RADIO VIEWSREEL (Cont'd.)

this short cantata winds its peaceful way high adventure told in ringing words and rather like a calm meandering river, without very much in the way of climax. The 4YA Študio Singers, under George Wilkinson, with Jessie Jones as accompanist, gave a most charming and lyrical rendering of the music, and are to be commended on their choice of something just a little different from the usual items given us by choral groups and singers.

Surge and Thunder

THE readings from 4YC of extracts from Homer's Odyssey are the first of a new series which promises to be excellent. The passages are chosen and annotated by Eric Hill. Homer is one poet whom we can't all read in the

original, and as I remarked before about readings in foreign languages, there are few apart from listeners to the BBC's Third Programme who would appreciate anything but a translation. You don't neces-



sarily have to be a Greek scholar or a poetry-addict, however, to appreciate the 4YC readings; all that is required is a love of listening to a tale of

phrases. If, in such a programme, the excerpts are well chosen, if there is just the right amount of annotation (the right amount being, in my opinion, the absolute minimum necessary for coherence and atmosphere), then given the right voices for the reading of it such a programme becomes one of the radio highlights. Eric Hill's programme from Homer fulfilled the above requirements, and I am anticipating more exciting half-hours of listening.

Programme Notes

A RECENT 2YC session broadcast the Handel Concerto Grosso, Op. 6, No. 9, and the Mozart Quintet in G Minor, one of the most felicitous works ever conceived by the mind of man. Introducing each of these were programme notes of contrasting type. Those of the Handel gave only the themes of each movement, played on the piano, with ludicrous effect in the case of slow string tunes. Surely this type of programme note is the apotheosis of the useless. The themes themselves will soon be heard with the magic of string tone; of what value can it possibly be to have a few bars of each played over first on the piano, adding absolutely nothing to one's understanding of the work. On the

other hand, the Mozart was introduced [with a few words preparing the listener for the mood of the movements of the quintet, with excellent effect. Let us have more of the latter, and less of the

Sequence

THE presentation of programmes in series is an excellent idea; the interested listener knows when to listen for a sequence he likes (or when not to listen, for that matter) and a set of works is given in some kind of completeness. The connecting link may be the composer, as in the case of the complete Beethoven symphonies being given by the Wellington Group of the National Symphony Orchestra on Tuesdays from 2YA, or it may be performers, as in the delightful series of sonatas for violin and piano broadcast on Thursdays and Sundays from 2YA by Francis Rosner and Wainwright Morgan. The Schubert Sonata, Op. 137, No. 3, was a fine example of artistic co-operation and pure string tone. Another series connected in a different way was that of the set of Song Cycles which has been heard from various stations. Song cycles have sometimes, I fear, rather fallen on evil days; some of those broadcast were not worth the time put in on them. All sequences must end; this one has been overlong a-dying.

WEATHER NOTES ON **AUCKLAND**

We can never hold an hour in our hands As if it could not run, .
Snow never lays its silence on our lips;

BUT always the sea shuffles on cliffs and And endlessly across our narrow perch

Stream nervous ocean winds Driving the bulging rain clouds

ND bearing through garden branches AND bearing through garden by The voice of the port—
The mumble of trains and trams, The long-drawn melancholy horn ships departing. And the chimes of the Ferry clock Telling of time flowing.

'OW thunder rolls around the Guif And lascar sailors in Quay Street Shiver in blue cotton.

ALL the air is a murmur and movement, A restless traffic of men and elements; Uneasily the liners swing at anchor, The young are taut with longing And citizens driven by wind and rain Suffer a dream of voyages.

WILDNESS shakes the heart W And all night long
The wind rattles the blind.

—J.B.





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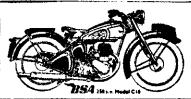
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