

The great first night came, and went, to be followed by over 600 others of a continuous run of this, the most popular of all the Savoy operas.

The orchestral selection to be played on Saturday (March 30) at 1YA and its jocund strains will be as eagerly listened to as they were by our parents and grandparents last century.

### "Sonny Boy."

AMONG the wonders of science in the second half of the present century none is more marvellous than the "talking film." The expression "talking film" is American, and in that country gramophones are still called by the name that was given them fifty years ago when Edison produced his original phonograph.

One of the first of the "talkies" is a film of super-sentimentality called "The Singing Fool," the story of which is a tragedy of modern stage life and is, alas, all too common in real life.

The principal part is taken by Al Jolson who, in the title role as Al Stone, is a singing waiter and songwriter at "Blackie" Joe's. Molly Winton, star entertainer, haughtily ignores his affection and refuses to sing a song he writes for her. Consoled by Grace, a cigarette girl, Al does the number himself and is a tremendous hit. Molly, sensing his success, puts herself back in his good books. Al and Molly marry and gain considerable fame. Al is very happy with his admiring followers and Junior, his son, but Molly does not love him. On New Year's Eve she elopes with John Perry, taking the child with her. Haggard and broken the singer wanders back to "Blackie" Joe's, where once again Grace inspires him to "stage a come-back."

One night Al is called to a hospital where Junior is dying. He sings his heart out in a last lullaby to put his son to eternal rest. Stumbling out past Molly, the singer reaches the theatre in a dazed condition. Made up, out on the stage, Al breaks down trying to sing that "last lullaby."

This film has called forth an insistent demand for a record of "Sonny Boy" by the original "Singing Fool" (Al Jolson), to which Brunswick has responded with a most realistic version of the song.

At 2YA on Thursday (March 28) "The Fatherly Fellow" will feature this popular song.

### Passiontide and Eastertide.

QUITE to the manner born, the four YA stations for broadcasting in New Zealand adapt themselves naturally to the religious aspirations of the people and provide either by re-broadcast or from their respective studios suitable Passiontide and Eastertide musical fare for their listeners. Stainer's still popular "Crucifixion" will be relayed from Beresford Street Congregational Church by 1YA on Palm Sunday (March 24), and from St. Thomas's Anglican Church, Newtown, on Good Friday by 2YA. Originally written by the late Sir John Stainer and dedicated to the choir of St. Marylebone Parish Church, London, where he was organist in 1885, the work has been sung every year since by the same choir, and it is a beautifully reverent and appealing Meditation on the Passion of our Lord, the words being selected and written by the Rev. J. Sparrow-Simpson, M.A. The work itself appeals simply and directly to the listener, for it brings the varying scenes of its poignant story

before him with intensely dramatic vividness.

Appropriate studio programmes will be broadcast by the other stations after divine service on Palm Sunday.

On Good Friday (March 29) Maunder's Sacred Cantata, "Olivet to Calvary," will be presented in the 2YA studio by the Island Bay Wesley Church choir. This work rivals Stainer's "Crucifixion" in popularity, and whilst it is simpler in construction, it is highly effective when well sung.

Bach's "St. Matthew's Passion" is being relayed by 3YA from the Christchurch Cathedral on Good Friday, and with that efficiency that characterises present-day broadcasting all the solemnity of the cathedral atmosphere and the occasion will be apparent to listeners. A book could be written on this one work by Johann Sebastian Bach and listeners will recognise the inspirational force behind the music. The relays of services on Easter Sunday will meet with approval from the mass of listeners who will have no cause to complain of the fine studio programmes that follow as a matter of course.

### An Easter Hymn.

AT 3YA on the evening of Easter Sunday a fine record of the Easter Hymn from Mascagni's "Cavalleria Rusticana" (Parlophone AR1005) will be broadcast. It is certainly one of the most popular selections from that fine little work, and the solo by Emmy Bettendorff is of much merit, her intoning of Santuzza's lovely prayer being most thrilling. The fine ensemble of chorus and orchestra always produces an electrical effect upon those who hear it.

The general belief is that Mascagni's fine opera is one of a single tune—the famous Intermezzo—but this is not the case. Although this selection made the composer world famous over-night, the opera is as full of gems of melody as an egg is full of meat. The singing by a German chorus on this record is rather slow to the mind of the writer, but this is a natural failing—ponderosity being overestimated in the Fatherland.

## Broadcast Prediction

### Question of Wavelengths

MR. Hugo Gernsback, editor of the "Radio News," New York, states:

"It looks very much as if, in a few years, broadcast stations are likely to abandon their present wavelengths, and there will then be a general exodus down into the shortwave bands. For one thing, on the shorter waves, it will be easier to take care of more broadcasters without cramping them; secondly, in certain regions of the short wave band, there is less annoying static than in the longer-wave bands.

"And, the more shortwave receivers come into use, the more will be known about this phase of the art, and the better it will be for the industry and the public. It is a good thing that the progress from long to shortwaves is slow and orderly for, if this were not the case, 90 per cent. of the present-day radio sets would become at once obsolete. Yet there seems to be no danger of this, as the transition will be quite gradual, and will extend over a period of many years."

## Auckland City Council and Radio

(Continuation of cover page.)

FINALLY it was urged that on the higher ground of community service the council might reasonably be expected to co-operate with the Broadcasting Company in making the services of the band of the widest possible use and benefit to the community, and thereby facilitate an arrangement based not wholly on hard and fast commercial considerations.

THE Municipal Band, maintained as it is at the cost of the rate-payers for the avowed purpose of providing the citizens with good music, could obviously best achieve that purpose by making use without any additional cost to the council of a medium by which the benefit of their services could be extended to an immeasurably larger community than the band itself could possibly reach.

By making use of this medium not only would the band be rendering a community service of great worth to the Dominion, but it would be putting Auckland "on the map" more effectively than ever and thus justifying the cost of its existence through the returns which come directly and indirectly from a popular, far-reaching and impressive form of publicity.

Acceptance of the company's offer of £352 16s. would have helped substantially to relieve the financial burden now wholly borne by the ratepayer

## Facts about Lightning

### Investigations in U.S.A.

BROADCAST listeners have a very particular interest in lightning, which is one of the causes of static.

"That the needed facts about lightning can now be obtained is attested by the great success the Westinghouse Company has had in its Chilhowee Mountain investigation, which is still progressing. Early in the investigation there was obtained for the first time in history a complete authentic autograph of a lightning flash on an operating high voltage line. The records show when it occurred, how long it lasted, how far distant the lightning was, its voltage, its effect on the power lines—in fact, everything necessary for full analysis.

"It was found, for example, that the over-voltage on the line continued for 50 millionths of a second. Prior to this actual determination, we have had to guess as to the duration.

"It was found, furthermore, that while many lightning storms may occur in a general locality, only once or at most a very few in a year will have any effect on a power line and that many of the storms near power lines are harmless. However, when they do occur, they may be very harmful.

"Facts such as these are of tremendous value to scientists striving to find out how to combat lightning. If they should come in from a hundred investigations in a hundred localities, then, and only then, could we hope for final victory over our ancient enemy, and the consequent benefits of cheaper, more reliable, and more abundant power."

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Life,  
Honest  
Rated  
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6	100	6 5 0

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