

"AN HOUR WITH THE BOYS OVERSEAS"

New NBS Programme Scheduled

SO great has been the public interest in the messages from the New Zealand Broadcasting Unit in the Middle East, expressed in telephone calls, letters, and telegrams after every broadcast, that the NBS has decided to extend the programme, and, commencing from Sunday morning next, February 9, the present divisions will be consolidated into a feature entitled "With the Boys Overseas," from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. from all national stations every Sunday.

A radio magazine would be a fitting description for the new programme. It will include personal messages from the troops, the sports talk by Captain J. S. King, descriptive broadcasts of the life of the troops (until now given on Monday evenings at 7.30), and a whole new range of material as well.

First of all, the title of this programme has been changed from "With the New Zealand Forces in the Middle East" to "With the Boys Overseas," as the new

Another feature will be of great help to mothers, sisters, and sweethearts listening for personal messages. At the beginning of the programme, the local announcer will read out (as accurately as the information in the possession of the NBS allows) the names of men who have sent personal messages, and also the names of the people he has called. The messages themselves will be broadcast later, thus allowing listeners to contact anyone who may be interested.

This method of reading out names beforehand was tried on a recent Sunday morning, but cases have been reported to the NBS of disappointment owing to the fact that the messages were read too soon afterwards. The method now suggested will overcome that difficulty.

The personal messages will be repeated again on the following Tuesday night at 10.40 as at present, so that relatives and friends who did not catch the whole message the first time can hear it again. The NBS continues to receive requests from all over New Zealand asking for a repetition of messages, but this would take up too much time. The proposed careful planning should give listeners plenty of warning, and then two opportunities of listening.



"THAT WAS A GOOD TRY!"—Captain J. S. King, well-known N.Z. sports commentator, watches a football match from the side-line

programme will include items from the troops in England, as recorded by the BBC, snippets from BBC programmes such as "Calling New Zealand," and, where possible, extracts from diaries and letters that have been sent back to New Zealand. The reading of extracts from letters and diaries will be the only method possible of presenting the story of some of the men.

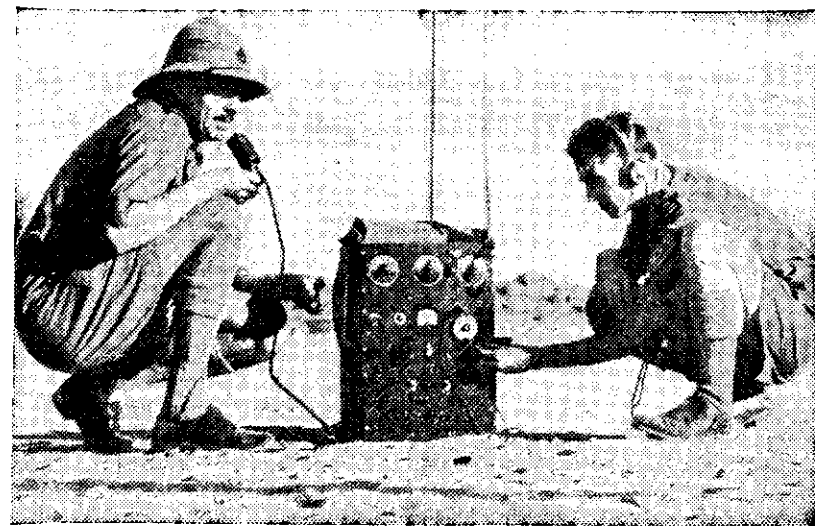
A feature of the programme is that it will consist wholly of material from the troops. The music used to link up different parts of the programme will be songs sung by the men in Egypt. The introductory theme song will be that used at present for the Monday night programme, "Sons of the Anzacs." This was recorded some time ago at Trentham Camp by the Trentham Military Band, with a chorus sung by men in camp at that time.

MALE VOICE CHOIR WORKS FROM 2YA

MUSICAL forces are combining at 2YA on Tuesday, February 11, to produce two important works for soloists, male choir and orchestra, i.e., "Alto Rhapsody" by Brahms, and "The Desert" by David. The combined NBS String and the 2YA Concert Orchestras, together with the Wellington Apollo Singers, will be directed by Andersen Tyrer. The soloists are Molly Atkinson, contralto, and Heddle Nash, tenor, and Professor James Shelley will be the narrator for "The Desert."

Brahms was very fond of his "Alto Rhapsody." We are told that he used to sleep with it under his pillow, though that certainly sounds unlike the Brahms we are accustomed to think of. It is a beautiful setting for alto voice, men's chorus, and orchestra, of a fragment from Goethe's narrative of a winter journey in the Harz mountains.

Five years' travel in the Orient gave Felicien David a thorough acquaintance with the music of the East, a collection of original Oriental melodies, and powerful impressions that exerted a lasting influence on his imagination. Six years after his return to Paris he succeeded in getting his ode-symphony—"The Desert"—performed at a Conservatoire concert. This work is really a musical record of the noble impressions of his Oriental journey.



ON THE JOB, "somewhere in Egypt": Doug Laurensen (Observer-Commentator), with Norman Johnston (Assistant Engineer) of the New Zealand Broadcasting Unit

CBS PLAYWRITING CONTEST

Auckland Girl Placed First

THE playwriting contest on the subject "There'll Always be an England" recently conducted by the Commercial Broadcasting Service, has been won by Marie Conlan, of 5 Sharpe Road, Epsom, Auckland, who will receive the first prize of 25 guineas. The second prize of ten guineas

programme complete in one quarter-hour episode; some submitted programmes of 13 episodes.

The judges were C. G. Scrimgeour, controller of the CBS, W. Elliott, who is in charge of production, Bryan O'Brien, assistant production supervisor, and O. N. Gillespie. They had little difficulty in awarding the first prize to Miss Conlan.

Miss Conlan did not make the mistake of "larding" her 13-episode play with patriotic sentiment to the point of spoiling it for radio entertainment. Her theme was the part played by many bloodless and peaceful revolutions in English history. The episodes are: "The Story of Caractacus the King," "Alfred the Great," "Simon de Montfort," "When Elizabeth was Queen," "Oliver Cromwell," "The Story of St. Paul's," "The Story of Edward Jenner," "Elizabeth Fry," "The Tolpuddle Martyrs," "The Story of Ali Singh," "The Story of Captain Oates," "The Unknown Soldier," and "The Story of Our Time."

Miss McDonagh's play, also of 13 episodes, is mainly concerned with the imperialist development of the British people. Mr. Baird's 15-minute play was refreshingly original, consisting of a Socratic dialogue between voices representing the characters Reason, Cynic, Pessimist, Bewildered, Patriot and another voice which plays the part of a Greek chorus.

One of the main points stressed by the judges is that entrants generally had far too little knowledge of the requirements of radio presentation. Writers who intend trying their hand at radio serials should, they suggest, listen carefully to established successes such as "Easy Aces," "The Lost Empire," "Cavalcade of Drama," and "It's a Great Life." One obvious point to remember was that as soon as the cast grew to more than four or five people it was difficult both to follow the story and to distinguish the speakers.

Miss Conlan's entry will probably be heard over the air in the near future.



MARIE CONLAN
The judges had little difficulty

was won by Miss P. McDonagh of Wellington, and the third prize (five guineas) by F. Baird of Auckland. There are ten consolation prizes of one guinea each.

A satisfactory number of entries was received but it was obvious that many contestants suffered from lack of knowledge of the requirements of radio technique. However, there were many usable scripts.

Only the subject of the contest was specified, entrants for the rest being given wide scope. Some wrote a pro-