

# NEW BOOK SESSION

**BOOK SHOP**, a fortnightly session for those who like to hear important new books reviewed at some length, will go on the air from seven National stations during the fortnight beginning September 3. Each session will include one 10-minute review of a recent book likely to interest the general reader and one or two short talks on topics related to books. Books reviewed will be both fiction and non-fiction — biography, travel, history, technical and scientific works, poetry, memoirs.

*Brave Company*, by Guthrie Wilson, will be reviewed by Jim Henderson (author of *Gunner Inglorious*, and now with the War History branch of the Internal Affairs Department) in the first session. *Brave Company*, a story about New Zealand infantrymen in the Italian campaign, is the first novel of a Palmerston North school teacher. It has been very highly praised overseas. Guthrie Wilson himself will also be heard. He will talk about the way in which he wrote the book and drop a hint about his next novel. In the second short talk listeners will hear Melville Palmer, buyer for a large Wellington bookshop, discussing *New Zealand Tastes in Fiction*. Mr. Palmer takes the view that what the ordinary reader says to his friends matters more than what the reviewer says. (He mentions the success of *The Snow Goose*, which he says was hardly mentioned by reviewers.) He will also comment on the current taste for books with a religious theme or background.

In the second session W. S. Wauchop, Chief Librarian of the General Assembly Library, will review *The Oxford Companion to the Theatre*, and *Takrouna*, a recent official War History publication, will be reviewed by Lieutenant-Colonel C. M. Bennett in the third session. Colonel Bennett commanded the Maori Battalion during the action at Takrouna.

A number of short talks for future sessions have already been arranged. Some of these (with speakers) are: *Children's Classics* (Dorothy Neal



Spencer Digby photograph  
**JIM HENDERSON**

White), *Looking After Books* (A. R. D. Fairburn), *Reading in Bed* (W. H. Graham), *The Public Library* (A. G. W. Dunningham), *The Bible as Literature* (Professor G. A. F. Knight), *Stalwart Victorians* (A. E. Caddick), *Books About the Country* (L. J. Wild), *Books About Gardens* (Millicent Jennings), *Bronte Books* (Joan Stevens), and *Pains and Rewards of Amateur Bookbinding* (Eleanor Joachim). Two aspects of Dumas will be discussed in the talks by the New Zealand authority F. W. Reed. Authors, poets, journalists, printers, publishers and booksellers, librarians and collectors, professors, lecturers and students, and readers of all kinds are among those expected to contribute to the session. *Book Shop* will be heard from 2YA, 3YA, 2YZ and 3YZ in the first week of each fortnight, and from 1YA, 4YC and 1YZ in the second week. Stations which already have a book session will continue to broadcast this as well as the new session.

The first *Book Shop* will be heard from 3YZ on Monday, September 3; 3YA on Wednesday, September 5; 2YA on Friday, September 7; 2YZ on Sunday, September 9; 1YA on Wednesday, September 12; 4YC on Thursday, September 13; and 1YZ on Sunday, September 16. Subsequent broadcasts will be on the same days each fortnight. Broadcasting times will appear in the programme pages of the next two issues of *The Listener*.

(continued from previous page)

He had none of the appealing dependence and fondness for human company that had endeared Humph to us. Like his namesake, the Government Meteorologist, he was very sure of himself. He never asked for food, but when hungry repaired to the fowlyard and devoured the choicest bits of the scraps thrown out to them and apparently despised *homo sapiens*. He, too, frequented a tennis court with a water-race beside it, not at the same home, but at another though still in Levin—a farm about two miles distant from the lake. This was a much more used court. Our champion lady player, whom we all wished to beat, was a splendid specimen of New Zealand girlhood, with very few if any feminine weaknesses. But, like the Duke of Wellington towards cats, she was allergic to birds. Captain Edwin had never looked like attacking anyone, but the minute he encountered her he ran at her with beak open. How he knew her from the rest no one could guess. True, her skirts were a tiny bit shorter than ours, being just above the ankle, but I think it was because she squealed and ran that he saw a bit of fun for

him in the game. I don't believe he would have hurt her, but she wasn't proposing to experiment.

When she was playing he spoilt her game because however far away he was banished she must watch with the tail of her eyes in case he took a steak out of her calf. Her opponents would call "Here's Captain Edwin," and shriek with delight when she missed her ball.

When we left Levin for good we gave him to a friend who lived nearer town. The day following he was missing from his new home. Mr. M— advertised, offering half-a-crown reward. In less than a quarter of an hour a small boy with the bird in his arms came to claim the reward. An hour later another boy brought Captain Edwin and claimed the reward, then the days following were punctuated with boys coming for half-crowns. Then a farmer, friend came saying:

"I saw you were advertising for this bird. I saw him a little way up the road, so I just brought him to you."

Mr. M— was only too glad to give the farmer the pet, which looked like costing him half-a-crown an hour for the rest of his life.



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