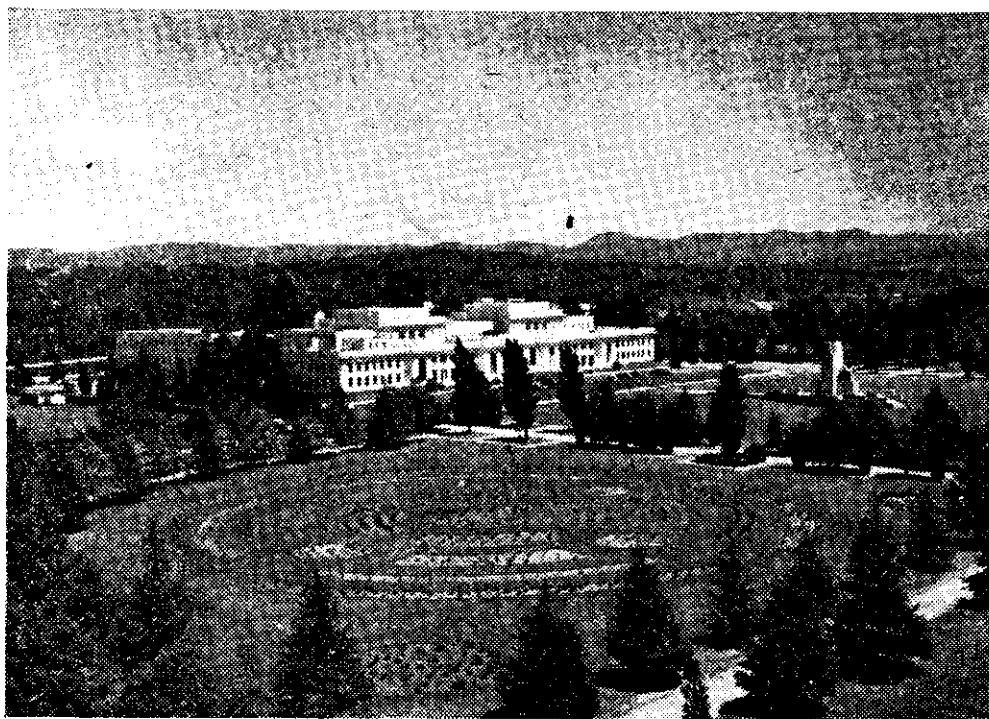


the piano and Tchaikovsky conduct. The subsequent tour took us to Canberra, a strange, park-like city, in which each building, be it hotel, House of Parliament, or Memorial Museum, seems to be a good half-mile away from the next; to Wagga Wagga and Albury. The Canberra programme included Lilburn's Festival Overture, which was well received.

After the tour the orchestra went back to Sydney and I myself on to Melbourne. Auckland-Wellington, Liverpool-Manchester, Sydney-Melbourne... the rivalries are acute and it ill becomes a guest of both to praise one more than the other. Therefore, let it be said at once that Melbourne is another fine city, with acres of public gardens, beautiful spires, a magnificent art collection, a handsome river, and a justifiable pride in its own good looks. It is also perhaps the example of a phenomenon in the news at present—the Urban Sprawl.

Likewise, the Victorian Symphony Orchestra is another fine body of players. In its company I went up country to Castlemaine and Swan Hill, a minute swelling in a vast plain. As in New Zealand, as in New South Wales, the country audiences showed gratitude and dispensed hospitality. The value of that side of an Australasian orchestra's work must not be under-rated. I returned to Melbourne in a charming little aircraft called a Dove, in which a young lady acted as navigator, co-pilot and hostess. A free Sunday matinee, with a cheerful programme and a cheerful audience, brought the whole assignment to an end. A night in Sydney (good-



CANBERRA

"A strange, park-like city in which each building seems to be a good half-mile away from the next"

bye to Lohengrin!), one in Auckland, a day in the office in Wellington, another in the rehearsal room, and on the next evening the season's first concert at Palmerston North—I am again in the familiar ground, glad to have gone, glad to be back.

General impressions? The vastness and the space; the efforts to fill the space; the generous attitude to immigration, both British and Continental; the consequent influx of "New Australians," bringing strange tongues and strange foods; the feeling of confidence and excitement in the country as a whole. On the musical side: the tremendous job done by the ABC in putting no less than six orchestras on a per-

manent basis; the efficiency and friendliness of these orchestras; the size and scope of the concert organisation. On the non-musical side: the hordes of young people flowing through the art galleries and museums; the speed and smoothness of the air travel; the names of the edible fish—dhufish in Perth, trevally in Tasmania, tailor and sweetlip in Brisbane; the flowering shrubs and trees in all the cities—frangipani, hibiscus, bougainvillea, jacaranda, cottonwood, wheel of fire; the delicious wines, the best of which are not always exported, because the Australian has the sense to drink them himself.

All-in-all, an experience for which to be truly thankful.



A VILLAGE SCHOOL IN FIJI

Practically every Fijian child of school age receives some elementary education, and the best pupils have an opportunity of proceeding to a secondary school. Some of these young Fijians come to New Zealand for advanced schooling and to study at a University

Future of Fiji

"WITH Britain's gradual withdrawal from the Pacific, Australia and New Zealand will have to take a closer interest in Fiji," said Dr K. B. Cumberland, Professor of Geography at Auckland University College, when *The Listener* asked him about the talks he recorded on *Fiji and New Zealand*. Together with other islands Fiji would be seriously affected by this withdrawal and, Dr Cumberland said, he could foresee the need for the Australian, British and New Zealand island territories in the South-West Pacific forming themselves into a federation.

Dr Cumberland has visited Fiji five times in the past ten years, and was there last April as an observer for the University of New Zealand at the South Pacific Conference at Suva. His talks, to be broadcast by all YA and YZ stations, starting on Thursday, April 25, at 9.15 p.m., express a New Zealander's view of the place and importance of Fiji, her social and economic problems, and her military and economic ties with New Zealand. Dr Cumberland also considers the population problem in Fiji, where the Fijian and Indian races are multiplying rapidly.

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