



**CHILDREN** of the 3ZB "Junior Garden Circle," heard every Monday at 5.30 p.m., were among those who planned to show their work at an exhibition and flower show in North Hagley Park, Christchurch, this week. David Combridge, who has conducted the 3ZB session for more than 16 years, is shown here (left rear) with members of the Circle and examples of their work in floral arrangement

toured France, Germany, Austria and Southern India. After the war he was appointed bandmaster of the Coventry Stoke Salvation Army Band, where he stayed till he emigrated to New Zealand with his wife and four children seven and a half years later.

Mr. Brown is very interested in writing sacred songs, and has had music published by the Salvation Army Music Editorial Department in England and in Australia. As a keen record collector for many years in England, he appreciates the opportunity of being "let loose" in 4ZA's record library.

★

**AT** the end of last year, members of the National Orchestra gave James Robertson a book of cartoons by the well-known caricaturist and amateur tuba player Gerard Hoffnung.

Now we hear that a special Hoffnung Musical Festival Concert was held in London a few months ago. Before it even began the concert made box-office history by selling out in an hour less than *Liberace*. The programme included Malcolm Arnold's Grand

**HOFFNUNG** Grand Overture for orchestra, organ, three vacuum cleaners, electric floor polisher and (by permission of the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police) rifle shots; a "piano concerto to end all piano concertos" devised by Franz Reizenstein; "The Lift Girl," a song for bass-coloratura; the Andante from

Haydn's "Surprise" Symphony, with additional surprises which included stone hot-water bottles as well as a ballet dancer; and "A Geographical Fugue" by Ernest Toch.

Hoffnung took part in the concert himself as a member of a quartet of tuba players who performed a Chopin Mazurka, and he also had a solo role as the sub-contra-bass tubist in "Variations on Annie Laurie" by Gordon Jacob. This, by the way, was scored for two piccolos, heckelphone, two contrabass clarinets, two contrabassoons, serpent, bass serpent, eight-foot tuba and harmonium.

### SURPRISE

**A** LONELY Londoner listened to every broadcast made by Jean Metcalfe in the BBC's "Family Favourites" (writes J. W. Goodwin from London). He often wrote with helpful criticisms and suggestions. When the 73-year-old man died, he left most of his £3000 estate on trust to a woman who was only a radio voice—to Jean Metcalfe. They had never seen each other, never met. "It was a great surprise," said the announcer.



BBC photo

a peak above the orchestra, the firing of the cannon at the end of the overture, the interruptions of the ballet dancer and an itinerant musician, but there was also much humour in the music. I liked particularly the key changes in the Haydn, and the catastrophic memory of the piano soloist, Yvonne Arnaud, who wandered from Tchaikovsky to Rachmaninoff and Grieg during the concerto, to the utter confusion of conductor and orchestra. What a change it all was from the utter solemnity of most concerts."

Much of this concert was recorded and will soon be issued on an LP disc.

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