

Music and Drama Aided by Radio

Chairmen of Committees Testify to Value

OUR committee is barely three months old, but it may be said to be a lusty infant, with a promising career of usefulness ahead of itself. Our three meetings to date may be summarised briefly as follows.

The first meeting, April 20, was devoted to taking each other's measure, and beyond an elucidation of the Radio Broadcasting Company's viewpoint and policy, and a round-table talk, no important business was finalised. The second meeting, May 4, saw the members ready for work, and numerous suggestions were considered. All decisions made at this meeting have since been endorsed by the Radio Broadcasting Company. The third meeting, on June 1, was the best meeting of all, and the same comment applies to it as to the second. Our fourth meeting, on July 6, has not eventuated at the time of writing this article, and nothing can be said about it at this stage, save that three fairly far-reaching resolutions will be submitted, and as they have a good chance of adoption by the committee and endorsement by the Radio Broadcasting Company, listeners will soon be aware of "a certain liveliness" (to quote an old war-time tag).

AMONG the ideas promulgated or actually adopted are the follow-

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dates were arranged for practically a year ahead.

We meet monthly, and discuss various requests for extra services during Sunday afternoons, suggestions brought forward for the better handling of this most vital public service, etc.

AT the present time, we are experimenting with regard to the broadcasting of morning services. Whatever defects the present arrangement may have in the minds of some, it is, in my opinion, the most satisfactory as far as the general public is concerned.

There are thousands of people in the Dominion who do not, or cannot, attend Divine worship, and to such radio is a reminder of the great issues of life which might be otherwise forgotten.

That such broadcasting is appreciated is evident by the flood of letters received by the various preachers.

WE are on the edge of big things in connection with the broadcasting of the vital messages of religion. I see no reason why, in the near future, the Broadcasting Company should not institute a "University of the Air," by means of which, through selected speakers, religion and its cognate subjects should become the mightiest educational factors in the life of the Dominion.

In wishing the "Radio Record" many happy returns of the day, I should like also to place on record my deliberate opinion that the attitude of the Radio Broadcasting Company of New Zealand to the use of the radio for religion, has been broad, and wise, and sympathetic.

D. GARDNER MILLER,
Chairman.

3YA Church Service Committee.

ing: (1) Two "mystery" programme will be put on with an interval of one month between them, and prizes awarded for accurate guesses of the artists' names and the pieces rendered. (2) A comprehensive, nation-wide audition for the purpose of discovering fresh radio voices is proposed that will involve the co-operation of various important interests in its execution, the main idea being to unearth the most promising lady singer and the most promising gentleman singer in the Dominion. The proposed inducements to enter are on the biggest scale hitherto known in New Zealand musical circles and involve one, and possibly two, scholarships for study abroad valued at £500 each. The working out of the details of this scheme and the obtaining of the consent of the other Radio Broadcasting Company Committees, and certain commercial interests, will occupy some time, but the prospects of success are most favourable. For the first time in their lives listeners will enjoy the sensation of hearing musical competitions of national importance over the air.

(3) A half-hour review of selected gramophone records will be given every alternate week, this being the first known case of record reviews being broadcast by a musical critic.

(4) Once monthly an hour's selected gramophone recital will be given after church service on the Sunday evening. Although the records to be used will be enjoyable and inspiring for their own intrinsic musical worth, discussions of personal and aesthetic aspects will be found helpful and the atmosphere of the evening will be found to be preserved.

(5) Several new combinations are to be introduced to vary the regular routine of the present existing musical groups, whose best efforts must tend to monotony if heard too frequently. One of these innovations will be an octet (eight voices), which

will be found capable of doing anything and everything, from the light operas, good musical comedies, and similar musical fare selected from what might be termed the "lighter classic" school.

Through the influence of members of the committee, relays and first-hand broadcasts are being arranged for, and as these will be part programmes, and in some instances whole programmes by substantial musical bodies, their introduction will be acceptable to listeners in general.

(6) Definite programme construction on chronological, national, and other lines is to be encouraged, and an English programme has already been adopted.

(7) Illustrated 15-minute lectures on singing and the playing of different musical instruments have been approved, and the best obtainable singers and exponents of the respective instruments will be engaged for the solos, and the demonstrations.

FROM the foregoing it will be seen that the two short business sessions of the committee have been anything but fruitless. In conclusion, I would like to stress the value of the work of these advisory bodies, which are working with great success in other countries, and bring expert knowledge and no mean influence to bear upon their deliberations. They supply the most effective reply to a certain numerically insignificant but exceedingly noisy minority, whose main purpose in life seems to be to obstruct progress and belittle honesty of intention in anybody and everybody.

AFTER a lengthy newspaper experience and a sustained contact in public affairs, I have come to the conclusion that this type of "diehard" critics is actuated by personal motives brought about through diseased vanity and thwarted personal ambition. I

am given to very plain speaking on this matter, and after careful investigation of the opposition, I have arrived at the considered opinion that much of it may be discounted, by almost one hundred per cent., and in appraising the balance that remains, much of it that is new is not true, and any that is true is not new.

I hold no brief for the Radio Broadcasting Company but as one who has consistently striven for the good of music for a quarter of a century, I welcome this opportunity for an enlarged field of public service provided by radio.

Our committee is a happy party with but one aim in view, i.e., the advancement of better broadcasting entertainment. We are not afraid of work, we never forget the recreative needs of the plain, every-day public, and we have no other interest to serve save that of the listeners in general, and our respective societies in particular.

KARL ATKINSON,
Chairman,
1YA Music and Dramatic Committee.

2YA Musical Committee

ON the occasion of this notable anniversary, I desire to take this opportunity of placing on record my sincere appreciation of the wonderful development which has taken place, and the results which have been achieved by the Radio Broadcasting Company during the past twelve months. The results clearly show a desire on the part of the company's officials to present entertainments of the highest quality, and a general news and sports service to meet all sections of the community, and to those responsible officials I offer my heartiest congratulations.

IT was indeed a happy thought which brought about the establishment of the Public Relations Committees at the various centres, and I esteem it a privilege to be associated with the



2YA Musical and Dramatic Committee.

Back row—Mr. I. Levy ("Dominion"), Mr. H. Temple White (Commercial Travellers' Choir), Mr. Campbell (Competitions Society), Mr. Harison Cook (National Repertory Society).

Front row—Mr. Len. Barnes (Orpheus Society), Mr. J. Carr (Charley's Aunt Club), Mr. E. Palliser, Mr. Ron. Lyon (Savage Club), Mr. A. Stanley Warwick (Orphans' Club), Mr. G. J. Giesen (Hutt Valley Choral Society).

Absent—Mr. W. E. Caldow (Royal Wellington Choral Society), Mr. V. R. Bennett (Wellington Harmonic Society).