



Spencer Digby photograph
ETTA BERNARD

Australian Singer

IF you were tuned in to 2YA Wellington on July 7, or July 10, you may have heard in the evening programme an Australian singer, Miss Etta Bernard. Miss Bernard (who is, in private life, Mrs. R. S. Searle, of Melbourne), arrived the other day with her small daughter, Avril, from England, where since 1934 she has been doing concert work and broadcasting almost continuously, with the exception of a tour of Australia in 1938.

Petite, bright-eyed, with a pleasant voice and a charming smile, Miss Bernard seemed to have successfully eluded the cares and worries of the war-torn hemisphere; in fact she gave the impression, in an interview with *The Listener*, that it would take much to defeat her native optimism. When she spoke of life to-day in England, she mentioned more the humorous and lighter sides, rather than the intense peril which daily threatens English men, women and children.



G. W. JOHNSTONE, L.R.S.M., President of the Music Teachers' Association (Otago Branch), and a fine baritone, is one of a number of local artists who will be singing under the auspices of the Association from 4YA at 8 p.m. on Monday, July 22. Olive Campbell and Mary Frazer on two pianos are to open the programme with Saint-Saens' "Scherzo," and other artists are Meda Paine (soprano), Ethel Wallace (violin), Mavis Macdonald (piano), and Alfred Walmsley (tenor).

PEOPLE IN THE PROGRAMMES

Miss Bernard's fine contralto voice won her many engagements in England. In 1936 she sang with the British Opera Company at Covent Garden during its season.

The highlight of her experiences at Home was when she sang at the Coronation, representing Australia.

When Miss Bernard left London (alone, for Mr. Searle has stayed behind to join the Air Force if he is able), the Germans were nearing Calais. During the voyage, many tragic things happened, but the actual journey was very quiet. There were moments of sadness and pathos, moments of excitement. Leaving two days earlier than scheduled—"everything was very hush-hush"—the ship proceeded down the Channel.

Wrecks could be seen from time to time. Two hours after the ship left, the Channel was heavily bombed.

Yes, gas masks were not very comfortable, said Miss Bernard. For her little daughter, there was a "Mickey Mouse" gas mask, painted in bright royal blue and red. Many of the London children took to the masks as new toys.

She will be glad to be back home again, and hopes to do a tour of the stations in Australia soon.

Radio Player Judges Drama

FINALS of the Auckland Provincial Centennial Drama Festival were judged this month by May MacDonald, of Napier, whose photograph has already appeared in *The Listener* as a member of the cast of the Hector Bolitho radio play "Victoria and Disraeli," in which she took the part of the Queen.

Miss MacDonald is one of the leading personalities in the theatre of New Zealand. She has been connected with the theatre since she was fourteen years of age. She was for four years dramatic mistress at the Nelson School of Music, Nelson College, and the Nelson Girls' College. She was appointed dramatic mistress at the Napier Technical College

in 1928. Three years later she founded the Napier Repertory Players and has since produced forty-nine one-act plays and fourteen either full-length plays or musical shows. Under her direction the Napier Repertory Players have five times been the winners of the Hawke's Bay Festival in the annual competition of the British Drama League. On one occasion they won the New Zealand Final with their production of "300th Per-



Green & Hahn photograph
T. D. LENNIE, of Christchurch, is the man behind 3YA's weekly gardening talks



THE STOKES BANJO BAND (above) which played this week from 4YA (Wednesday, July 17), is a combination of fretted-instrument enthusiasts originally brought together by the late H. O. Stokes, widely known as a teacher of stringed instruments, and is now carried on by Oliver W. Stokes, his son. They have appeared regularly at 4YA since the original broadcasting company controlled the station, and once appeared at a 4YA celebrity concert with such artists as Senia Chostiaff and Paul Vinogradoff. Members aim to play only the best music composed for their instruments

Plant Specialist

DR. J. E. HOLLOWAY, who gave the talk on the improvement of utility plants in 4YA's series, "Modern Trends in Scientific Thought," on Tuesday last, July 16, is Lecturer in Charge of the Botany Department at Otago University.

Dr. Holloway has been Lecturer in Botany at the University of Otago since 1924. He has a Doctorate of Science Degree (N.Z.), and in 1937 became a Fellow of the Royal Society. He won the Royal Society's Hutton Memorial Medal in 1920 and in 1930 the Hector



MAY MacDONALD

formance," and were second the year that the Winchenden Players from Auckland won with "Jael." She is also experienced in adjudicating. Miss MacDonald has taken part in twelve radio plays produced by the National Broadcasting Service.

The elimination series in the Auckland Provincial Festival was judged by Margaret Barr. Miss Barr is a recent arrival from London, and has much to contribute to the cultural life of Auckland, and indeed New Zealand. She was a pupil of Martha Graham, probably the foremost dancer of the day in the United States, and of the San Francisco Theatre School, conducted by Maurice Brown. Later she was for five years at Dartington Hall, the estate at Totnes (in Devonshire), which has been the centre of a remarkable experiment in rural reconstruction and in the provision of recreation for people in their leisure hours. It is the hope of the Auckland Drama Council that the necessary arrangements will shortly be completed to permit Miss Barr to commence classes in movement, that branch of stage work in which she has a specialised knowledge.



Green & Hahn photograph
L. R. R. DENNY, Boys' Vocational Guidance Officer in Christchurch, who opened the series of talks arranged by the Christchurch Youth Centre for Station 3YA. The next is to be given at 7.35 p.m. on Friday, July 26

Memorial Medal for research in New Zealand botany. This year he is President of the Royal Society in New Zealand.