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Open Microphone



AFTER being hauled from one art show or concert to another after he first arrived in New Zealand, J. R. Tye (whose picture is at the top of this column) was asked by a Wellington paper what he thought of the New Zealander. When he replied that he 'pursued culture too seriously, ought to

READER

take more time off, and should cultivate AT RANDOM his garden," he inspired an amusing Lodge car-

toon. Three years afterwards, and now very happily settled in New Zealand, Mr Tye still thinks there's some truth in what he said.

Mr Tye, whose Readings at Random have recently been heard from YC stations, lives in Christchurch, but was born, in 1915, at Lincoln, England-"the only place for which I'm ever homesick." Before and just after the war, while reading for a degree, he taught in a London slum, and he has tender recollections of the great city. In 1939 he volunteered for the R.A.F., trained as a pilot and got married on the strength of it. He is still very happily married. Ironically, he was sent to Rhodesia to train pilots while his wife stayed behind in the blitz. In the end he crashed in the bush and was invalided home.

After a spell at Oxford after the war, Mr Tye went to a Church of England training college in a city "even older than my birthplace," which lived on its past. "I didn't learn much about Edu-cation," he says, "but a lot about human beings. Which is the more important? When, after a while, he felt the urge to look at a new country, he came out to New Zealand, arriving in Wellington at the beginning of 1954 to have "a

NEWS OF BROADCASTERS ON AND OFF THE RECORD

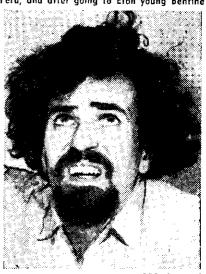
whale of a time." After six months the family decided that New Zealand was a good place to live in, so Mr Tye went back home, sold up his house, and came out to his present job lecturing in English at Christchurch Teachers' College.

"Compared with the same job in Britain," he says, "we work at least twice as hard, but I like it. Teaching has changed almost out of recognition in the last 20 years. In fact, they've advanced further here than in England." Out here Mr Tye also worked in a rubber factory for a couple of months, blowing up hot water bottles to see if they leaked.

Outside his job one of Mr Tye's main interests is choral singing, for his family in Britain are organ builders, and church music is in his blood. In Wellington he sang with the Schola Cantorum, and he sings with the Harmonic Society in Christchurch, "New Zealand has higher

THE FOURTH GOON

F three Goons seem almost too many to be true, four must be quite unbelievable, yet away back at the beginning that's how many there were-before Michael Bentine (his picture is below) set course for Australia. Michael's father was a scientist from Peru, and after going to Eton young Bentine



BBC photograph

himself took a science degree. Then he turned to the stage, and took small parts in Shakespeare. When he found later that variety was more profitable than the legitimate stage, he concentrated on a peculiar brand of clowning of his own, which exploited the hitherto unsuspected comic possibilities of a broken chair back. It was no great effort after that to be even more peculiar, and partnership with Milligan, ellers and Secombe was the most natural thing in the world.

standards than it realises," he says, "partly because of its isolation." Other interests are broadcasting, journalism, astronomy and punting on the "emin-ently puntable" Avon. He adds, by the way, that since the newspapers took notice of his family's punting they have run the gauntlet of admiration and derision-"the latter from small boys who run alongside and shout 'Yah! Queen

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