

N.Z. Pianist

Competitions

Radio in N.Z.

Mr. Sydney Francis Hoben An Interesting Talk

THE notable New Zealand pianist, Mr. Sydney Francis Hoben, who is now resident in Christchurch, has been engaged by 3YA for a series of recitals. Mr. Hoben graduated with honours from the Konigliches Conservatorium der Musik, Leipzig, Germany.

As a youth, Mr. Hoben was sent to the famous Conservatorium of Music



in Leipzig, where he gained high honours in a stay of several years.

On returning, he toured New Zealand, and taught for a period before settling down in his native city, Sydney. Here he became musical critic for the "Sydney Mail," and organist of one of the largest organs in the Harbour City, and took a prominent part in the musical life. Some years later he returned to New Zealand as principal of music of Woodford House College in Hawke's Bay.

After four years he went for a concert tour to America, and it proved so successful that, on the advice of Mme. Teresa Carreno, he remained for some years in California. He had a brilliant and successful life in the States, which he has toured completely. In California he appeared constantly in all the large cities, and became extremely well known as a pianist, lecturer and teacher.

American newspaper critics devoted much space to his recitals. He accompanied artists of celebrity, such as Miss Geraldine Farrar, Mr. John Barrymore, etc.

By constantly hearing and associating with the foremost vocal and instrumental artists of the day, Mr. Hoben gained invaluable knowledge as to their methods and secrets of success.

Since returning to New Zealand, Mr. Hoben has completely toured the Dominion and given many successful recitals.

Mr. Hoben will appear on 3YA's programme for April 12.

DO not use an ordinary small H.T. battery if your set has a power valve, as so much H.T. current is required by a valve of this type that it is essential to use a large-capacity H.T. battery or else a mains unit.

English Adjudicator Speaks

AN interesting lecture will be given from 3YA on May 9, by Mr. W. H. Dixon, L.R.A.M. (London), A.R.C.M., professor of singing, on the subject of musical competitions and their value to students, teachers and the nation. Mr. Dixon, who is conductor of the Christchurch Royal Choral Society, has recently arrived in Christchurch from the Old Land. He comes with the highest credentials. After much experience with competitions in England he will be able to give valuable advice to students and teachers.

Mr. Dixon will make his first radio appearance in New Zealand next Wednesday evening, when he will describe and narrate the story of "Rigoletto."

Mr. Dixon will be musical judge at the Wellington Competitions in August.

MR. DIXON is a native of Lancashire. In the early days of his musical career he won the open tenor solo at Oxford Berks' and Bucks' Festival, at Slough, and also the gold medal at Bristol Eisteddfod; afterwards securing the Acott Singing Scholarship at Oxford. Following this training he was awarded the diplomas of L.R.A.M., and A.R.C.M. After this he was appointed principal tenor at Mansfield College.

He organised choirs at St. Nicholas Congregational Church, and was for many years conductor of the Felixstowe Choral Society. At the Ipswich Social Settlement, in collaboration with the late Rt. Hon. Sir Daniel



Goddard, M.P., he formed a choir which performed some of the finest music ever heard in Ipswich. In the operatic world he also added distinction to his activities, and the performances of the Ipswich Amateur Operatic Society and Ipswich Players at the Lyceum, with a week's presentation of five or six different operas, will long be remembered.

After the death of Sir Daniel Goddard, Mr. Dixon was offered the post of musical director at Tacket Street Congregational Church, the "Cathedral" of Nonconformity in Ipswich. The music of this church had always

been of a high standard, and under the new conductor the choir improved from "strength to strength." On one occasion its singing in the county competition caused the adjudicator to temporarily forget he was judging a competition, and just to lean back in his chair and listen to the superb singing of this choir.

He trained choirs for the L. & N.E. Ry. Musical Society, and in 1920 was selected to coach the whole of the eastern area for the London concerts.

At the Suffolk County Musical Competition Festivals at both Ipswich and Bury St. Edmunds his pupils won distinction after distinction—18 pupils winning first prizes, and 25 second prizes—and his choirs won premier honours over all comers whenever they were entered. A large proportion of his successful pupils became members of the Ipswich Choral Society.

In addition to the great oratorios, he has tackled some of Elgar's masterpieces, such as "The Dream of Gerontius" and "Caractacus," with conspicuous success. The splendid performance of "The Dream" is remembered as a concert never to be forgotten in musical annals in the town. Many smaller works, presenting nearly as many difficulties, have been given and Mr. Dixon has never let the society or the public down by a second-rate performance.

4YA's Announcer

THE Federated Clubs of New Zealand held their annual elocutionary and debating contests in Dunedin over Easter, eleven teams competing. Mr. A. L. Curry, announcer at 4YA, a member of the Dunedin Club, received first award in the prepared debate section, the subject being "That European Countries will be deterred from War by a Pact of Peace."

Mr. Curry's team also secured first place in the aggregate teams' award.

Praise for Attainment

PRAISE of New Zealand's radio performance and standard is given by Mr. J. H. Owen, former president of the Wellington Amateur Radio Society, who has just returned from a comprehensive tour abroad. Because of his special interest in radio, Mr. Owen made a point of listening assiduously wherever possible to radio transmission. His comments on the local standard are, therefore, of interest and value to listeners. In the column of Notes and Comments, conducted by "Switch," a paragraph will be found, in which Mr. Owen particularly dwells upon the fine quality of 2YA's transmission. This testimony is, of course, gratifying to those responsible, and may be taken as somewhat of a guide by listeners who are in doubt at times whether to blame their own sets or the station for faulty reception.

Commenting upon the standard of radio obtaining in New Zealand, as compared with other countries, Mr. Owen definitely goes on record as holding that having regard to the conditions under which it has been working, and the state of development of the country, the New Zealand Radio Broadcasting Company has done wonderfully well in the standard of programmes put on the air and the quality of transmission maintained from the various stations.

A full and comprehensive interview with Mr. Owen will be found elsewhere.

BY a decree (published in Rumania, in the "Nonitorial Official" of November 6) the restriction in force since 1925, under which the erection of transmitting and receiving stations within a zone of 36 km. from the frontier was forbidden, has now been removed.

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