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CINCE well before the war BBC Palace of Varieties has been turning the clock back to the days when music hall was a convivial and full-blooded entertainment. This hearty radio show has been produced from the beginning by Ernest Longstaffe, and now another selection of his programmes, recorded on transcriptions for listeners overseas, is going the rounds of National stations of the NZBS. The artists who take part are all experts at putting over a song and making an audience feel at home, and, as always, the kingpin of the whole affair is the Chairman. There have been several wielders of the gavel since Nosmo King presided over the earlier programmes, and the present incumbent. Rob Currie, is keeping up the tradition. Like his predecessors, he appears for the broadcasts in rubicund make-up and an expanse of glazed shirtfront; his voice is mellifluous and his manner blends bonhomie with dignity; he is ever ready to oblige with a number when called upon; and he engages with relish in any verbal give and take that may arise with members of the audience. Something like 15 years is a ripe age for a radio show, but Palace of Varieties is still thriving.

WHEN he was in New Zealand at the beginning of this year Ian Mackay, formerly of the Commercial Division of the NZBS, but now with the Macquarie Network, told The Listener that he considered Aus-

AUSTRALIAN ACTOR'S tralian radio SUCCESS actors and actresses

"best in the world." He felt that there would be general agreement with this view. Whatever other people may think, there is one Australian at least who comes to mind as having reached a high place in the profession-John Cazabon, who was considered good enough to appear in Ibsen's Ghosts, produced by the BBC in its World Theatre series, and

Open Microphone

One of The Listener (England) critics praised Cazabon highly for his portrayal of Oswald, on whom the sins of the

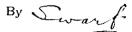


JOHN CAZABON

father had been visited. John Cazabon takes the part of Lester Potter in the Australian serial Courtship and Marriage, now being broadcast on Thursday and Friday mornings by the four ZB stations.

THE solo pianist with Sidney Torch and his Orchestra in one of the programmes in the BBC's London Studio Melodies (now on the MR., NOT MISS rounds of National

stations of the NZBS) has a Christian name which has led many listeners to the mistaken belief that he is "Miss" and not "Mr." Monia Liter. Liter, Russian-born and naturalised NEWS OF BROADCASTERS. ON AND OFF THE RECORD.



British, left Russia during the Revolution in 1917 and gained his first professional musical experience as a boy in North China, playing with full orchestras, quintets and dance bands. For seven years he led a band of his own at the Raffles Hotel in Singapore. and in 1933 he made his first appearance in England. He owes his special position in entertainment to a complete command of both straight and swing piano playing. Ronald Chesney, who is heard in another of these programmes. is a brilliant harmonica player who met with sensational success in 1947 when he gave a mouth-organ recital at the Albert Hall, London, with a programme that included works by Chopin, Debussy and Offenbach, Sidney Torch became well known through his gramophone records as a cinema organist, but since 1945 he has concentrated on conducting his concert orchestra of 40 players and on composing.

IF only to prove that Gutenberg did not live in vain, a new series of Much-Bind-DENHAM AS ing-in-the -Marsh, now HIMSELF being broadcast the BBC, finds Murdoch Horne and Costa trying to run

a newspaper, with Sam Costa as an acidulous music critic. For the first time Maurice Denham, who has almost everybody else, will appear as himself.



KNOW quite a few journalists who have written books. Most of them have been terrible and their authors have not made a penny from them. On the other hand I've met one or two

MAGNIFICENT who bear souls ILLUSION away assiduously at their typewriters and

have in due course raked in modest fortunes. But they're the exceptions to the rule. By and large, by the time one has got through recording the daily minutiae, one is not too eager to carry on with any extra-mural endeavour beyond the odd article for a known market. It's a case of the bawbees in hand being better bait than the bullion in the bush. And if I must bare my innermost secrets, it's not entirely a case of sloth. That book which might be written some day is a sort of magnificent illusion; it gives one grandiose dreams; it bolsters the ego; and as long as it remains in the future. it remains good.-From a NZBS Book Shop talk by John Spedding.

ROSEMARY ("Come On-a My House") Clooney, whose voice comes into several NZBS programmes, was married recently to Jose Ferrer, actor, producer and director of stage and screen, at Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.



ALTHOUGH HE IS BLIND, Julian Lee, the Auckland musician, has become well known to radio listeners in New Zealand for his complete mastery of at least three instruments. He was born in Dunedin and when he was five years old he was admitted to the New Zealand Institute for the Blind at Auckland. where he received a thorough primary and secondary education. He also learned the piano, saxophone and trumpet. In 1940 he left the Institute and returned to Dunedin, where he conducted two weekly programmes for 4ZB and played in various dance orchestras. In 1946 Julian Lee went back to Auckland, and he has since taken an active part in recording, radio and cabaret work. Last year he was appointed director of an Auckland recording studio. Listeners will hear him at 9.0 p.m. on Sunday, September 13, in 1ZB's programme, "Music at Nine," when he will be the guest artist with Oswald Cheesman's Orchestra