

NEW ZEALAND
LISTENER

Incorporating N.Z. RADIO RECORD

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Listening to the Gramophone

EVERYONE has watched a child gazing at a visitor, and gazing and gazing, till his curiosity can be restrained no longer. At last he speaks: What is that funny thing on your face (if the visitor has a mole)? Why is your belt so tight (if the visitor is fat)? Why does your leg stick out like that (if the limb is artificial)?

Most people, too, have had experience of the listener who asks, after a profoundly moving gramophone record, if wooden needles always scratch like that; of the visitor to an art gallery who asks how much the frames cost; of the man who remembers nothing of a sermon or a speech but the motions of the speaker's Adam's apple.

We are of course all children part of the time, and all scatterbrained most of the time. We gaze at the tree when we are shown the wood, criticise the uniform when we should be estimating the man. But neither childishness nor ignorance nor lack of thought explains the interest some of us show in our own moles and bulges and wooden legs when we are face to face with people seeking our destruction.

Everyone who can read and write and pile two on two knows that Britain has made blunders. Everyone knows that she participated, in years gone by, in the scramble for property and power. The blindest patriot knows that blots remain on those pages. But to search for them and point them out to people who hate us is not mere silliness and perversity. It is perversion and disease. It is fanaticism carried across the borders of sanity, and there are men and women in New Zealand doing it.

If we like the music we should forget the needle. If we are so constituted that we can't forget anything we should put on a record of Dachau. The faintest of faint echoes from that hell-hole will be found on page 9 of this issue.

EXPERIMENT FROM 3YA

Short Stories Written For Radio

AN experiment will be tried in the well-known readings session by O. L. Simmance, at 3YA, Christchurch. This will be a number of short stories especially written for radio by J. Jefferson Farjeon, the well-known English author.

The NBS has had many suggestions for the broadcasting of short stories, but it has not been easy to meet the demand. A short story written primarily for print may not be suitable for radio. Sometimes it is too long, sometimes its construction is faulty from the radio point of view. Mr. Farjeon's stories are fairly short and they are exciting, and they work up to a kind of O. Henry climax.

The first session will be on March 20.

Connection with New Zealand

Mr. Farjeon comes of a literary family, and he has an interesting connection with New Zealand, for his father, B. L. Farjeon, emigrated from England as a young man, tried his luck in the Australian diggings, and came over to Otago, where he was a leading figure in Dunedin journalism for some time. He wrote for the "Otago Daily Times." Returning to England, he kept up his literary work, and wrote many novels, among them the first serial published in the "Daily Mail."

The children have a strong artistic side. Jefferson, the writer of these stories that the NBS is about to broadcast, has written a number of novels, including several crime stories, and two or three plays. Eleanor, a sister, is well-known as a writer for children and grown-ups.

Success In Australia

BETTY WELCH IN RADIO



FROM Taupiri, in the Waikato, Betty Welch (above), went to Australia to make a success of a venture into the world of radio. Now her voice comes back to New Zealand, on records, in serials and features well known to New Zealand listeners.

The adult championship was hers at the Sydney Eisteddfod last August, and she won a radio contest in a strong field of 68 entrants. The competition covered speech through the microphone, drama, comedy, advertising announcing, news sight-reading, impromptu speaking.

With this behind her, Miss Welch accepted a contract with the George Edwards Company. She was Amelia in "Vanity Fair," Queen Mary in "The Birth of the British Nation," the name part in "The Woman in White," Ursula Debreth in "Dad and Dave," and the wife of Clive in "Clive of India," which had Warren Barry, of Wellington, as Clive.

Oscar Natzke Returns

ONCE a relief worker, blacksmith, country lad, Oscar Natzke has just returned to New Zealand from overseas experience which has placed him in the front rank of great bass singers.

He is tall, handsome, has a fine physique, a magnificent voice—everything that means success for a singer. Success is now coming to him after five years of apprenticeship with teachers overseas.

Arrangements have been made for him to broadcast from 2YA at 8.42 p.m. on Sunday, March 17, and at 9.25 p.m. on Tuesday, March 19. He will sing in New Zealand Centennial Festival programmes and later visit Australia, South Africa, and the Metropolitan Opera House, New York.

Oscar Natzke was born in Matapara, Waikato, 27 years ago. In 1922 his father died and he was set to blacksmithing. His parents had taken a private hotel on Waiheke Island in the Hauraki Gulf. Mrs. Natzke was proud of her son's voice. She herself played the violin and the organ. Then the depression came and young Natzke worked on relief. However, interest in his voice was attracted from Galli-Curci, John Brownlee, Mary Campbell. Finally Anderson Tyrer heard him and decided something must be done. An Auckland committee helped him to go to England and take up a Trinity College three years' scholarship. He worked hard, and his voice developed so astonishingly well that he was given an extra year. Additional tuition followed at Milan. Now he is back to begin in his homeland a career which has unlimited possibilities.

She is eighteen years of age. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Welch, have lived in the Waikato for sixteen years, but Betty was born at Lyall Bay, Wellington.