English Conductor Sums Up After Visit To N.Z.

(Continued from previous page)

"On a first hearing, perhaps he doesn't like the tune; or the 'tonality' is beyond him. The rhythmic interest alone holds his attention. Take William Walton; though you may not like him, he has such vitality and rhythmic energy that his music doesn't leave the listener like the swimmer without a life-

"But some listeners may never get past their first stage of continuing to listen just out of enjoyment. Even so, I playing the overture, but I had a feeldon't think contemporary music ought ing that they didn't quite realise just to be 'explained' at a first hearing. As I say, the listener should just concern himself with whether the sound of it pleases him. Even Schonberg, I think, can be listened to on this basis."

A New Zealand Composer

Asked about New Zealand composers, Mr. Matthews said that he had found Douglas Lilburn very interesting. Here you have a composer, undoubtedly of great talent. His music is full of ideas, though naturally it is also full of Vaughan Williams, his teacher, and Sibelius is there, too. But Lilburn has something to say, and it is good that he is following two very good composers.

"A New Zealand musician told me, by the way, that when he was in Eng-

diately felt he was back in New Zealand, because there was something in the music that seemed to belong to the New Zealand landscape. So maybe the presence of Sibelius in Lilburn's scoring is right and proper."

"For an early work, the Concert Overture shows enormous promise. Both my wife and I think it far ahead of anything being done anywhere by men of Lilburn's age. The 1YA Orchestra liked how good it was."

Broadcasting Alone Not Enough

Mr. Matthews added that he hoped Lilburn would some day have the opportunity of trying out his work in actual performance. "When I think of what it must have meant to Haydn to be able to play his music straight away with an orchestra, and how Sibelius must have benefited from having the chance to hear all his music, I hope Lilburn will get a chance like that. A composer must hear his music as it sounds in the orchestra; it is very different from what he hears in his head."

Mr. Matthews ended by saying that the musical future of New Zealand

land, he heard some Sibelius and imme- rested with the Broadcasting Service; since there could never be enough private money available to establish and foster orchestras. But broadcasting alone was not sufficient. "Music must be taken to the people," and that meant a permanent State orchestra able to go on

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SCIENCE OR SUPERSTITION?

S science purely the business of the Talks from Auckland, entitled "Recent university and the research laboratory, or is it part and parcel of the community? We all accept it as part of the community insofar as we all share in the fruits of scientific research-such as the radio we listen to, the heater that warms us (especially when our chimneys are shaken down), the neatly permed head of hair, and so on. These are aspects of science which we accept and pay for but probably understand hardly at all. Should we and can we go beyond this?

Obviously we cannot all become scientific experts, as we can become experts at growing outsize marrows or mending bathroom taps. We may, of course, add a good deal to our usefulness by increasing our scientific knowledge of everyday things. But the greatest value of a scientific outlook is that it teaches us to reason rather than to believe blindly. Our faith in pills for our livers or in artificial manures for our gardens may be almost as superstitious as was our forebears' faith in witches' elixirs or fertility rites. We are still apt to believe statements that cannot have any scientific foundation, such as "When the moon turns on its back we shall have rain," or "It is earthquaky weather." The great value of science and a scientific training is not that it has made life more comfortable or safe (well, hardly!), but that it teaches you to observe, and to believe only what you have observed.

Yet, while most would agree that a greater knowledge of science and scientific methods is desirable, it is not so easy to see just how this can be achieved. So the new Winter Course

are to be Advances in Science.' welcomed. The series will cover many branches of science: chemistry, botany, biology, physics, pharmacy and geology; and the speakers will be L. H. Briggs. L. H. Millener, N. G. Stephenson, F. H. Sagar, E. J. Sarle, all of Auckland University College, and W. K. Hounsell, practising dispenser. The first talk, on "Advances in Chemistry," by Mr. Briggs, will be on Thursday evening July 23.

PESTS

(By WHIM-WHAM)

"Rabbits gained the upper hand during the last war, and if they get away again the country will be eaten out."—Stuart Dixon, at a meeting of the Waimate Farmers' Union.

SINGLE Rabbit in a Hutch, A SINGLE RADDII in a natural Or spotted on a country Road, Does not seem capable of such Behaviour as to incommode

The human Species, or to make The Economic Structure shake;

A ND yet Brer Rabbit, soft and small, A ND yet Bier Rabons, sort and And seemingly so innocent, Can ruin Pastures, roots and all, When he becomes a Regiment—Presenting as he multiplies, A Menace of prodigious Size.

UST so, I fancy you'll agree, A single Fascist would appear;
One solitary Hitler, we
Would have no Cause to hate or tear,
(Though doubtless we should find his habits
Less captivating than the Rabbit's).

HE Mischiel's when a single Will, With all its uncommitted Crimes,
Its negligible Power for III,
Is multiplied a million Times,
And Rank on Rank its Robots come
All marching to that single Drum!