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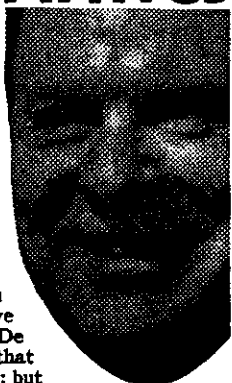


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# THINGS TO COME

## A Run Through The Programmes

### Family Life

THE family, we are led to believe, is the foundation institution of our national life. Its roots lie in deeply embedded instinct; its forms and traditions have changed very little over the years, but scientific research has made available a new and growing body of knowledge about families and the way to bring up children. Some mothers stick doggedly to tradition, while others are only vaguely aware of what can be done these days to make the bringing-up of a family easier and more satisfying. Eight talks dealing with different phases of family life have recently been recorded by various New Zealand authorities on the subject, and the first of these, by Professor H. E. Field, will be heard from 2YA at 7.15 p.m. this Friday, June 18. Succeeding talks in the series deal with the economic aspects of family life, the moral and spiritual sides of marriage, and the topics of parent-child and husband-wife relationships.

### Story of Toscanini

ARTURO TOSCANINI, whose story will be told in 4YA's programme *Dictators of the Baton* at 7.35 p.m. on Tuesday, June 22, was the son of an Italian tailor and entered the Parma Conservatory as a 'cellist student at the age of nine. One night when he was 'cellist for the opera in Rio de Janeiro, the audience hissed from the stage the musician who was to have conducted *Aida*, and he got his first chance as a conductor. After successes in Europe he went to America and in 1913 conducted his first concerts at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York. When the New York Philharmonic Symphony was formed in 1928 he became its principal conductor, and later he became conductor of the National Broadcasting Company Symphony, a position which he still holds. To-day, 81 years old, and still full of inexhaustible energy and drive, he rules his orchestra with a rod of iron. Once on the podium he becomes completely oblivious of the audience, concentrating on the music and conducting with great economy of motion. He is rarely satisfied with his performances, and regards an imperfection in the playing of a composer's music as treachery, while an erring musician is virulently called "assassin!"

### Stout Effort

EARLY this year a nine-year-old Friesian cow named Bridge Birch, of Moortown Farm, Hampshire, England, completed a 12 months' production effort with an aggregate of 45,081 lb. of milk. She thus outstripped the previous world's record of 41,943 pounds in 12 months, established in 1942 by an American cow named Carnation Ormsby Madcap Fayne. In addition to extra supplies of food, Bridge Birch got a daily ration of eight pints of stout. Undernourished British farmers acclaimed her record, but a few temperance leaders feared she might mother a herd of bovine alcoholics. Bridge Birch gave her owner, Richard Pierson, a twelve-to-one return on the 2,920 pints she drank. It is said that she sometimes

had difficulty in keeping her legs properly aligned, but then many a sober cow occasionally has this trouble. We don't know whether Professor I. L. Campbell, of Massey College, encourages tipping among farm animals, but we may find out by listening to his mid-day farm talk from 2YA at 12.35 p.m. on Thursday, June 24, on *Cows' Appetites*.

### An Odd Pretty Sort of Thing

JOHN GAY'S musical play *The Beggar's Opera* (1728) was supposed to have arisen out of a remark by Swift that "a Newgate Pastoral might make an odd pretty sort of thing," and was written as a satire on the Italian opera of the day. The spoken dialogue is set to popular English folk tunes, London street ballads, and so on, which were



originally selected and arranged by Dr. Christopher Pepusch. When the work was revived in 1920 the music was reharmonised and re-orchestrated by Frederick Austin. The principal characters are Peachum (a receiver of stolen goods who also makes a living by informing against his clients) and his daughter Polly; Lockit (warder of Newgate) and his daughter Lucy; and Captain Macheath—highwayman and light-hearted winner of women's hearts. Polly falls desperately in love with Macheath, who marries her. Her father, furious at her folly, decides to place her in "the comfortable estate of widowhood" by informing against Macheath, who is arrested and sent to Newgate. Here he makes a conquest of Lucy's heart, and there follows a spirited conflict between Polly and Lucy, which ends with Lucy, in spite of her jealousy, helping Macheath to escape. *The Beggar's Opera* will be heard from 2YA at 9.30 p.m. on Thursday, June 24.

### Prize Composition

FROM 1YA on Wednesday, June 23, will be broadcast the song cycle which was one of the two prize-winning entries for the Otago University Phillip Neill Memorial Prize for 1947. *The Desolate Star* was composed by Dorothea Franchi and will be sung by Douglas Stock (baritone), with the composer at the piano. The words are by the late Robin Hyde and consist of five poems, "In Memory," "Over the Fields," "Tryst," "Silence," and "The Desolate Star," selected, for their similarity of mood, by Miss Franchi from about 25 poems contained in *The Desolate Star and Other Poems*, one of Robin Hyde's earlier publications. The broadcast, which will be heard at 8.36 p.m., will probably be one of the last made by Miss Franchi for some time, for she is

## ALSO WORTH NOTICE

### MONDAY

1YX, 9.0 p.m.: "Don Giovanni."  
3YL, 8.0 p.m.: *From the Proms*.

### TUESDAY

2YA, 9.30 p.m.: "Orpheus and Eurydice."  
4YA, 8.0 p.m.: *St. Kilda Band*.

### WEDNESDAY

3YA, 9.30 a.m.: *Beethoven*.  
4YO, 9.30 p.m.: *Drama, "Tasman Crossing"*.

### THURSDAY

1YA, 2.30 p.m.: *Russian Composers*.  
2YH, 8.0 p.m.: *Here's My Programme*.

### FRIDAY

2YN, 9.3 p.m.: *Grand Opera*.  
3ZR, 7.30 p.m.: *Picture Parade*.

### SATURDAY

2YC, 8.33 p.m.: "Arch Duke" Trio.  
4YO, 10.4 p.m.: "Les Sylphides."

### SUNDAY

1ZM, 4.0 p.m.: *Radio Bandstand*.  
4YA, 2.30 p.m.: "Jupiter" Symphony.

due to leave for England a few days later to study composition at the Royal College of Music, and she expects to be away about 18 months. The performance is being recorded and it is likely that it will be broadcast later by 4YA.

### Literary Brains Trust

THOSE interested in literature will be able to get some entertainment and (we hope) instruction from 4YA's *Literary Brains Trust* which is to answer questions submitted to them next Friday, June 25, at 9.35 p.m. The members of the panel are David Hall, Basil Dowling, Anton Vogt, and William Hart-Smith, and as they are all local writers and critics, we should expect many of the questions they are asked to be on local topics—the more immediate and practical problems facing New Zealand literature and the New Zealand writer, for instance—as well as general topics embracing the whole world of literature. The questionmaster is Mrs. John Harris. This programme is one of several experimental *Brains Trust* sessions being conducted from 4YA during Otago's Centennial year.

### Karoo Story

ONE of South Africa's leading woman writers, Pauline Smith, has had her short story *The Pain* recorded by the BBC, and it will be broadcast from 3YA at 9.31 p.m. on Saturday, June 26. Pauline Smith was born in the Little Karroo in Cape Colony, and it was this story of hers about old Julian van Royen and his wife that first drew attention to what Arnold Bennett described as "Pauline Smith's strange, austere, tender and ruthless talent." Her story is read in this broadcast by a fellow South African, Leonard Sachs, who is a repertory player in London.