English as She Should be Spoke

THE QUEEN'S ENGLISH — to the layman it is puzzling, contradictory and paradoxical. That is why he often finds himself involved in arguments: What is the correct pronunciation of "controversy"? Is it grammatical to split an infinitive? Should we be ashamed of talking with a New Zealand accent instead of practising standard English, and anyway, who does talk standard English, and why is it standard?

Because of these arguments, which may occur anywhere from the classroom to smoko-time in a woolstore, the new programme by Professor Arnold Wall on *The Queen's English* will no doubt be as popular as its predecessor, *The King's English*, broadcast up to 1951 by the late Miss Cecil Hull. Professor Wall will give his talks of 13 minutes fort-

PROFESSOR ARNOLD WALL, from a recent portrait by R. Gopas

nightly from 3YA on a main national stations link at 9.15 p.m., beginning on Tuesday, February 8.

Professor Wall will start by paying tribute to the work of Miss Hull. He will discuss doubtful meanings and pronunciations; origins and meanings of Christian names and surnames; questions of grammar and idiom; standard English and its relations to New Zealand and Australian speech; Americanisms in standard, New Zealand and Australian speech, and similar topics, as well as answering the queries of listeners.

Professor Wall was born in Ceylon and educated in England, where he got his B.A. and M.A. degrees, his thesis for the former being on the Scandinavian dialect in the English language. After being on the staff of the Cambridge Tutorial College and studying as a research student at Christ's College, he came to New Zealand, where he was Professor of English at Canterbury University College. He is a philologist, botanist, mountaineer, poet and author of many scientific works, the most widely known probably being his works on the flora of New Zealand.

Listeners who have queries for Professor Wall should send them to him at Station 3YA, Box 1484, Christchurch.

What is Petroleum?

One of the outstanding phenomena of the present day is the world's insatiable appetite for more and more energy. Since the beginning of the century this insistent demand for more power has grown in proportion to, and has largely stimulated, the progress which has been made in the achievement of higher standards of living.

The petroleum industry is making a vital contribution to man's advancement toward even higher standards of life. Today oil provides almost one-half of the world's energy needs, and the demand for more and more oil continues. Because petroleum has become a vital commodity in our modern way of life it is often taken for granted. How did it originate?

The Origin of Petroleum . . .

is a subject about which, up to a comparatively short while ago, little was known. Humanity gratefully accepted this "stone, or rock oil", or natural pitch, for use as a lubricant, for illumination, building material and even for medicinal purposes.

Modern Science . . .

has now taken up the study of the problem of the origin of oil — knowledge of which is indispensable in the continuous search for this mineral—and has come to the conclusion that petroleum is derived from countless millions of dead micro-organisms, so-called "plankton", which formerly lived in seas which have long disappeared from the earth. These organic remains settled on the bottom of the sea, became mingled with and covered by silt and sand from the rivers, and there formed steadily accumulating layers. The pressure of the upper layers, increased temperature — which rises with the depth of the layer—and an indescribably long period of time, were indispensable factors in converting this dead plankton into petroleum.

The Problems . . .

arising in the petroleum industry are countless. All over the world thousands of scientific investigators are busy working at their solution every day; £50,000,000 is being spent annually by the oil industry on research alone. In Shell's large research laboratories, centres for scientific investigation, in America, Britain and on the Continent, many subjects are studied. Some of these concern the propagation of vibration in the soil, the nature of fluctuations in the force of gravity, of magnetism and of electrical phenomena in the earth's crust, the physical properties of rocks and the liquids occurring in them—knowledge vital to the oil geophysicist. These laboratories, equipped with all the latest apparatus, and with their picked staff of experts, reflect Shell's faith in science—in basic research as a necessary condition of successful operation.

The Earth hides some of its mysteries deep within itself. The more we unlock these mysteries the more bountiful human life becomes. Mankind now uses almost twice as much power as it did 25 years ago. Nearly three-quarters of this extra power has come from oilfields discovered through scientific study and exploration.

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Above: A geologist at work.
Left: In prospecting for oil use is also made of helicopters, which can transport the necessary instruments to places which are difficult to reach.
Right: Differences in the force of gravity are registered by means of a gravimeter.