



THE only reporter to accompany the main party of the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition when it went south in the Magga Dan a few months ago, Donald Milner had the distinction of carrying out the most distant assignment ever undertaken by a BBC

BBC photograph

his departure for Shackleton Base, "inoculation and vaccination, extending my insurance, renewing my passport, making my will, stopping the milk," and so on, he went off and got married to a London girl—"just to complicate matters at the eleventh hour," as he put it.

correspondent. Listeners who have heard his reports will be interested in this picture of him in Antarctic kit and with the waterproof midget recorder which he used on the trip.

Thirty-four years old, Donald Milner is the son of an Anglican minister. When he was 19 he joined the Navy as an able seaman and by the end of the war held the rank of lieutenant. He served in India, Ceylon, and the Mediterranean. After the war he took a B.A. in modern history at Keble College, Oxford, and in 1950 joined the staff of the *Times Literary Supplement*. Later he transferred to *The Times* itself. His first job for the BBC was as a reporter in the News Division. In the midst of preparations for

# Open Microphone

## NEWS OF BROADCASTERS ON AND OFF THE RECORD

"Why do people want to cross the Pole?" Mr. Milner asked in a General Overseas Service broadcast. "To get to the other side. Certainly there are good scientific reasons for this expedition, glaciological, seismological, physiological, geological, meteorological reasons, but the old lure of the exploration of the last *terra incognita* in the world is there under them all, tugging with the magnetism of the Pole itself."

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THE well-known mathematician W.

Sawyer, whose talks on mathematical philosophy are going the rounds of YC stations, has his Pelican book *Prelude to Mathematics* to thank for a new and interesting appointment. In America the mathematics syllabus for schools and colleges is at present being revised and modernised. Last year the Head of the Mathematics Department of Princeton University, Professor A. W. Tucker, was in New Zealand. He had seen Mr. Sawyer's book

### ENTHUSIAST

cruitment of secondary teachers in mathematics has tripled. Before he left New Zealand Mr. Sawyer had several things to say on the interest in mathematics among New Zealand school children.

"In England," he said, "if I went to an average school I had to civilise the children before I could teach them. Here, on the other hand, I find them ready to listen, and used to doing jobs for themselves. This is certainly an advance—the weaker intellects in particular benefit. But New Zealand does not offer the intellectual excitement the sharpest brains want and need. Anyone who does offer this something extra gets an enormous response from the pupils. We shall have to train people in New Zealand to offer such a stimulus; so far it has not been part of the traditional training."

Mr. Sawyer considers that to arrange such a training various difficulties such as the shortage of time in our secondary schools, the relatively easy syllabus in the primary schools, and the great shortage of teachers will have to be reckoned with. "If I had stayed in New Zealand," he said, "I would have got some abler primary pupils together—say, about 50 to 100—and taken them ahead according to their abilities. I would have kept in touch with them and kept them ahead of the syllabus until they reached university. Out of this group a few would want to become teachers. By now they would be well ahead of their work and university would cause them no trouble. In their spare time they could form a brigade to go round schools—start new clubs, get more pupils enthusiastic and so on, snowballing—one hopes! It might not have worked as well as one visualised,



AT a charity show for the Plunket Society at Christchurch during Selwyn Toogood's recent South Island "Money-Go-Round" tour, Ann Ballin, a crippled student from Auckland University College, was unable to go on the stage to take part in the contest, so Mr. Toogood took a microphone into the auditorium and asked his questions there. Listeners will hear the incident in the broadcast from Commercial stations on Thursday, March 21

and liked the way its ideas were presented, so he invited Mr. Sawyer—then Lecturer in Mathematics at Canterbury University College—to visit Princeton for a year as a visiting lecturer. Mr. Sawyer started at Princeton in February of this year and will be working with American mathematicians on the revision of the syllabus and the writing of new texts.

During his years at Canterbury College, Mr. Sawyer did a great deal to stimulate interest in his subject by organising voluntary mathematics societies of school pupils. It's reported that since these societies started re-

but at any rate it couldn't have done much harm."

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THERE aren't many people in New Zealand, we imagine, who have been photographed by George Bernard Shaw, but the Dunedin CAMERAMAN photographer George Chance is one of them.

As a young man back in 1905, Mr. Chance worked at a photographic studio in London, where G.B.S., a keen amateur photographer, called to see a new type of flashlight. Mr. Chance was asked to demonstrate, and in doing so took several photographs of Mr. Shaw. Try-

N.Z. LISTENER, MARCH 15, 1957.

\*Another smash hit that's riding high in the

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