

NEWS OF BROADCASTERS,
ON AND OFF THE RECORD
By *Swarf*

SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT

"YANKEE DOODLE" is a burlesque song to a very gay little tune, and it was used by the British troops in derision of the revolutionary colonial soldiers of North America. Then it was adopted by the revolutionists for their own purposes. Its history is vague, both as to words and melody. Rubinstein wrote variations on the tune which he inscribed to the American pianist William Mason — and himself played them at his farewell concert in New York. Paderewski, unaware of this, was also in the middle of writing variations on it, and with the kindly intention of attaching the same dedication when he heard from Mason that "Yankee Doodle" was written by an Englishman "in derision of us" and tactfully dropped the project.

of playing concertos from memory, because he feels that the pianist has to concentrate so intensely upon remembering the entire work that he cannot let himself go sufficiently to produce a really brilliant, spontaneous interpretation.

Note: Photographs of the other pianists you mention will be published if space permits.

GERALD COX, a young Yorkshireman, is the author and speaker of two talks to be broadcast by 2XN Nelson on the two next TALKS FROM Wednesdays at 8.45 NELSON p.m. The first "The Pied Piper and the Circus Boy" came from a chance meeting with a former circus hand; the second "The Sleepy Island" is about Stewart Island and, I'm told, it will probably find a place in a book Cox is writing about his hitch-hike round the world.

"CONCERT LOVER" (Akaroa) asks for the meaning of virtuoso "as applied to a musician."

The Concise Oxford Dictionary gives "Person with special knowledge of or taste for works of art or virtue; person skilled in the mechanical part of a fine art." In English usage THE VIRTUOSO the former part of this definition was the more in force during the 18th Century and the latter part is the more in force at present, with a special application to music, which now rather tends to monopolise the term, says Percy Scholes. There is a general inclination on the part of the public to value virtuosity for its own sake whereas it is, properly, a means to an end. The reward of the instrumental virtuoso in glory and cash is beyond that of any other honest profession (except that of the prima donna). In the late 1890's Paderewski made a record by returning from an American tour with a net gain of £46,000, but after the First World War he made in



FOR some time Station 2XA Wanganui has presented at Christmas a Hospital Request Session in which the patients at the Wanganui Hospital have, through tape recordings, selected and announced their favourite pieces in recorded music. Now listeners in and out of hospital in the Wanganui district are hearing on Tuesdays, at 8.0 p.m., Hospital Hit Parade. Each of the four programmes in this weekly series is contributed by a different ward and each is compered by a nurse from that ward. The patients select eight tunes from a list of 30 currently or recently popular tunes and the order in which they fall is determined by the number of patients who vote for them. When the idea was put to the patients and staff they were enthusiastic and so were the nurses who take over the announcer's duties for half an hour each week. The nurse in the photograph above is Suzanne Marris and the technician is Brian Infield

two years £208,000, and it was stated that the pianist Hofmann, the violinists Heifetz and Kreisler, and the singers Galli-Curci, Schumann Heink, McCormack and Chaliapin were about that time scratching along equally well.

VIVienne CHATTERTON has been broadcasting for the BBC since 1929, and her voice is known to a very large number of people in Britain, particularly listeners to a daily broadcast serial, Mrs. Dale's Diary. People anxious to see what she is really like SEEING IS are always asking her to BELIEVING open bazaars, garden fetes and other functions. Vivienne, who is said to give as good a performance away from the microphone as before it, always starts her speech with the same story. She likens herself to the ordinary little man staggering under the burden of taxation who once went into the Inland Revenue Offices and wandered about. An official asked if there was anything he wanted. "No thank you, not at all," said the little man, "I just wanted to see the people I work for." "And that's how I feel amongst you," says Vivienne. "I like to come and see the people I'm working for."

WHEN anchor-swallowing time approaches, seafarers — particularly master mariners it's said — start to hanker for the agricultural life. How much of that is true I don't know, but one young mariner, Bruce Broadhead, didn't wait to become a master. His sea-going career began as a cadet in the Merchant Navy in 1945 and ended a few months later. Soon afterwards he went to Canterbury Agricultural College, Lincoln, and in 1950 he



BRUCE BROADHEAD
Once he was a sailor

took his Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Science. For three years he worked on a variety of farms in both the South and North Islands and then went back to Lincoln as assistant lecturer in rural education. This involved among other things organising extension activities, including broadcasting, and he gave a number of talks on farming subjects. Bruce Broadhead also investigated farm labour problems in Springs County, Canterbury; this meant interviews with about 200 farmers and farm workers. Now he has been appointed Programme Officer (Rural Broadcasts) at Auckland. His hobbies are music, literature, yachting, climbing and old cars.

[T has been reported that Kirsten Flagstad, famous Wagnerian soprano, recently permitted Elisabeth Schwarzkopf to substitute for her own voice on two high C's in a recording of *Tristan and Isolde*.

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