

"WORLD THEATRE" FROM YCs

THEIR appetites whetted and their critical faculties sharpened by the Shakespeare they have seen and heard in the last few months. New Zealanders will be glad to hear that there's more to come. With the anniversary of the poet's birth falling on April 23, the NZBS is offering from the four YC stations during the next few weeks five BBC *World Theatre* productions of his plays. Four of these—*Measure for Measure*, *Richard II*, *The Tempest*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*—have been heard from New Zealand stations before, but the fifth, *All's Well That Ends Well*, will be having its first playing in this country. The cast of this "problem play" includes Sir Lewis Casson as the King of France, Gladys Young as the Countess of Roussillon, and Barbara Jefford (see page 6) as

Helena. *All's Well That Ends Well* lacks the poetry of the better-known comedies, but it has a well-constructed plot and presents a wonderful series of portraits.

All's Well That Ends Well will be heard from 4YC at 8.0 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, and 2YC at 7.30 p.m. on Sunday, April 26, and will be followed at these stations by *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Measure for Measure* and *Richard II*. From 3YC and 1YC the series will start with *Richard II* at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, and 8.0 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22, respectively. This will be followed by *The Tempest*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *All's Well That Ends Well*.

April 23 is not only Shakespeare's birthday but St. George's Day as well

and a number of stations will be noticing the occasion with special programmes. One of the most ambitious of these is an evening session from 3YA starting with *Songs for St. George's Day* at 7.46 p.m.

For Anzac Day, which also falls next week, most stations will broadcast special programmes and services. Among the most important of these is *Peace and War*, a short cantata for chorus and brass band written by Dr. Vernon Griffiths. *Peace and War* will be heard from 2YZ at 10.30 a.m., 4YA at 2.45 p.m., and 2YA at approximately 4.0 p.m.

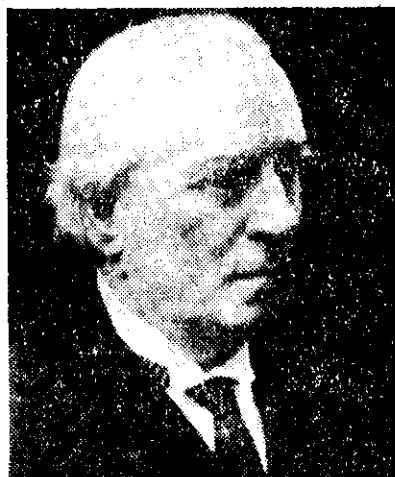
The Slow Years Pass, a sequence of poems specially written for the NZBS by Ruth Gilbert and heard from stations in the four main centres last year, will be heard this year from the YZ stations. Also to be heard again is *The Day Set Apart: the Remembrance of Anzac Day*. This will be broadcast from 2XN at 9.4 p.m., 2YZ at 7.0 p.m., and from 4YZ at 8.25 p.m. on Friday, April 24.



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INDEPENDENT MINDS

HERBERT ASQUITH, Britain's Prime Minister at the beginning of the First World War, was a great statesman who also possessed great personal qualities. He was a man with unusual powers of eloquence and an effortless command of the language, but it was above all his sincerity and honesty in dealing with others which commanded the respect and esteem of all who knew him. The BBC recently broadcast an appreciation of Asquith on the occasion of the centenary of his birth, and this programme, called *H. H. Asquith*, will



HERBERT ASQUITH



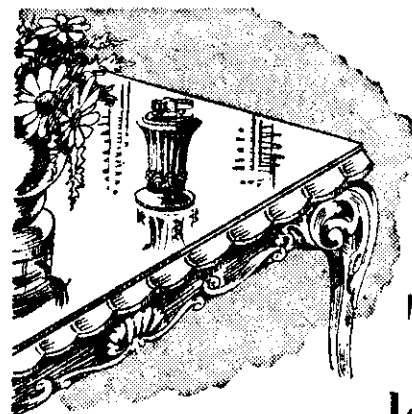
SAMUEL BUTLER

be heard from 2YC at 10.0 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22. The speaker is Lord Samuel, and few could be better qualified to give an appreciation of Asquith, since he speaks from an association with him of more than 20 years seven of them as a member of Cabinets of which Asquith was head.

Another man of independent mind, Samuel Butler, author of *Erewhon* and *The Way of All Flesh*, is the subject of a talk by E. M. Forster, who recorded it for the BBC from his room at King's College, Cambridge. Mr. Forster discusses Butler's influence both on his own work as an author, and on the literary and social life of the late 19th and early 20th Centuries, and reviews his achievements as scientist, painter, musician, and aesthetic interpreter. "Butler's main legacy," says Mr. Forster, "was that he upheld . . . the human spirit, and for this . . . let us thank him." Butler's qualities of independence of mind, good taste and tolerance remain as much a legacy today as some of his material possessions, which are housed in two collections, one in St. John's College, Cambridge, and the other in Williams College, Massachusetts. Mr. Forster's talk was specially recorded for the BBC's Transcription Service, and is a shortened version of one he originally broadcast on the Third Programme. It will be heard from 4YC at 9.30 p.m. on Thursday, April 23. Both talks will be rebroadcast later from other stations.



E. M. FORSTER

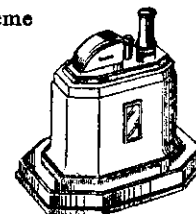


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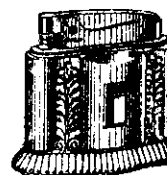
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