

New Programmes for Schools Broadcasts

ON five days a week, for about forty weeks each year, the NZBS presents Broadcasts to Schools, a series of programmes planned to supplement the usual classes in Music, Social Studies and Literature, and the series is heard in hundreds of schools where the broadcasts synchronise with the work done in the classrooms. The excellence of these programmes prepared under the supervision of Jean Combs, officer-in-charge of Broadcasts to Schools, may be judged by the fact that, in addition to the children for whom they are intended, many adults listen to the talks.

Every year Miss Combs maps out a new programme with the help of school syllabuses and teachers' schemes-of-work—an outstanding feature of the broadcasts is the co-operation of various branches of the Education Department and the Broadcasting Service, each contributing to the success of the project. NZBS scriptwriters prepare serials and dramatised stories which are produced in the studios. The Visual Aid section of the Education Department distributes film strips with a bearing on the broadcasts, and the *School Journal* presents relevant stories and articles. The outline complete, Miss Combs and her staff prepare the programmes which really do "educate through entertainment," judging by children's reactions to them.

Miss Combs is emphatic on the point that these programmes are not intended to replace the teacher in the classroom. They are designed simply to stimulate the children's interest. Sometimes the children borrow suggested books from the library. Often they re-act the stories, or they write their own versions and illustrate what they have heard. Follow-

ups like these are sometimes so natural that the threads of a programme are spontaneously woven into the children's regular work.

New BBC Features

This year's programmes for broadcast to schools include three BBC schools features, one of them being a series of *Travel Talks*, for children of about ten. In a second series, under the title of *I Was There*, the BBC has issued some history lessons that bring the past vividly to life for eleven- and twelve-year olds. The third series is for older children—those nearer school-leaving age—and comes from the BBC's school programme, *Citizenship*.

Throughout the year Ernest Jenner will continue his music appreciation lessons for Forms 1 to 3 at 1.30 p.m. on Mondays and Fridays. His theme for 1950 is *Great Artists and the Music They Perform*. During the first term, at 1.30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Rachel Wheeler's new poetry serial *The Singing and the Gold* will be broadcast. This series is an attempt to discover for children the delight of poetry, and to make them anxious to read and listen to more. Linked in story form, extracts from some of the greatest English poems are arranged in groups covering a diversity of subjects—flowers and the seasons, ships and the sea, witches and broomsticks.

At the same time in the second and third terms, children will hear Joan Taylor's programme *Here Lies Adventure*, which introduces young listeners to the books and stories we call "literature." Some episodes outline a whole book, others, by highlighting the story, encourage listeners to go further for them-



KEITH NEWSON
Rhythm on Wednesday...



LESLIE SOUNESS
... *Songs on Thursday*

selves. Here are stories old and new, from ancient Greece to the Pacific of Robert Gibbings, ranging in mood and maturity from *The Wind in the Willows* to Joseph Conrad's *Youth* and Mark Twain's *Tom Sawyer*.

Throughout the first term at 1.45 p.m. on Tuesdays the BBC series, *Travel Talks*, will be broadcast to Standards 3 and 4. These talks are designed to show varied ways of living and making a living. For instance in *People of the Seas*, the captain of a merchant ship tells his story. He introduces his Chief Engineer—a New Zealander—and describes what happened when a British food ship was torpedoed during the war. A later broadcast brings an artist to the microphone to tell about the city of Venice, "resting on the water like a ship afloat." The following term, at this time, Allona Priestley presents *Have You Read?* a series of simple dramatisations for children of nine and ten—stories chosen to appeal to the young imagination, tales of other lands and other times.

On Wednesdays, throughout the year, from 1.30 to 1.50 p.m. *Rhythm For Juniors* will be heard. These lessons will be broadcast during the first and second terms by Jean Hay, and W. J. Trussell, and in the third term by Keith Newson who has been teaching in England where he recently gained his A.R.C.M. This programme will be followed every Wednesday by *Storytime for Juniors*, a series planned for Standards 1 and 2, each broadcast providing plenty of "follow-up activity."

Thursday's Singing Lesson with the studio class will be broadcast at 1.30 p.m. The lessons will be conducted by Leslie Souness (a newcomer to Schools Broadcasts), replacing T. J. Young, who has gone overseas.

History Dramatised

At 1.45 p.m. on Fridays in the first term, the second BBC programme will be presented—the programme called *I Was There*. Chosen to illustrate aspects of history that are likely to appeal to eleven- and twelve-year-olds, the lessons present events as seen by eye-witnesses. This method gives personal flavour to the broadcasts and takes the young listener quickly into the past. The first, *They Killed the Archbishop*, tells the story of the murder of a Becket, from the viewpoint of people on different sides in the struggle. This series has been written by Rhoda Power, the well-known

writer of children's history stories. Miss Power, whom Jean Combs met when she was in England, in 1949, has been in Schools Broadcasting there from the beginning and much of her work has already been used in this country.

During the second term, at the same time, Joan Taylor's programme, *A Time to Remember*, in the New Zealand history series, will be broadcast. It takes the form of dramatic presentation of true stories of early settlers in the provincial districts. These personal stories were recorded at intervals by the Mobile Unit and are broadcast by the permission of the storytellers themselves. This series will help children to realise that the story of New Zealand was made by their own grandparents—people who were really much like those who listen to these stories today. How the first grapefruit came to New Zealand, for example, is told in the North Auckland episode, while an Otago story tells how gold-mining was the forerunner of today's fruit-farming there.

The week's Broadcasts to Schools will conclude on Fridays in the third term with two new programmes, *Men Who Found Out* by Amabel Williams-Ellis, for Forms 1 to 3, and the BBC programme *Citizenship*. The first of these presents through a series of dramatic broadcasts the lives of some of the world's great men and women of science. These episodes reveal the limitations as well as the victories of the scientific method and emphasise the fact that the power conferred on man by scientific discovery must increase his responsibility to his fellow man.

Great Citizens, the BBC programme, presents a number of imaginary interviews. In each a well-known BBC broadcaster, F. H. Grisewood, takes his listeners to interview the great ones of the past. With him are some of the most distinguished players in British radio. John Laurie takes the part of Telford, the 19th Century Scottish engineer who designed the Caledonian Canal; Leon Quartermaine is heard as Sir Christopher Wren; Gladys Young plays Elizabeth Fry, the Quaker prison reformer. Robert Owen, the great factory reformer, is represented by Carleton Hobbs, and Barbara Couper plays the part of Florence Nightingale, recalling her work in the Crimea and hearing from Grisewood about the improvements that have taken place in the nursing profession since her day.

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became one of the country's dairying pioneers. Three generations of the family are still flourishing in Wellington and the Wairarapa.

The Collection

MONRAD'S two volumes of etchings and engravings were first deposited in the Colonial Museum, moved later to the General Assembly Library, transferred in 1920-21 to the Alexander Turnbull Library, and then, in 1935, moved to the National Gallery, their present resting place. They are now being removed from the volumes, mounted on double cardboard folders, and stored in groups of twenty so that they can be easily inspected.

A collection of six hundred etchings and engravings hung all at once would be more black and white than the eye could take in. Suitable groups, will therefore be hung in the National Gallery from time to time, and the whole collection will always be available to individuals who wish to look through it. Those who see it will be stimulated by the work of men like Rembrandt, Durer, Mantegna, Lucas Cranach (1470-1553), van Dyck, Poussin, Claude Lorraine (1600-1682), and Paul Potter, a Dutch animal painter who died in 1654 at the early age of 29.

The Manawatu in particular and New Zealand in general may owe a considerable debt to Paul Potter. Who knows, the sight of Potter's cattle beasts may have given young Johannes Monrad the idea of starting a dairy farm in the country of his adoption.



LUCAS VOSTERMANS, a portrait by van Dyck