

composer and his sister Fanny were very fond of reading Shakespeare's plays, and when only seventeen, the boy was so thrilled with the story and the fairies in it, that he composed an overture, which he first played as a piano duet with his sister. Seventeen years later he wrote the remaining numbers for the play, recapturing the same fresh, youthful spirit which had inspired the overture. Did we not know the facts, it would be easy to believe that all the music was written at the same time, with the same whole-hearted boyish enthusiasm.

A record of the "Wedding March" from "A Midsummer Night's Dream" will be used as an entr'acte during the production of "The Taming of the Shrew" at 4YA on Monday, July 15.

Wins Both Prize and Girl.

WAGNER'S one comic opera had been taking shape in his mind for something like twenty years before he settled down to compose it. The central figure is the poet, Hans Sachs. His friend, Walther, is in love with Eva, and hopes to win her hand at the song contest. He has written a song, and Sachs makes a copy of the words as he sings it over. The copy is left in the house and is stolen by Beckmesser. Sachs is aware who has taken the song, but knowing that the thief will make a sorry job of setting it to music, he lets him keep it. The day of the song contest arrives and Beckmesser makes a hash of his song. Enraged at the laughter he tells the people that it is written by their beloved Sachs. The real author, Walther, is then led to the competitors' mound, and by his singing of it he wins his admission to the Guild of Mastersingers, and the hand of Eva.

A record of selections from "The Meistersingers," played by the H.M. Grenadier Guards, will be used at 4YA on Friday, July 19.

3YA Musical and Dramatic Committee

A MEETING was held at 3YA Studio on Tuesday afternoon for the purpose of forming a Musical and Dramatic Committee.

The proposal was taken up enthusiastically and a committee was set up consisting of Messrs. A. Brewins (Competitions Society), T. Dent (Orchestral Society), H. Blakeley (Male Voice Choir), A. C. Bretherton (Reperitory Theatre), W. H. Dixon (Royal Musical Society), Geo. Manning (W.E.A.), A. Donaldson (Operatic Society), Richards (Harmonic Society), J. Ball, C. S. Booth and L. Slade (Broadcasting Company).

Several members of the committee expressed keen interest in lectures and discussions on various subjects. The committee meets again on Wednesday, July 17.

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Quarterly Payments

Not Approved by Department

IN the House of Representatives on Friday, Mr. R. Semple made a plea that the regulations requiring the payment of an annual fee for the operation of receiving sets should be modified in the direction of permitting quarterly payments. He represented that juniors in receipt of small salaries frequently found it difficult to raise the full license fee of 30s. in one sum, but would be prepared to make quarterly payments.

In reply, the Minister, Hon. J. B. Donald, Postmaster-General, stated that if licenses to listeners were issued quarterly it would be necessary to increase the present charge in order to cover the additional clerical work and inspecting duties which would result.

This reply evoked from Mr. P. Fraser, Wellington Central, the comment, "A miserable departmental subterfuge!" for which he was called to order by the Speaker.

The Earthquake

Radio Service Appreciated

THE Broadcasting Company has received many appreciative and grateful letters as the result of the service which it gave during the earthquake crisis. These letters have come, not only from residents in the affected areas, which were completely isolated from the rest of the world except by radio, but also from people in various parts of New Zealand who were able to get in touch with relatives only through the broadcasting service.

One correspondent at Inangahua Junction, after sincerely thanking the company for the promptness with which a message was sent, said:

"Isolated as we have been during this terrible time, the wireless has been a great boon, it being our only means of hearing news as all communication was cut off. Inangahua Junction being between Westport and Murchison, we were completely isolated for a time. We want to mention our appreciation of the Sunday night concerts, especially last Sunday, the 23rd, when the cheery message came over for all the people of the West Coast. Only those who have passed through what we people down here have can realise what that cheery call meant."

A SETTLER at Tutaki, Murchison, wrote:

"I wish to express the appreciation of the settlers of this valley of the wonderful service you did for us during the past fortnight. It was simply wonderful. We were getting news regarding events a few miles from us, which we could not have got any other way. All people here were very enthusiastic over the wireless, and I feel quite sure that as soon as they can afford a set everyone will have one. The time is fast approaching when every settlement likely to be cut off from telephone communication will have a small transmitter attached to the Post Office."



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