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N.Z. FARMER IN RUSSIA

SHEEP were naturally one of the things the New Zealand farmer John Hall asked about when he was in Moscow last year, for he runs a good many on his Mid-Canterbury farm. But the sheep-farming republics of the U.S.S.R., he was told, were all in the far south. A 12-hour flight, with stops here and there, eventually landed him in Armenia, and 70 miles from the capital and about 6000 feet up in the mountains he found the State stud sheep farm, which he describes in one of his talks, A New Zealand Farmer in Russia. These talks will be heard from YA stations during the next three months, starting from 3YA on May 1 and 1YA on May 6; also, from May 11, in the extended 2YA Farm Sessions.

Because of its elevation, the stud farm was not unlike a South Island high-country run, but with only about 18 inches of rain a year it had the appearance of Central Otago in late autumn. There is a growing demand for young "Soviet Merino" rams to improve the local coarse-woolled sheep, Mr. Hall found, and in this work artificial insemination is used on a big scale with

10 times better coverage than natural breeding. Mr. Hall also visited a collective farm on the Armenian plains, and in his talk discusses not only farming conditions there, but his impressions of the collective as a substitute for small village life in old Russia.

MERINO RAM at a Soviet State stud-form



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TANGANYIKA TODAY

AN opportunity to widen our knowledge of Africa will be given by the Venerable M. L. Wiggins in three talks on Tanganyika Today, to be broadcast from all YA and YZ stations at 9.15 p.m. on Thursdays, starting on Thursday, May 3. Tanganyika is bordered by Uganda and Kenya, but so far has been free from the troubles of its neighbours. It is a progressive country and in these talks, Archdeacon Wiggins describes the land itself, its products and problems, and the great upsurge of nationalism among its people. As Headmaster of a secondary school for ten years he saw at first hand the tremendous changes taking place - how one generation in Africa is trying to absorb 2000 years of civilisation. He tells the story of an African medical assistant whose life epitomises the dilemma experienced by many of his people. This hospital assistant, trained in Western techniques, appearing to be the very epitome of modern medicine, in a time of crisis succumbed to the fears and superstitions of his tribe. When he became sick he did not go to the hospital, but to his own backyard, where he caught a chicken, cut off its head, and let it go. His acceptance of Western ways was a veneer and his life a constant turmoil. In his final talk Archdeacon Wiggins discusses the spiritual problems of the modern African.

GOING ABROAD?

IMPRESSIONS of other lands will be heard during the next three months in several talks series besides those mentioned in this issue. From YC stations five different speakers will be heard in "A City I Remember" (2YC, May 2-already broadcast from IYC), and Maurice Duggan will broadcast "From the Diary of a Voyage" (3YC, April 30), a radio version of a work which first appeared in "Landfall." From YA stations Mary and Arnold Entwistle, who recently came from Malaya, will discuss "Malayans in the Making" (4YA, April 30), and Ralph Goodwin will give two talks about the fall of Mang Kong (2YA, May 6). One of today's rare stay-at-homes, Jim Henderson, will be heard from YA stations (2YA, May 1; 3YA, May 3) in a breezy series of programmes about Coromandel.