gives an authentic note to the broadcasts," he said, "as the folk songs were probably originally sung with harp accompaniment in the Islands." He added

SONGS OF THE HEBRIDES

that he has always been very keenly interested in folk songs. "Perhaps through living in different countries and being a linguist I have a closer approach to folk music," he said. Gerald Christeller is best known as a lieder singer, and he recently studied singing in France and Holland. At the centenary celebrations of a Dutch broadcasting station which took place while he was abroad he was invited to sing a leading part in Brahms's *Requiem*. He has also done studio broadcasts with the National Orchestra since his return.

★

ARTHUR E. JONES, producer and scriptwriter of the programme *Operation Safeguard*, which was broadcast from 1YA recently, said that six years of scriptwriting for the NZBS had led him to many unusual places. Among the programmes he had scripted

SCRIPTWRITER

were *Meet the Mansons*, which was described as one of the first serials with a New Zealand flavour; *Johnny April* (in 52 parts); the 1ZB radio pantomimes *Cinderella* and *Dick Whittington;* the Christmas variety show *You're Welcome;* and a number of documentaries and features, including *Emergency in Malaya*, *Prisoners of Silence*, and *Marine Millions*, the last-named about the salvaging of the Niagara's gold.

Arthur E. Jones

"I came out here from England with my wife and family —for the sunshine, really — about six years ago," he said. "I had worked in Fleet Street for the Associated Press, and was a free lance contributor to a variety of publications before I emigrated. My toughest job for the NZBS was that of writing all the commentaries for the South African team at the British Empire Games in Auckland. We had to do two 15-minute broadcasts a day on the team's activities. Don Donaldson read them and I wrote them, and it nearly killed me." When we asked him about his spare-time activities, he said, "An Australian publisher was interested in the possibility of turning *Johnny April* (which is now being broadcast in Australia as well) into a novel. That gave me an incentive, and I've just completed a 90,000 word Johnny April novel in six weeks, writing in the evenings. I wrote 3000 words a night, which worked out at a thousand words an hour, and it was all new material, too. The manuscript went off to England a fortnight ago."

★

THEY told Betty Box you couldn't possibly make a film of it—too episodic, they said. But Betty, a determined film-maker, though she caught up with the book of *Doctor in the House* late (she saw it on a railway station book-stall months after it came out) she was nevertheless first in with a shooting-schedule for this "unfilmable" book.

DOCTOR'S DILEMMAS

To all those New Zealanders who have giggled and guffawed through med. school with the students of St. Swithin's, the BBC *Picture Parade* edition of *Doctor in the House* (now going the rounds of National and Commercial stations) should bring back an outsize case of stitches in the humerus. Besides extracts from the soundtrack of the film, there are interviews with Dirk Bogarde, Betty Box and Richard Gordon, author of the book. There are sidelights, too, like the story of the dear old lady watching the filming of the scrimmage for the gorilla mascot. Its arms got pulled off, so she called out: "Why don't yer take my old man instead—he looks like a g'rilla and 'is arms don't come orf!"

N.Z.P.S. photograph

★ LUIGI INFANTINO, the visiting Italian tenor, is interviewed by Hayden Shirley, of 2ZB. Infantino was born in Sicily 33 years ago. His first performance in England was with the San Carlo Opera Company at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, in 1947, and since then he has sung many times in Britain, in the Albert Hall and in the provinces. In 1948 he sang at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, and toured the United States and Canada. During the 1950 opera season at La Scala, Milan, he sang in "The Pearl Fishers" and "La Boheme" ★

BBC photograph

Stars Meet

JACK HAWKINS, the British film actor, is interviewed by Britain's "Radio Personality of the Year," Jean Metcalfe. The other winners of the National Radio Awards for 1954-55, recently announced in Britain, were Marjorie Westbury, the "Outstanding Actress," Richard Williams the "Outstanding Actor," and Cyril Stapleton, the "Musical Entertainer" of the year. The "Most Entertaining Programme" was "The Archers," and the "Most Promising New Programme" was Arthur Askey's "Hello Playmates." Jean Metcalfe is heard every Sunday in Britain presenting "Family Favourites" for the forces overseas. She is a regular broadcaster in the BBC "Women's Hour," and a commentator on Royal occasions. She joined the BBC as a secretary on leaving school in 1940, and became well known to listeners during the war as the announcer of "Forces Favourites."

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