

## NZBS GARDEN EXPERTS—2

FOR a man who has been associated with gardening all his life, W. G. Stephen is still remarkably humble about his knowledge of the subject—which is perhaps not so very surprising in anyone whose interests lie close to the soil. "A man who thinks he knows everything about gardening is making a big mistake," says Mr. Stephen, whose advice to gardeners is heard from 2YA on Wednesdays at 7.15 p.m. "There's always something new to learn in our game." And to keep up-to-date he reads all the books and periodicals he can about new developments overseas. He has always been a practical gardener, too, and admits that once when he moved to a new house without a garden and found that vegetables cost him a pound a week, he had a new understanding of the problems of those who look to him for advice.

Mr. Stephen has been giving seasonal advice and answering listeners' questions from 2YA for about 10 years. Before that he was garden expert at 2ZA, and he recalls that a good many years ago he sponsored the first Saturday gardening broadcast from 12B. Though Scottish-born—"I was brought up in a market garden near Aberdeen"—Mr. Stephen has lived in New Zealand since he was 15, and finds a wide experience of conditions in many parts of the country a great help when it comes to answering letters from as far north as Whangarei, and as far south as Invercargill.

The garden expert at 2ZB, George Phillips, has also had long experience as a horticulturist—30 years of it in



W. G. STEPHEN

Britain before he came to New Zealand to settle at the beginning of 1951. "I started as an apprentice in a nursery in 1921," he says, "but before that had done a lot in the garden at home." Horticulture, he admitted, was in the family, for a brother had been a well-known daffodil grower before 1914. For many years Mr. Phillips was principal of a Warwickshire firm which specialised in delphiniums, dahlias and gladioli, though at Paraparaumu, where he established a nursery after looking round the North Island when he first came to New Zealand, he is giving more attention to shrubs.

Talking and writing about gardening is no new thing for Mr. Phillips—he



N.P.S. photograph

GEORGE PHILLIPS

has written five books on aspects of the subject. Recently he was appointed editor of the Journal of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture. He tells us he intends to stay in New Zealand, but he keeps in touch through correspondents with new developments in Britain, on the Continent and in South Africa and America. Apart from his regular session from 2ZB at 9.0 a.m. on Saturdays, Mr. Phillips broadcasts in the 2YA Women's Session on the first Monday of each month, and is heard in other talks. The Wellington Shakespeare Society is among his other interests, and he has also had small parts in NZBS plays.

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member of the BBC team during the current cricket Test series between England and Australia.

Rex Alston was born on a Tuesday, and seems to have had something of the grace prophesied for Tuesday's child, for he became a fine athlete and a player and captain for Bedfordshire in county cricket. Harold Abrahams, who wrote about him not long ago in the *Radio Times*, recalls running with Rex in a Cambridge relay team against Oxford in 1922, and in the following March, while Mr. Abrahams was President of the University Club, he had the pleasure of awarding him his "Blue" for the 100 yards. Rex Alston's career as a cricketer



SAM MOSES

and Rugby footballer eventually lured him from the running track, but his participation as a player was cut short by an injury when he was 30. However, the practical experience he acquired was to serve him—and the listening public—well in his commentaries later on.

WELL known in Wellington and the Hutt Valley, where he played in many dance bands and orchestras, and quickly becoming known in New Plymouth, Sam Moses

MODERN STYLE is a pianist who started playing early in life and gradually drifted towards the modern style. He will be heard from 2XP on August 29. While in Well-

ington Sam had many engagements at 2YA with a bass player assisting, but he is playing solo at New Plymouth. At the other extreme he has appeared with 11-piece dance bands. His favourite pianists are "Fats" Waller and Frankie Carle. "I had never seriously considered radio work, but I was urged by the Invercargill studios to look into it while I was visiting there for a New Zealand Billiards Championship game," Sam says. Billiards is another of his big interests. Sam Moses does not attempt the "bop" style, but prefers a style of playing in which the harmony is more easily acceptable to the majority of the people.

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