

Farewell to Uncle Ernest

Radio Valedictory on
Friday, December 7

ON Friday evening, December 7, there will be an interesting gathering at 2YA during the Children's Session, the occasion being a valedictory to the Rev. E. Weeks, "Uncle Ernest," who is soon to leave for England.

Uncle Ernest is the oldest radio uncle in New Zealand, not in point of age really, but only so far as radio service goes. Uncle Ernest was one of the first to realise the sphere of usefulness that radio opened up, and it is with the greatest regret that he is now relinquishing a labour of love. It is a great regret, too, to thousands of children who, though they have never met him, have learned to love him through radio. The affection in which he is held will be testified to by an album of names written by the children's own hands, which is to be presented to Uncle Ernest.

There will be an interesting gathering at 2YA on Friday, December 7, when a Radio Farewell is given to Uncle Ernest.

New Violin Concerto

Work of Christchurch
Composer

ON Wednesday, December 5, 3YA will rebroadcast part of the concert which is to be given by the Christchurch Orchestral Society. An interesting feature of this broadcast will be the fact that Christchurch and listeners-in will hear a new and as yet unpublished musical work. This is a composition by the society's conductor, Mr. Angus Gunter. It is a Concert-stuck in D Minor for violin and orchestra, the soloist being Miss Joan Carter, a pupil of Mr. Gunter. The first performance of this work will attract considerable attention, not merely in Christchurch but throughout the Dominion.

A concertstuck is the recognised type of a one-movement concerto, often written in freer form with varied tempi and change of time signature.

Mr. Gunter's work is written in strict sonata form in the manner of a symphony. The solo instrument is regarded as an inseparable part of an organic whole; the accompaniment never sinks into the background, but is thematic and the characteristic motives are taken up again and again by the different sections of the orchestra.

"It is absolute music," says Mr. Gunter. "But should a poetical idea be required it is that of an on-storming, fearless young soul fighting against the cramping fetters of Fate."

The first main theme is not heard until the 31st bar, since the orchestra, and later the solo violin, have an introductory prelude built on material which hints at the principal theme.

New and Interesting Features

Observations on Some of the New Models

(By "Observer.")

IT is interesting in going round town to notice the trend of radio as forecast by the new arrivals displayed by the leading dealers. Although we are rapidly approaching summer, there are some remarkably fine pieces of radio apparatus coming on to the market. Notable among these is the new electric model Crosley, on exhibition at the shops of the agents. Of these there are two distinct models, both fully shielded, and encased in a handsome metal case; one is a six-valve and the other an eight, that is, including the rectifier.

The larger of the two utilises two valves and two transformers in the famous "push-pull" hook-up which produces immense volume without distortion. A feature of these models is single dial control with a balancing unit, to ensure perfect selectivity. Both sets are worked entirely from the A.C. mains, all rectifiers and transformers being included in the neat cabinet, which in the largest model is only 18 inches in length and ten inches wide.

These manufacturers have brought out an attractive speaker on the dynamis principle to match the cabinet.

Battery Eliminators.

THE enthusiast who wishes to electrify his set without going to the expense of purchasing a new set will find a splendid outfit in the ABC eliminators, stocked by Messrs. L. Silver and Co., Manners Street. This type of eliminators can also be obtained for A and B separately. It is claimed that these eliminators will deliver very heavy amperage and still maintain a high voltage. This makes

them very suitable for the new power valves that are rapidly coming to the fore.

An Example of Push-Pull.

PASSING along Manners Street, one is often arrested by the large crowd collected around the shop of Messrs. Silver listening to the afternoon session from 2YA. The deep, rich tone is remarkable. The secret is push-pull amplification such as described by "Pentode" a few weeks back. A crystal detector is employed. The speaker, which handles the output faithfully, is a baffled Baby cone of a popular make.

Power Amplifier.

A TYPE of power amplifier that should appeal to those who have need of great volume, has been constructed by Messrs. Thomas Ballinger. Running directly from the mains, this unit can be applied to an ordinary wireless set, short-wave set, a crystal set, a gramophone pickup, or a microphone. The unit may be used as a speech amplifier for public addresses. Any type of speaker can be applied. While watching a demonstration, the writer was amazed at the tremendous undistorted volume supplied to a moving coil speaker. A small cone speaker was then hooked up and the same music (from a pick-up) was toned down to a whisper. It was a truly remarkable feat.

This amplifier was used in conjunction with a dynamic speaker on election night, and could be heard word perfect several hundred yards away against a stiff breeze.

A smaller unit is available for household use.

The Ideal Programme

4QG's Search For It

IN view of the great diversity of opinion existing among listeners, the management of 4QG, Brisbane, offered a prize of £5 to the listener who could furnish an ideal programme for one evening, i.e., from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. It was hoped that by doing

After both the first and second main themes have been stated, a slow section of the work is inserted, marking the beginning of an elaborate working-out part.

The climax of this is a grand orchestral tutti, written in polyphonic style. The recapitulation follows orthodox lines. Attention may be drawn to the re-statement of the second main theme, now in the major key, and this time rhythmically allongated from 3/4 to 4/4 time.

In a more or less turbulent work, this is a particularly restful song of tender, trusting innocence. The whole comes to a seemingly jubilant end, were it not for a slow epilogue full of poignant emotion.

would not be at all satisfactory to say, the lady who lives next door.

The Ideal Programme.

SOME of the "ideal" programmes were merely a collection of oddments, certainly variety, but without a semblance of unity that makes so much for a perfect programme.

"Every programme broadcast from 4QG, or any other station," comments the station director, "pleases some of the listeners and displeases others. Almost every day some caller or some writer to 4QG states that some particular item or programme which has been broadcast, was the best ever given, and other writers or callers invariably class the same item as the worst. Both critics are right. The man who says a certain item or programme is beautiful is quite right. It is beautiful. It is beautiful because it appeals to his tastes or fancies or emotions and, therefore, pleases him. The man who says it is painful is also right. It is painful. It is painful to him because it does not appeal to his frame of mind. Both men forget, however, that what is pleasing to them is distasteful to the other fellow, and vice versa."

Difficulty in Providing Programmes.

HAVING explained that everything is being done to group programmes in such a way that all types of listeners are catered for and that the printing of programmes ahead gives the listener a chance to select his programmes (in this respect adopting the New Zealand system) he continues: "One of the greatest troubles of broadcasting to-day lies in the fact that very few people know how to listen in. If a man owns a gramophone, he does not for one moment play it from eight to half-past each morning, from eleven to twelve, from one to two, from three to half-past four, and from six to half-past ten or eleven, every morning, afternoon, and night of his life. Were he to do so he would soon be very sick of gramophones. Similarly, if a man owns a gramophone and buys a record which he does not like, he does not solemnly sit and listen to it in spite of the fact that he does not like it. Also if a gramophone company makes records which do not suit the particular taste of a gramophone owner, that owner does not write an anonymous letter to a newspaper and sign it 'Disgusted,' and say that the gramophone company is a badly run institution simply because it makes a certain type of record he does not care for. Not at all! He simply does not play the record he does not like, and plays the records he does like."

"So it is with a broadcasting station. No listener can reasonably expect to get all he wants all the time. The other fellow must be catered for. If a distasteful item comes along a snap of the fingers cuts it out. It must always be remembered, however, that an item is not distasteful merely because one individual listener thinks it distasteful. One man may not like boxing, but that does not for a moment constitute any fragment of a reason why 4QG should not broadcast from the stadium. There may be many listeners who do like it, and they all have to be catered for. Similarly, some listeners may not like classical music, but many others do. A station exists not to please either section, but to try and cater for all."

this, the station would be able to find out exactly what was wanted, at the same time giving scope for the expression of new ideas.

Views of the Competitors.

A LARGE number of listeners went out of the way to compile programmes, and forward them to 4QG. The judging of the efforts submitted was a rather difficult task, and it was finally decided to ask three capable persons to scan carefully all the efforts, and to express their views regarding them independently. None of these people discussed the efforts with each other; each expressed his own opinion, irrespective of what the others thought.

The entries were disappointing, for beyond showing who were the popular artists, they contributed nothing. Some had evidently devoted a great deal of time and thought to the matter, while others had written an ideal programme from their own point of view, and completely forgotten others. In this respect one lady, who took particular pains to assure 4QG that she held a university degree, handed in a programme composed entirely of gramophone records. This type of programme might suit her personally, but she quite overlooked the fact that she is not the only person who listens, and she, therefore, did not realise that what might please her immensely