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THINGS TO COME

A Run Through The Programmes

A Woman's Utopia

NO ration books, no dish-washing, no laundry to do, domestic servants for only £3 a week—these are some of the things which led Vivienne Blamires to describe South Africa as "A Woman's Utopia" in one of four recorded talks which will soon be broadcast from 3YA. During a residence of five-and-a-half years in that country—part of which was spent at Broadcasting House in Durban—Vivienne Blamires had time to travel through several provinces of the Union, and also to consider some of its problems from a woman's point of view. Those things which impressed her most forcibly are described in these four talks, the first of which, "About the Womenfolk," will be broadcast at 2.30 p.m. on Thursday, February 12. The others, which will be heard at the same time on succeeding Thursdays, discuss "The Colour Question," "Broadcasting and Music in South Africa," and "Travel in South Africa."

Bloodstock for China

LAST June an article in *The Listener* described how 25 pure-bred Corriedale sheep from New Zealand were transported by air across China to the North-west town of Shantan. That epic journey was actually only part of the whole story of UNRRA's work of distributing to the various provinces of China several thousand of livestock donated by the governments of New Zealand, Canada, and the United States. W. Huse, one of the eight men who handled this task,



will talk about his experiences from 2YA at 7.10 p.m. on Monday, February 9. In all there were 3,263 dairy cattle, 1,025 sheep, and 792 army mules, of which New Zealand contributed 400 cattle and all the sheep. Three of the men in charge—Mr. Huse, H. M. Stevwright and Dr. C. S. M. Hopkirk—were New Zealanders, and they were faced with a tremendous problem of transport. By air and sea, rail, river and road, the livestock were taken to Shantan, Nanking, Liuchow, Formosa, Lanchow, Inner Mongolia, and other areas. The work was hard. "But there's no doubt," Mr. Huse says, "that the Chinese people really appreciated this wonderful gift of bloodstock to help them rebuild their herds." Don't forget to tune in next Monday.

Eternal Shakespeare

PROFESSOR SISSON, of London University, author of several books on Shakespeare, shows in a BBC programme, *In the Words of Shakespeare*, how the eternal truths Shakespeare expressed in his plays are as applicable to life to-day as they were when he first wrote them down. Professor Sisson reads Falstaff's and Hotspur's speeches on honour, the speech to the thieves in *Timon* (which might have been made with equal force and application to any bunch of modern gangsters), some philosophic soliloquies from *Troilus and Cressida*, Hamlet's advice to his players, the

Duke of Vienna's speech on man's fear of death, and other extracts which indicate at least one reason for Shakespeare's universality. *In the Words of*



Shakespeare will start from 2YA on Sunday, February 15, at 10.15 a.m. It is also being broadcast from 2YH at 2.0 p.m. on Sundays.

Guardian of Keats

MR. RICHARD ABBEY was a London tea-broker; a man of business, with sound commercial instincts. He could be trusted to carry out his obligations conscientiously and usually with success. In the year 1815, however, he found himself guardian of four young people whose poetical fancies and affections presented a problem outside the scope of even such a sound man of affairs as Mr. Abbey—which was not altogether surprising when it is realised that one of the wards was the poet John Keats. Readers of E. M. Forster's essay will remember the story, and now Douglas Cleverdon, of the BBC, has adapted it for radio. *Mr. and Mrs. Abbey's Difficulties* makes fascinating listening, and lovers of Keats will be interested to know that the sound effects in the programme were recorded in Keats's House at Hampstead, London. *Mr. and Mrs. Abbey's Difficulties* will be heard from 3YA at 9.54 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11.

Petrouchka

MUSIC in ballet, we are told by Arnold Haskell, can fulfil a variety of functions; it can be the servant, the master or the equal partner of the choreography. Diaghilev always aimed at an equal balance between the two, and he obtained outstanding results with such ballets as *Petrouchka* and *The Firebird*. The musical origin of *Petrouchka* is discussed by Stravinsky in his autobiography. "I had in my mind," he said, "a distinct picture of a puppet suddenly endowed with life, exasperating the patience of the orchestra with diabolical cascades of arpeggi. The orchestra in turn retaliates with menacing trumpet blasts. The outcome is a terrific noise which reaches its climax and ends in the sorrowful and querulous collapse of the puppet." The final ballet,

ALSO WORTH NOTICE

MONDAY

1YA, 7.53 p.m.: BBC Brains Trust.
2YA, 2.0 p.m.: Schumann's Music.

TUESDAY

12M, 9.0 p.m.: Play, "Death Takes a Holiday."
2YH, 10.0 a.m.: Talk, "A Dutch Visitor Looks at N.Z."

WEDNESDAY

2YH, 9.30 p.m.: "Carmen," Act IV.
4YZ, 7.30 p.m.: "How Great Was Gershwin?"

THURSDAY

3YA, 8.0 p.m.: Story "Sarie Marais."
4YA, 8.12 p.m.: Promenade Concert.

FRIDAY

2YA, 8.0 p.m.: Comedy, "Laff That Off."
4YA, 9.35 p.m.: "Farming and the 40-hour Week."

SATURDAY

1YX, 9.0 p.m.: Music by Handel.
3YA, 8.25 p.m.: Vaudeville and Variations.

SUNDAY

1YA, 9.33 p.m.: "Men of God: Jeremiah."
3ZR, 2.30 p.m.: "The Written Word: William Hazlitt."

as developed by Stravinsky and the choreographer Fokine, has been described as "the perfect dance drama." But because of its novel use of a bi-tonal chord (a combination of C Major and F Sharp Major), the music of *Petrouchka* soon overshadowed the ballet, and it has had a far-reaching effect on modern music. Stravinsky's *Petrouchka* will be broadcast from 2YA at 8.0 p.m. on Tuesday, February 10.

Mendelssohn's Full Circle

FELIX MENDELSSOHN'S experience of the world was the direct opposite of that traditionally associated with composers of music. Instead of having to meet the unfavourable conditions of poverty, poor environment, misunderstanding, perhaps bad health, and complete lack of appreciation, he was born into a family of refinement and social position. In his lifetime he was the most popular of all composers. But by reason of that very fact he became suspect to the next generation, which thought him tame, saccharine, emotionally flat, and lacking in virility. In Leipzig—even in England—detectors arose; a period of disparagement began; the depreciation became as excessive and as unjust as the adulation had been before, and for a time his works (always excepting the oratorio *Elijah*) were neglected. But the peculiar excellences in his music are as worthy of appreciation as ever they were, and to-day his fame appears to have come full circle. Mendelssohn compositions in this week's programmes include the *Sonata in D Major*, from 3YL at 9.30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 10, and the *Violin Concerto* from 2YC at 8.58 p.m. on Saturday, February 14.