

(continued from previous page)

surges of music are heard between interludes of speaking. It is quite out of place in a broadcast where the music is the important thing.

Good Choral Work

DUNEDIN heard a fine group of vocalists the other night from 4YA in the Lyric Singers, conducted by John T. Leech. This group has been selected with such care that the result is a compact, well-balanced choir which broadcasts well. It has escaped the fault of most choirs (a superabundance of sopranos), and has a fine resonant bass line. The selection of items was however open to criticism. Although no song by a recognised composer can be said to be a poor choice, it must be allowed that such an item as Schubert's "Serenade" (to name only one of the group) has been heard so often that it has lost much of its original appeal. If such items could be shelved for a few years and then brought into the repertoires again, listeners would regard them with fresh interest. In the meantime, will this excellent choir not use its resources in something just a little less stereotyped?

Opera Memories

STATION 4YA, in anticipation of coming opera, has given us a series of talks by Walter Hoffman under the title "Opera as Entertainment: An Opera Lover's Reminiscences." Those of the talks which I have heard have scarcely lived up to the title, being less reminiscences of opera than résumés of plots with some favourite arias thrown in for good measure. If Mr. Hoffman wishes to attract listeners who are so little aware of opera that they need to be told the plots of *La Bohème*, *Madame Butterfly*, and *Rigoletto*, then the very

thing the speaker ought not to do is give a résumé of these plots—which, like most operatic plots, are so ridiculous when related in cold blood that unbiassed listeners must regard them as farcical examples of over-sensational melodrama. More music and less plot would, on the contrary, establish the fact in the mind of a prospective customer that what he will get for his money will mainly be music, and that he can and should disregard the librettist if he wishes to appreciate the composer.

Making Our Own

A FRIEND remarked the other day that the best way to improve our radio programmes was to make more use of the BBC. Certainly the BBC programmes we get here are as good as they come, and I feel we could do with even more of their literary features such as *Strange Intelligence*; such musical surprises as the English version of Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld*. But the NZBS productions can hold their own in the field of straight drama. The only BBC features I feel I could dispense with entirely are the travel features, well-produced though they are. Since I am the type who finds a scrub-fire in the next street more enthralling than the oil-field holocaust in Texas, I would gladly exchange both the BBC's *Tower of London* series and their *Islands of Britain* for such local features as Frank A. Simpson's *Island Outposts of New Zealand*. The island outposts I have listened to so far have one thing in common, that their shores have been accomplice or accessory-after-the-fact to the murder of many a fine ship. Mr. Simpson tells his stories well, and leaves his hearers with their sensibilities freshly attuned to the romance of their own history.

"THE LISTENER" CROSSWORD

(Solution to No. 438)

A	D	M	I	T		S	W	I	N	D	L	E
V	O	A		C		N	A		T			
A	U	T	O	P	S	Y		T	R	U	T	H
R		H	E		T		R	G		O		
I	T	E	M		T	H	O	U	G	H	T	S
C	R		T	E		D	E		T			
E	C	H	O	E	S		D	E	C	E	N	T
	U	R		C		R		R		H		
A	M	B	R	O	S	I	A		L	I	A	R
P		B	B		T	A	N		E			
P	I	A	N	O		R	E	G	A	L	I	A
L		R	A		I	E		A		D		
E	N	D	E	M	I	C		P	A	W	N	S

Clues Across

- It posed as an earnest.
- Go mad over an article of faith.
- Let furs be soothing.
- Dead cert.
- Destination of Dick Turpin and Bonny Black Bess.
- Flood.
- No rise for a superior.
- Harsh.
- More runs might make these of the bowlers?
- Came to a point.
- Trees may be brief.
- Me a grub? I take offence at this.
- Long distances.
- Came out.

Clues Down

- My rod gives the clue, but the sport concerned is not fishing.
- A bit of a puzzle until you know the ropes.
- Frequently found in front of 1 across.
- Claws.
- You may not care a red cent for the wine bottle.
- Upper edge of ship's side.
- Accomplish.
- Cads!
- Manifestation.
- Impartial.
- The drinking bout is cut short at the very beginning.
- Loud resonant sound.
- Here you find me upset over the end.
- Talented.

No. 439 (Constructed by R.W.C.)

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