

A Rendering Appreciated by an Author.

THE following was forwarded to Mr. Barton Ginger, elocutionist:—
 "Will you accept my thanks for your very fine delivery of 'The Bushman's Child' on Monday evening last. No one realises more than I, the writer, the many faults in the piece and its crudeness, and I greatly appreciate the manner in which you brought out and made to 'live' its one or two good situations. I feel that the congratulations I received from my friends on the occasion of the broadcast were more honestly deserved by the reciter than the author.—Beryl Windsor" (Westland).

2YA Trio Wanted.

IS there any likelihood of the Symons-Elwood-Short Trio ever being heard again from 2YA? During last winter this trio used to provide the "star" items of an evening's programme, but since the Studio Orchestra came into existence the trio has become conspicuous by its absence.
 I am sure many listeners will agree with me in saying that a weekly performance by the trio would be a very welcome addition to the programmes of 2YA.

In reference to the broadcast by 2YA of the second instalment of "Rigoletto," what happened to the soprano aria "Caro Nome"? Certainly, a portion of this aria was broadcast, but, if I remember rightly, that was only the few bars which, after singing the aria, Gilda is repeating when she is seized by the courtiers. The omission of the complete aria rather spoilt an otherwise excellent entertainment.—Hombre (Masterton).

[In endeavouring to suit all tastes, the trio was amplified to the complete orchestra. The personnel still remain and are frequently heard in solos. The aria was rendered complete as far as the gramophone recording is concerned. Any omission was made by the producers.—Ed.]

Our Mail Bag

Play Reading Questioned.

IN discussing the merits of the N.Z. Broadcasting Company, I have very often spoken of their programmes being clean and healthy, such as we delight to have our children listen to. Last Friday night (19th instant), at 1YA, a play was read which I thought was rather unparliamentary, especially as children were listening-in. I think that for the children's benefit Billingsgate could be left out and let the programmes continue to be clean and healthy.

I would like to thank the ladies and gentlemen who broadcast. They have done so much towards giving us such pleasant times at our own homes through the blessings of radio.—George Nicholls (Collingwood).

Sunday's "Vile Programme."

ONE can almost see the General Manager when he is reading the next letter. The writer is an Auckland and certainly knows what he wants—or rather, what he does not want. No doubt, in his next letter to 1YA he will be able to say how greatly improved are the Sunday afternoon programmes.

"I am perfectly confident that not 90 per cent. of the listeners can understand anything of what has been put over the air during the last hour, and now the poor announcer has his usual literary selection thrust upon him, as though he has not enough of it during the week. Granted the announcer does his best to enlighten listeners, but if you are still determined to inflict upon a long-suffering public this class of programme on Sunday afternoon, in the name of all that's holy let us have it sung in English.

"Your policy of educating the public to a crowd of foreigners yelling is doing more harm to radio than anything I know of. With all due thanks to the company, I for one do not wish to be educated to this class of vile programme. A solid hour of operatic programme may appeal to a certain percentage of listeners, but the greater majority would much prefer the Auckland City organ, which was bad enough.

"Barring the announcer, I note it was an hour and twenty minutes before we had one of our own countrymen come over the air. Wellington, I am pleased to note, put over an entirely different programme during the afternoon, and being in the possession of two sets, I was able to note that theirs was more suitable in every way to the majority of listeners, and they generally appear to cater for all classes, not a chosen few.

"Might I suggest that if 1YA cannot cater for all classes of listeners in the Auckland district, the Sunday afternoon sessions cease to be put on the air. I must, in fairness to your engineering staff, express my sincere appreciation of their transmission. Atmospheric conditions were perfect and evidently your engineers were aware of this fact, as it is a considerable period since such perfect transmission was put over by 1YA. Wellington, with their crystal control, could not touch it for being perfectly steady, and wonderfully modulated."

Auckland Municipal Band.

I NOTICE in Friday's issue of the "New Zealand Herald" that the 1YA Musical and Dramatic Committee have been trying to persuade the City Council to allow the Municipal Band to be broadcast. If this means that the R.B.C. are going to pay more for one veto it. I and a great many others I have talked to agree with me that we get far better music from the Artillery Band. I imagine this is because there is too much echo from the city hall. The only time the Municipal Band came through well was when it was relayed from Albert Park. Though not much of a musician, I know what is pleasant to listen to, or the reverse, and agree in every way with "36 Years a Bandsman."—Country Cousin.

Modern Music v. High-Brow.

A WAIRARAPA listener writes:—"In to-day's 'Dominion' a correspondent writes re 2YA afternoon programmes. This gentleman is out for less good music, which he calls 'high-brow,' and more rubbish—'modern music,' and says that nine out of ten people he has asked are of the same opinion. I take this opportunity in the interest of lovers of good music to urge you not to introduce a larger share of the so-called 'modern music.' On the other hand, I believe the Company could and will do very much towards educating the people to be supporters of the better class music. I ask you to at least keep the Sunday afternoons clear of fox-trots."

"N.Z. Radio Listener's Guide?"

Dealers and Booksellers 2/6; Post Free 2/9—P.O. Box 1032, Wellington. Available This Week.

G.M.'s Mailbag

The Question of Varied Programmes.

A CORRESPONDENT says: "In reference to the type of programme which I prefer I would like to offer some criticism on the classical programme broadcast on Tuesday evenings from your station, 2YA. I am extremely fond of all types of music, but by your method of flooding the classical kind into one night, you are causing my sense of appreciation to languish. If you would only give us a variety at every session, the system would be considerably more popular. If it is your wish to educate listeners to a high sense of appreciation of classical music you will, I feel sure, succeed when you realise that a programme of all kinds of music is placed on the air. During the afternoon session at 2YA you flood the final half hour with jazz music, which, if interspersed with the earlier music, would be appreciated, and at the same time allow listeners a fine opportunity to compare the two types.

"In conclusion, I would like to offer a suggestion. When your stations relay the American shortwave stations I think it would please listeners if they were informed of the approximate time of the relay in America.

"In respect to our programmes," replies the G.M., "it is extremely difficult for us, owing to the limitations which characterise a broadcasting service, to please everyone at all times. The preparation of our programme is, of course, of paramount importance, and our experience has indicated that in view of the fact that we are unable to please everyone all of the time, the most desirable alternative is to cater for different sections of our listeners at different definite times.

"Thus, we arrange as far as we possibly can to co-ordinate the programmes of our respective stations, such that a listener with a sufficiently powerful receiving set is able to choose from four different types of programmes on each night of the week. In the case of the person utilising a crystal set he is, of course, able to receive the programmes only from the station within his locality, but in his interest we arrange that the programmes of each individual station are varied on each night of the week. It would be possible for us to broadcast a variety programme on each night, but in view of psychological considerations we have found that this would not be totally desirable.

"Regarding your suggestion that an announcement in respect to time be given when an overseas rebroadcast is conducted, this could quite conveniently be arranged, and we will be pleased to bear it in mind for attention when occasion arises."

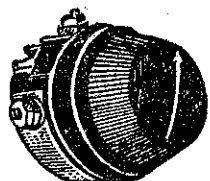
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