



## Open Microphone

'N those days I went under my stage name of Will Henry. I used to write scripts for three voices and play them all myself—a straight part, a comic Irishman, and a Rochester-type Negro. But I didn't like radio work then. To stand up on your own in a studio and be funny without an audience is difficult. I'm an audience man. You've got to build on your laughs and learn to handle an audience." Bill



BILL ENTWISTLE A fisherman, too

Entwistle, who is leaving at the end of the month with the Sixth Korea Conas its compère and comedian, was telling The Listener the other day something about

MAN his twenty years in the enter-tainment business. Like the other members of the party, which was described in The Listener last week, he has had long experience of camp concert work. During the war he was with the George Miller shows which gave concerts mainly in American camps in and around Wellington. But lately he has also become a familiar face at Waiouru and Linton, where he has compèred a number of the 2YA Camp Concerts broadcast in the series Troops at Ease.

Bill is proud of his record as an entertainer, especially as he is self-taught. He is a juggler and a tap-dancer, and he can also play two instruments at once -the mouth organ and the banio-mandolin. But the main part of his comedy routine, he says, lies in the gags. It's the nimble tongue that he relies on rather than quickness of hand or nimble toes, and this ability has brought him praise from the troops as one of their favourite comic entertainers. He lives in Wellington and has one son, now aged 26. His favourite hobby, apart from entertaining, is fishing. "I have a boat on a trailer and go out to Paremata," he said. "I have a place out there that I'm fixing up at the moment so that we can get in plenty of good fishing at Christmas, after we come back from

T isn't every jazz musician who gives a concert in Carnegie Hall, New York, or who plays at that concert a composition specially written for him by Igor Stravinsky. But that was the luck of Woody Herman in 1946. The gods smiled on Woody at that time.

tra, known as the Herman Herd, was

WOODY

chosen band of the year in the Esquire WOODCHOPPER poll, and captured the Down Beat and

Metronome polls as well. The Stravinsky work he played was, of course, the Ebony Concerto, but it isn't generally known that Woody later reciprocated with a hot little piece dedicated to Stravinsky and titled Igor. It was recorded by the Woodchoppers, a small band-within-a-band of the Herman group, and was composed by Red Norvo and Shorty Rogers. Herman is still a top favourite with the public. He was born in Milwaukee in 1913, and was a vaudeville trouper at eight. He began playing the saxophone at nine and the clarinet at eleven. He sang with Tom Gerun's orchestra for a while, and later played and sang with the bands of Harry Sosnik, Gus Arnheim, and Isham Jones. In 1936 he formed his own orchestra, known as The Band That Plays the Blues, but as the blues were out of favour at the time the band went through a lean period until the war years. At the end of 1946 Herman's original Herd broke up, but Woody formed a new one in the following year. When it too broke up he formed the Third Herd in 1952. He also has his own recording firm. A programme by Woody Herman and his Orchestra to be broadcast from 4YA at 10.30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 13, includes a Ralph Burns arrangement of "Moten Stomp," "Sorry About the Whole Darned Thing" (with Herman singing the vocal), Gershwin's "This is New," and "Bean Jazz," with Herman at the

WENTY Wellington primary school choirs are taking part in a Music Festival on Wednesday, October 13, which 2YA will

give a delayed broadcast of at 9.30 p.m. The children have been trained by their teachers, and on the big night Harry Botham will conduct the orchestra and choir. Folk songs, modern songs, carols old and new, will be sung by the choir, and orchestral



HARRY BOTHAM

items, organ solos and music from an Intermediate School recorder and percussion group make up an agreeable and interesting programme. Conducting is only one of the activities of Harry Botham, who is better known to the

## MEET A BODY

ALTHOUGH Brian Reece and Joy Shelton have acted together more than 100 times in the BBC's "Adventures of P.C. 49," their first appearance together on the Landon stage is in "Meet a Body." Described as an improbable adventure, it is intended to be a thriller with the emphasis on humour. However, it is not the kind of situation which would earn P.C. 49 some belated stripes. The plot refuses to thicken, the mystery refuses to deepen, the fun refuses to flow, the action comes to an end in the middle and sticks there, ideas fail the two authors, and words fail me.

-J. W. GOODWIN (London)