

THE FRANCIS FAMILY, MINUS TWO

of Women's Hours. Already being heard from 2ZC, they will start from 1XN on Wednesday, October 9.

Jessie McLennan has been living re-

cently in Kent-though she is now planning another jour-

TRAVELLER ney, this time to America — and after the soft contours and gentle beauty of the south of England one of the first things that impressed her in Spain was that the sky seemed far higher, the sunshine and shadow much sharper, and the bare, gaunt countryside empty and barren. She was soon to notice also the violent contrast between rich and one violent contrast between rich and poor—and that, she found, was the story all over Spain. The journey from Spain into Portugal was not only a journey from one country to another, says Jessie McLennan, but a journey from an almost mediaval age to the from an almost medieval age to the 20th century. And we gather that she found, too, that Portugal looked rather more prosperous.

FEW New Zealand families are as musical as the Francis Family, It includes his wife and five of their seven children. The group MUSICAL started, William Francis

told The Listener, five years ago in Dunedin, FAMILY

when he bought a set of drums to accompany his eldest daughter Marie at the piano. But that wasn't good enough, he

said, so Mrs Francis learnt to play the string bass and Pauline joined with her guitar to make up a full rhythm section. And it wasn't long before Johnny and Brian, who were members of the St Kilda Brass Band, joined in too. Soon the Francis Family was playing at dances, balls and socials, and was fre-quently heard from 4YA and 4ZB. Before leaving Dunedin for Auckland twelve months ago they recorded six programmes for the NZBS, which are still being broadcast (3YZ, October 10, 7.30 p.m.)

The Francis Family has broadcast four programmes since coming to Auckland, and a fifth is scheduled for 1YA on

six talks which have started the rounds Monday, October 7, at 7.0 p.m. The music, which includes classical as well as popular items, is arranged by Marie Francis (she has a concert performer's A.T.C.L.), and is directed by Mr Francis, who has been relegated to the position of conductor since young Michael took over the drums. Billie, aged 10, and Bernie, 5, are still in reserve.

> DOPULAR song-writing is only one of the musical interests of Ces Murly, the Greymouth primary school teacher, whose "Saturday Night"—the most successful of his popular numbers—has been heard in New Zealanders Wrote

These. In fact, his ALL-ROUNDER main interest nowadays is his choir

work. He is particularly interested in school choirs, and has written choral numbers. Piano novelties of the kind written by Sefton Daly and Billy Mayerl also attract him. He conceives these as suites, and his latest, "Garden Folio," is made up of four modern dances. Ces Murly-who is seen at the piano in the picture below—had his musical education in Christchurch with Max Hirschberg. For 10 years, up till 1955, he played in a West Coast dance band as pianist-leader. Mr Murly does his own orchestration.



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