

NEWS OF BROADCASTERS, ON AND OFF THE RECORD,

By *Swarf*

agonising form of rheumatic complaint which was soon to undermine his health and drive him to opium addiction; had begun seriously to trouble him. He fought it off until the book was almost finished and then collapsed. He died in 1889. Not many listeners will have read *No Name*, as the book has been out of print for a long time. Collins's formula as a writer was a simple one, "Make 'em laugh, make 'em cry, make 'em wait." *No Name* shows to what good purpose he employed it.

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WHEN 3ZB presented a series of recordings under the title *Dudley Cantrell and his Orchestra* the other evening, the station staff had no idea that Mr. Cantrell was in New Zealand. A couple of days later they were pleasantly surprised to have a letter from him saying: "I would like to thank you for presenting a session of my recordings. Although they are old and corny, having been made over 10 years ago, you had at least one listener who got quite a kick out of hearing them again. I came over with the 'Tommy Trinder Show,' having previously been round with 'Tourist Trade,' but this time I did not go the full distance. I was unfortunate enough to contract pneumonia in your fair city (no reflection) . . . and was found to be infected with T.B. However, I was pleased to receive the news that I would be able to play the trombone again."

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Station 3ZB's reply wished Mr. Cantrell a quick recovery and return to the trombone. Commenting on his description of his own records as "corny," the programme organiser said, "We still have a very large audience who like 'corn.' We find it quite tasty, too." The letter gave a list of at least 10 Cantrell recordings in the station library and suggested that Mr. Cantrell might like to hear some of them broadcast during his stay at Pleasant Valley Sanatorium, Palmerston South.

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"MOUTHPIECE" writes: "A friend of mine maintains that the saxophone was unheard of before the invention of jazz. I say it's a good deal older than that. Who is right?" You are, "Mouthpiece." The inventor of the instrument was, as is fairly generally known, Adolphe Sax, but it is perhaps not so generally known that his real name was Joseph Antoine Sax. Why he changed his name nobody seems to know. Sax was born at Dinant, Belgium, on November 6, 1814, the son of a famous instrument maker. Adolphe acquired some of his father's skill, and also became a fine clarinet player. But he was fonder of the workshop, and when he was 28 (in 1842) he went to Paris and opened a business of his own in the Rue St. Georges. He had been working on a saxophone before he went there, and the instrument seems to have made its first public appearance in 1844, Berlioz having written a Chant

Sacré for six saxophones, which was performed on February 3 of that year. The instrument was patented in 1846. Sax died in 1894 almost in poverty at the age of 80. There is now a fairly extensive library for the saxophone, including compositions by Jacques Ibert, Glazounov, Henri Thomas, Debussy, Milhaud, and Britain's Eric Coates.

★

MANY people imagine that Braille consists simply of raised letters similar to the printed letter. That is not so. It is based on a group of six dots arranged as on a six of dominoes. Now, by using various combinations of these letters, 63 different characters of symbols can be made. So, besides the alphabet, numerals and punctuation marks, there are, in Braille, many contractions for frequently used letter combinations, such as st, ing, tion, ment, and so on. In addition, many words are merely outlines in Braille: abv stands for "above"; tgr for "together"; imm for "immediate." And there are many more. Indeed, Braille is very similar to a modified shorthand system. . . . The blind people of New Zealand are fortunate enough to have access to one of the best stocked libraries for the blind in the Southern Hemisphere. This is at the New Zealand Institute for the Blind in Auckland. There are over 3000 volumes in the library, and every type of literature is well represented.—From a NZBS Book Shop talk by T. Small.

SORT OF SHORTHAND

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ANN SOTHERN, the film actress, who plays the part of Maisie in "The Adventures of Maisie," being broadcast by the four ZB stations at 7.0 p.m. on Tuesdays

WHEN Yi-Kwei Sze, the Chinese basso, comes to New Zealand on tour for the NZBS this concert season there will no doubt be speculation about the correct pronunciation of his name. Here it is, as given by him to an Australian interviewer—E-Kway Zee.

CHINESE BASSO be speculation about the correct pronunciation of his name. Here it is, as given by him to an Australian interviewer—E-Kway Zee.

SAY IT ALL IN SIXTY SECONDS

WHERE two or three New Zealanders are gathered together one, or more than likely each, will make a speech at the drop of an aspirate. This well-known characteristic, which will reach unparalleled strength in a few months, is under attack just now in Wanganui, where Station 2XA is giving the members of its radio discussion panel only a minute to express an opinion on a subject announced by the chairman without notice. The hand of a large clock in the studio makes a complete revolution in 60 seconds, and then a buzzer interrupts the speaker, Station 2XA tells me that local interest

in this programme has been greater than in any it has broadcast so far. Topics range from New Zealand architecture to the accrediting system, and from the effect of fairy stories upon the young to methods of dealing with an uninvited guest in the home. Purely local subjects extend from pasteurised or raw milk to angle car-parking. There are guest speakers from time to time, but the basic panel, shown in our photograph is (left to right): Ivan Brown (chairman), Sam Jamieson, Bill Clayton, Mary MacDonald and Patricia Murphy. The title of the programme is *One Minute to Go*.



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AGAIN WITH YOU"

"ISLE OF INNESFREE"

"I LEAVE MY HEART IN
AN ENGLISH GARDEN"

"A BROKEN ENGAGEMENT"

"HIGH NOON"

"HIGH NOON"

"RED'S BOOGIE"

"KEEP IT A SECRET"

"I WENT TO YOUR WEDDING"

"AUF WIEDERSEHN SWEETHEART"

"BLUE TANGO"

"YOURS"

"THE LOVELIEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR"

"MOONLIGHT BAY" "BE MY LOVE"

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