



# THINGS TO COME

## A Run Through The Programmes



**T**HE Drama Department of the NBS have been attacked by the "hush-hush" bug which is so prevalent just now. They're being very secretive about a new radio character who will shortly be heard on the air. His name is Mr. Meek, and as far as we can gather he's all that a radio character ought to be and a bit more than any other member of his tribe. A dropped hint which we've picked up leads us to believe that this Mr. Meek is, or was, an antique dealer who keeps, or used to keep, a little shop in Chelsea, or it may have been some other place. Anyway, he'll be on the air before very long.

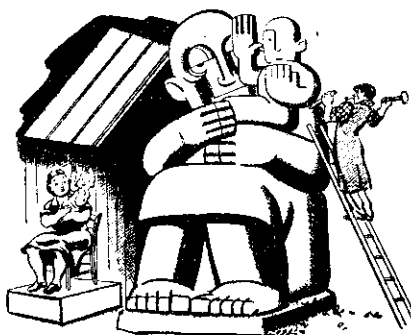
### Marguerites Meet

Seated in His Majesty's Theatre, Auckland, on the opening night of "Faust" early in June, was one of England's greatest sopranos, Lisa Perli, better known to listeners as Dora Labbette. She was accompanying Sir Thomas Beecham to Australia where they are now touring under the auspices of the ABC. Both soprano and conductor were pleased to renew acquaintance with Andersen Tyrer, the principals and the leader of the orchestra, and it was on this occasion that Sir Thomas conducted the middle act of "Faust." As "Marguerite" is now one of Dora Labbette's roles she was naturally interested in

Isobel Baillie's performance. Her new stage name, Lisa Perli, derives from her birthplace, Purley, in Surrey. Dora Labbette accompanied Sir Thomas Beecham to Australia, but, by way of a change, Sir Thomas Beecham will accompany Dora Labbette in a recording of Delius songs at 3YA on Monday, August 19.

### The Artistic Eye

Laymen often wonder why artists sometimes paint green fields with vermilion oil, put pink trees behind yellow river scenes, and such like. But this is Art, something not-to-be explained. Artists see life through varicoloured glasses, sculptors see it through prisms not usually available from ordinary opticians. Epstein, for instance, when he



wanted to depict Adam, chipped out a huge and ugly block of stone which seemed to a lot of people very much like the sort of artistry Adam himself might have produced. Some clue to this hiatus between the vision of the layman and the vision of the artist may be given in a talk from 3YA at 7.32 p.m. on Wednesday August 21, when F. A. Shurrock and L. H. Booth will discuss "Things as Seen by a Sculptor."

### So Plus U.S.A.

"A march," said John Philip Sousa, "should make a man with a wooden leg step out." His own works are indeed invigorating and stirring enough to make any cripple forget his crutches. Sousa, who derived his name from adding U.S.A. to the family name of So, lived in a period of virile American nationalism, and his marches have a boyish spirit of optimism and *joie de vivre* blended with a strong vein of patriotism that have kept bandmen playing them for the last half-century. Two of his best marches are "Stars and Stripes Forever," and "Semper Fidelis," and listeners to 1YA Auckland on Tuesday evening, August 20, will hear both of these played by the Boston Promenade Orchestra at 8 p.m. and 8.56 p.m.

### Animals and Man

Away back after the last ice-age, when the shores of lakes which are now the Mediterranean Sea were populated by neolithic peoples, Man first became aware of the possible uses of the animals. At first they were used mainly for warlike purposes. Then the more practical Aryans of Central Europe discovered that beasts could be used as instruments of tillage and made to draw crude waggon. So the story has gone on from

century to century. Now Man is no longer content to make use of the animals as he finds them. He must tamper with their biology, force their evolution to his own designs. The past, present, and future of the science of animal breeding will be discussed from 3YA in a series of talks beginning on Thursday, August 22, at 7.35 p.m.

### A Bit o' Love

Old ideas die hard and the NBS seems determined to keep alive the one about Spring and the young man's fancy. Anyway, you'll be hearing "A Bit o' Love" on the air from 3YA Christchurch on Sunday, August 18, at 9.15 p.m. Don't think you're going to hear a course on how to make love in three easy lessons—it's nothing like that at all. It's a play by the famous English dramatist, John Galsworthy, which has been especially adapted for radio and produced by the NBS. The play was originally produced in London in 1915 with such well-known players in the cast as Madge McIntosh, William Armstrong, and Harvey Adams, whom we have seen over here in Australian companies often enough.

### Take a Breather

Designed as soothing accompaniment to the morning ritual in most women's lives of a "cuppa" and a "bitta," the new series of talks by Mary Scott (of "Backblocks Diary" fame) should make many a dusty, harassed matron and wife take a breather from her domestic labours. The general title of the series is "The Morning Spell," and it will be presented from 2YA Wellington on



Saturday mornings. No need for us to remind you about Mary Scott—she is already well-known by her books, radio talks, and articles, many of which have appeared in *The Listener*. Through this new series, mixed with pleasant chatter, runs a vein of philosophy, a sage, homely commentary on many things, large and small. The first of the series will be presented at 10.45 a.m. on Saturday, August 24; it is called "Take Down a Book."

### General and Lover

The Churchills are on the air—and we don't mean from Daventry! The NBS is at present featuring the romantic story of Winston Churchill's famous ancestor, John, first Duke of Marlborough. Few of us realise, perhaps, that England's present Prime Minister had an equally celebrated ancestor who was famous for his battles, his wife, and his fortune. In his day, John Churchill was Britain's greatest military genius; he

never lost a battle; he married a brilliant woman who was "as beautiful at sixty as she was at twenty"; and he was England's first millionaire. The life of such a man is worth listening to—you will hear it from 2YA Wellington on Wednesday, August 21, at 9.15 p.m.

### Handel in Coromandel

Handel, that lion-like figure in the English musical world of the eighteenth century, seems always to have appealed to writers, and several prominent men of letters have mentioned him as their favourite composer—among them being Samuel Butler. Osbert Sitwell has asserted in a poem that:

*On the coast of Coromandel  
Dance they to the tunes of Handel...*

*How they hate the turkey-trot,  
The nautch-dance and the Highland  
fling,  
Just as they will never sing  
Any music save by Handel  
On the coast of Coromandel!*

A Handel "Sarabande with Variations for Violin and Viola," arranged by Halvorsen, will be played at 8.46 p.m. on Wednesday, August 21, from 1YA Auckland.

## STATIC

**A** GOSSIP-WRITER mentions that he got up at dawn the other day just to see the sun rise. He could not have chosen a better time.

**NOTE:** The length of "The Man They Could Not Hang" has been altered from 5,760ft. to 6,198ft.—*British Film Institute Bulletin*.

Well, at least he's been stretched!

**PATIENT:** Is the doctor in? **Nurse:** No, he's gone out for lunch. **Patient:** Will he be in after lunch? **Nurse:** No, that's what he went out after.

**TELL** her that time stands still when you look into her eyes, and she'll adore you; but try telling her that her face would stop a clock!

**A NATURALIST** has discovered a deep-sea fish that sinks to the bottom of the ocean on the approach of an enemy. It sounds to us like a scuttlefish.

**A GERMAN** naval commander who sank a British ship recently got no credit for the feat whatever. The poor bloke clean forgot that Goebbels had sunk it already.

## SHORTWAVES

"I CAN see that countries where high ideals are preached but not practised are at least better off than countries in which low ideals are both preached and practised."—*James Hilton*.

**GREAT** men are never precipitate. They often look as though they were going to be too late.—*J. L. Garvin*.

**THE** British nation can defeat anyone except the British Civil Service. Red tape still binds the giant and keeps the strength of the giant at half its full power.—*Beverly Baxter, M.P.*

**THE** cult of correct departmental procedure may be unobjectionable in times of peace; it is more deadly than any Fifth Column in total warfare.—*"New Statesman."*

**I** KNOW there are some infamous cowards who reproach Belgium for having defended herself. But Belgium lives, and will live—because she rejected that ignoble deal. If she had accepted, she would have been dead for all time. Long live Belgium.—*Mussolini (in 1914)*.