

NEWS OF BROADCASTERS,
ON AND OFF THE RECORD,
By *Swarf*

Jungle in Retreat—transcriptions of three BBC dramatised programmes based on the findings of a United Nations investigating team sent to South-East Asia in 1950. *Man and the Soil* has now been transferred to 4YA for broadcasting on Wednesday evenings.

★
THE music of Max Reger, German composer, is not often heard nowadays, but in his time he was regarded as a leader of the modernist school. But for all his modernism he kept fairly closely to academic rules of composition. He liked poking fun at the ultra-modernists. In 1906 he published a parody on extreme modernism—a piano piece called *Ewig Dein*, marked Opus No. 17,523. He indicated the tempo, "Faster than possible," and recommended that the piece be played backwards "to please those who hate dissonance and love harmony." As a man, Reger, who died in 1916 at the age of 43, lived his life with relish.

★
MOTOR-CAR racing is getting very popular in New Zealand, and at times there are between 20,000 and 25,000 spectators at an event. The sport should receive a distinct filip during the visit to New Zealand of the Queen, for there will probably be an International Motor Race—the first of its kind in this country—with drivers and cars invited from all over the world. Jack Kennedy, who conducts 22B's *For the Motorist* session, told me the other day.

★
ALTHOUGH he somewhat resembles a noted American wrestler who was in New Zealand recently, the happy-looking character here has "SWEET" MUSIC a different claim to prominence. He is Wayne King, whose recordings are often heard from the NZBS stations. He specialises in what initiates in the dance



N.Z. LISTENER, JULY 24, 1953.



K-FORCE CONCERT PARTY: Members of the NZBS party, which recently left for Korea, photographed just before their departure by flying-boat from Auckland. Left to right are, in front: Beryl Boswell, member of the staff of 2YA (solo pianist and accompanist), and Dorothy Hopkins, Auckland music teacher (soprano); at rear: Robin Gordon, Wellington business man (tenor), Walter Leslie, arts and crafts master at the West Christchurch District High School (magician and puppeteer), and Johnny Granger, farmer, of Whittford, Auckland (hillbilly singer). They will be heard in a recording from the four YA stations on August 12

band world describe, with a superior air, as "sweet" music. ★

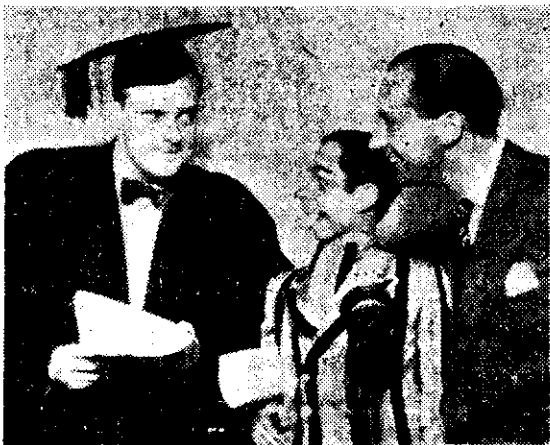
(JLD Etonian Humphrey Lyttelton, whose band of non-professional musicians has represented Great Britain at International Jazz Festivals in Europe, used to play the mouth organ during O.T.C. route marches. But the crash of hobnailed boots on the roadway was too much for him, so he cast about for something noisier. One afternoon, after slipping away from an Eton-Harrow match at Lords, he acquired a trumpet

and set off for his uncle's place, where he was staying the night. Up in the top-floor bathroom he propped the instruction book against the soap rack and after 10 minutes' solid practising produced his first note. The first tune Lyttelton mastered was "Whispering." Leaving Eton shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War, he took his trumpet with him into the Army and spent every spare moment on it. Recently he recorded two half-hour programmes of jazz music for the BBC Transcriptions Service under the title of *Jazz Concert*, and these are now going the rounds of NZBS stations.

SPEAKING ENTIRELY FOR HIMSELF

★
WHEN a BBC man was talking to a class of 10-year-olds in an East End London school recently two things soon became clear to him—the children were nearly all fans of Archie Andrews. Peter Brough's life-like dummy in *Educating Archie*. Moreover, quite a few of them believed that Archie was a living person, or, at any rate, was able to speak for himself. "How does Archie talk when Brough isn't there?" was one of the trickiest questions the man from the BBC had to answer. The way Brough the ventriloquist has built Archie into a star is one of the romances of British radio. People, it is said, no longer think of Archie as an arrangement of wood and string. He now numbers his fans by the thousand. In one broadcast from the BBC he tried to shoot himself and angry mothers wrote to Brough protesting that he must never do such a thing again, because so many children burst into tears. Panels of listeners all over Britain have agreed that *Educating Archie* qualified for the National Radio Award given by the *Daily Mail* for the most entertaining programme in sound radio for 1952-53. Recently two mem-

bers of the cast celebrated happy events. Hattie Jacques, wife of John Le Mesurier, the actor, gave birth to a son, and Harry Secombe became a proud father—also of a son. During a break in the show Max Bygraves and his friend, Eric Sykes, the script writer, had a motoring holiday in Spain. Archie had a new head built, and he says that the improved model will enable him to put out his tongue if Mr. Bygraves, or anyone else, irritates him. Our picture shows Robert Moreton (Archie's tutor), Archie himself and Peter Brough.



BBC photograph

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"HIGH NOON"

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