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# THINGS TO COME

## A Run Through The Programmes

### MONDAY

**GARDENERS** — especially the lazy ones—should listen to Dr. Lai-Yung Li's talk from 1YA on Monday, October 11, at 7.15 p.m., since there is a chance at least that he will tell them not to waste time and energy on useless hoeing. His subject "Some Problems of Soil Moisture," is of course wide enough for anything—for ditching and draining for example, or for irrigation, and he may therefore be no comfort at all to the slothful. But the old idea that the more we hoe the more moisture we conserve is not quite as well founded as it used to be, if we may believe a report cabled a few months ago from Rothamstead. Instead of telling us that hoeing conserves moisture by closing off the minute tubes through which water is always trying to come to the surface, the authorities now say that the water does not behave like that at all—that it can't rise to the surface, except from a few inches below, and that the roots of plants go very much deeper than any hoe ever penetrates. It is true that they say it with some qualifications; but they do say it, and if you hate hoeing, don't waste any more energy until you know whether Dr. Li holds with these new ideas or resists them.

Also worth notice:

2YA, 8.4 p.m.: Sonata in B Minor (Liszt).  
3YA, 9.25 p.m.: Haydn Trio No. 6 (studio).  
4YA, 8.0 p.m.: Royal Dunedin Male Choir.

### TUESDAY

**THE** appearance in the programmes of new recording of Gustav Mahler's First Symphony will be welcomed by the group of listeners, necessarily small, who lament that Mahler's music seems comparatively unknown in this country. Lack of leisure for composition led the young conductor to dash off symphonic fragments in the shape of songs with orchestral accompaniment, and he chose two of these as the nucleus of the principal movements of his First Symphony. He conducted the first performance himself in 1889, and according to an American biographer it proved a dismal failure; so he "shelved the symphony and turned back to operatic conducting which he now hated, as though it were an enforced slavery." The new recording (by the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Dmitri Mitropoulos) will be heard from 2YA at 8.0 p.m. on Tuesday, October 12.

Also worth notice:

1YX, 8.8 p.m.: "Emperor" Concerto (Bee-thoven).  
3YL, 8.22 p.m.: Quartet in G Minor (Brahms).  
4YO, 9.0 p.m.: Quintet for Piano and Strings (Bloch).

### WEDNESDAY

**SOMEONE** in ancient Greece said that man needed but a loaf of bread and a narcissus—the one, food for the body, the other, food for the soul. Omar Khayyam, you may remember, gave us a rather different and possibly more exciting recipe for happiness beneath the bough. We are reminded of the Greek saying by the title of Miss Helen Longford's talk from 1YA on Wednesday, October 13, at 7.15 p.m. "Loaves and Lilies," especially as it is concerned with poets. Miss Longford is one of the few New Zealanders who have done something for poetry. She used to edit the

*New Zealand Mercury*, a journal devoted to verse. In this talk she will tell us something about her experiences in the literary world and possibly say something about the relationship between the flowers of verse and the grocer's bill.

Also worth notice:

2YC, 8.0 p.m.: Symphony by E. J. Moeran.  
3YA, 7.15 p.m.: New Zealand Writing (talk).  
4YO, 8.0 p.m.: Symphony No. 6 (Atterburg).

### THURSDAY

**THE** name of Vinci, appearing beside a flute sonata to be heard from station 2YH at 8.51 p.m. on Thursday, October



"Some Problems of Soil Moisture": 1YA, Monday, October 11, 7.15 p.m.

14, may catch the reader's eye as it caught ours, and make him wonder whether this could be Leonardo, the famous painter, engineer, and architect. He may ask himself whether the painter of the enigmatic smile of the Mona Lisa also mastered the cadences of the key of D minor. Did the designer of the first tank and of the first submarine also amuse himself with the prattle of flute and harpsichord? No, he didn't. This is Leonardo Vinci right enough; but the more famous, more versatile genius was Leonardo da Vinci, and though he sang, and played the flute, and improved the design of the viol, he was not the composer of the Sonata in D Minor, which Rene Le Roy and Yella Pessl will play.

Also worth notice:

1YX, 8.0 p.m.: Contemporary British Music.  
3ZR, 8.0 p.m.: Quartet in E Minor (Bee-thoven).  
4YA, 9.25 p.m.: Symphony No. 5 (Bee-thoven).

### FRIDAY

**MANY** of the momentous happenings in the course of man's destiny have been recorded for posterity by the number of days of their duration. We read of the six days of the Creation, the 40 days of the Flood; of the 100 days between Napoleon's escape from Elba and the Battle of Waterloo, of the 220 days of the Siege of Mafeking; of the crucial 10 days of the Russian revolution, when the whole world waited in suspense for the outcome. And then, of course, there is the "nine days' wonder"—a saying which came into circulation in Elizabethan times, when Will Kemp, Shakespearean actor, did a Morris dance from London to Norwich through February and into March of 1600, a feat which has earned nine days a permanent place in history. And history is still being made. One hundred and sixty-three days will go down to posterity as

the siege and victory of Stalingrad. On Friday, October 15, at 8.15, 2YA will present a BBC recorded programme entitled "163 Days," in which the story is told in dramatic form by German, Russian, and British speakers, of the Battle of Stalingrad and the complete defeat of Von Paulos's huge army. This programme was originally broadcast to listeners in the British Isles on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Russian army.

Also worth notice:

1YA, 8.0 p.m.: "Voyages and Adventures" (Readings).  
3YA, 8.0 p.m.: Christchurch Ladies' Choir.  
4YA, 9.33 p.m.: Readings on Cricket.

### SATURDAY

**ABOUT** 50 years ago the European orchestral composer's ambition was to write for a vast force of performers which he believed was in proportion to the stature of his ideas. Gustav Mahler, for example (see paragraph headed Tuesday), typified the tendency, and a good deal of the listener's impression of Mahler's eighth Symphony may have come from seeing the multitude of performers, choirs and instrumentalists taking part. To-day more and more composers write for the string orchestra, and the popularity with the English of the more economical medium may have something to do with their slow response to the grandiloquent style. From Parry, through Elgar, Vaughan Williams, and Bridge to Bliss and Benjamin Britten there are works for strings that emphasise the contrast. Frank Bridge's *Suite for Strings*, a fairly recent addition to the list, will be heard from 4YZ at 9.28 on Saturday, October 16.

Also worth notice:

1YA, 8 p.m.: Kiwi Concert Party.  
2YC, 9 p.m.: Concerto No. 2 (Chopin).  
3YL, 8 p.m.: Music by Elgar.

### SUNDAY

**"PIPE** Dream" to be heard from 2YC on Sunday, October 17, at 8 p.m. is a fantasy based on the story of the Pied Piper of Hamelin. The action takes place in modern Germany where the Nazi leaders are more feared than the plague. Then, mysteriously, the chief tyrants begin to disappear, and alarm sweeps through the ranks of those remaining. The secret of their disappearance is finally discovered to be—well, listen in to 2YC on Sunday evening, October 17 at 8.0 p.m. "Pipe Dream" is the work of J. Wilson Hogg, who has several plays to his credit, of which his first won a prize in a New Zealand competition. Though he comes from Wellington, Mr. Hogg is at present teaching in New South Wales.

Also worth notice:

1YA, 3.30 p.m.: Symphony No. 2 (Brahms).  
3YA, 8.15 p.m.: 3YA String Orchestra.  
4YA, 9.22 p.m.: "Boris Godounov" (Moussorgsky).

### ARMY EDUCATION PROGRAMME

**IN** co-operation with the Army Education and Welfare Service (known to every serviceman and woman as A.E.W.S.), Station 2ZA, Palmerston North, is broadcasting a very popular request session for the Forces on Friday evenings at 8.35. An important extension of this programme is now under way, taking the form of a Combined Forces' session, which will include special concerts, plays, and other forms of entertainment and education by members of the Armed Forces, under the joint supervision of the A.E.W.S. and 2ZA.