

A Run Through The Programmes



excuse for 4YA's broadcast of the Hon. W. Downie Stewart's talk on Mr. Massey. He will be discussing him as a leader, and listeners will think of Bill Massey in terms of the leadership he gave New Zealand from 1914-18 in circumstances which are now repeating themselves. The talk is scheduled for 7.45 p.m. on Friday, May 10.

Saga's End

In the first three operas of the "Ring of the Nibelungs," Wagner wove an immense plot, embracing dozens of small, colourful plots and scenes. With "The Twilight of the Gods," the last opera, the loose threads are gathered up and the huge fabric of legend and music is finished. Siegfried has his last adventure and dies, the ring is returned at last to the depths of the Rhine, and Brunnhilde rides into the flames of Siegfried's funeral pyre—the flames which destroy Valhalla and the old Gods. "The Twilight of the Gods" will be heard at 9.25 p.m. on Sunday, May 5, and Friday, May 10, from 3YA Christchurch.

Wrestling

As announced two weeks ago in *The Listener's* sports page, the NBS has again made arrangements for the broadcast of commentary on this season's wrestling matches. So far, only Wellington and Auckland have got going, with a group of wrestlers recently arrived from America. Soon the sport will be in full swing through New Zealand, with most of last year's stars re-appearing in spite of the war, and a good number of new men present to provide the interest of unknown quantities. No doubt listeners are already tuning their sets, and themselves, to the enjoyment of the vicarious thrills of crabs and locks and halches and dumps and tackles and jabs, sent safely through the ringside microphone. Next week, 1YA and 2YA will broadcast commentaries on Monday, and 3YA on Wednesday, at 9.25 p.m.

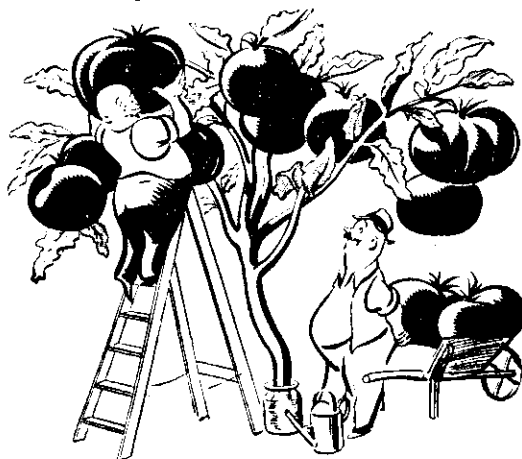
Composer's Centenary

Where nations are concerned, New Zealand's Centenary is probably the most important anniversary of the year. And in the world of music, the centenary of Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky similarly stands pre-eminent. Scores of people have made their first contact with Russian music through Tchaikovsky, who is undoubtedly one of the most popular classical composers. Perhaps it is because his music is emotional enough to appeal directly to nearly everyone. However you may feel about it, you will have an excellent chance

to become better acquainted with the composer's work on Sunday, May 5, for on that day, 2YA, Wellington will present programmes of his music in the afternoon as well as in the evening. Featured also are a talk on Tchaikovsky by Dr. Markham Lee, and a play, "The Marriage of Tchaikovsky."

Waters on Water

The date at the beginning of next week is May 6, and not April 1, so we have to accept as literal fact the 4YA programme announcement for 7.40 p.m. on that day. E. F. Waters, of the Department of Agriculture's Horti-



cultural Division, will discuss the technique of growing plants in water: "Hydroponics, or Soil-less Growth." Apart from this slight touch of humour, introduced by us in all modesty and with due apologies to Mr. Waters, abetted as you see by the artist, we find that the talk has possibilities of unusual interest. First, hydroponics by itself is an interesting subject. Second, the Department of Agriculture's views on this new method of growing plants will be interesting. Will they condemn it, praise it, or simply stay neutral?

Poor Everyman

If 1YA's programmes are to be believed, poor little Everyman is having a difficult time at present. The Auckland station has him (Thursday, May 9, 7.30 p.m.) looking at the map. With things as things are these days, we feel for him. He will not know whether the mapmaker has gone all cubist, or whether the night before was too close to the morning after. However, his observations usually manage to get to the root of the subject, and if the map remains constant long enough between the broadcast and his preparation for it, listeners will no doubt find the Winter Course as useful as usual.



SHORTWAVES

"TO John Smith . . . It is said that a man to whom a book is dedicated, always buys a copy. If this is true in this instance, a princely affluence is about to burst upon the author."—*Dedication by Mark Twain.*

At a producer's meeting in Hollywood, Samuel Goldwyn interrupted proceedings to say: "Gentlemen, for your information, I would like to ask a question."—"Cavalcade," *London.*

IN Paris it is rumoured that as Hitler was passing through a devastated Polish town, a dog bit him. The French comment: "Perhaps, but we're waiting to hear the dog's story."—"The Nation," *New York.*

WELL, I am professionally a man of imagination. I could invent the information. I could invent news to suit any event. And, what is more, the news I invented would be true. Or it would come true.—*G. B. Shaw, questioned by a London reporter whether he thought he would make a good executive for the Ministry of Information.*

ONE of the minor incidental credit-entries of the war is that walking is becoming possible in England. Even now our country roads are relatively cadless, the eye is not afflicted by the spectacle of pimply morons blasting by in sports models with their raddled odalisques, and the kindly if foolish horse is making an idyllic reappearance like a Test bowler rising from long sleep.—*D. B. Wyndham Lewis.*

ONE really surprising thing about ants . . . they keep pets. They keep small beetles and other little insects in their nests for the sake of sweet liquids that are produced by these creatures. When the ants move from their nests, they carry their pets away to their new home.—*Australian broadcaster.*

THE Persian or Assyrian wrote on sheets of soft clay with a piece of sharp stick. If it was a letter being written, he sprinkled it with sand and wrapped a second sheet of clay round it, and wrote the address on that. The sand prevented the envelope from sticking to the letter. Even then, it wasn't ready for the postman: it had to be baked hard in an oven. A smart tap broke open the envelope, and sometimes the letter as well.—*Talk on literature from 3AR, Melbourne.*