by a Swiss World Observer); 3.12, Swiss Curiosity Shop (a Dinner Date in Switzerland).

Each evening PCJ Holland may be heard broadcasting to the Pacific Area on 15.22 mc/s, 19.71 metres, at 9.25. The programme opens with a 10-minute news bulletin, giving news of the Netherlands, followed by a news analysis or a postscript on Dutch or Indonesian affairs.

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