

WELLINGTON NOTES.

£600 For The Relief Of Distress

Splendid Total Reached By Wellington Community Singing Committee—
Famous English Musician to Speak From 2YA—New Musical
Combination Makes Its Appearance Next Week.

THOUGH "Owen's" estimate of 4500 people was perhaps rather a generous one, there was a good house at the final community sing of the season in Wellington, held in the Town Hall last Thursday. Good humour was in the air from the start; and though the singing was feeble at first, by the end of the evening everyone was singing lustily, and enjoying it, too. His Worship the Mayor, Mr. T. C. A. Hislop, unfortunately had another engagement, but he came along to the sing first, to express his thanks to those who had helped in the work, which has raised over £600 this year for the Mayor's fund for the relief of distress. Listeners had only half the fun that evening; to enjoy the sings properly one must be in the hall, and singing, too, but in spite of this listeners all over New Zealand have taken a great interest in the sings throughout the season, and kept Mr. Palliser and his assistants very busy acknowledging donations.

THEIR would really have been every excuse for those who went to the hall just to hear the entertainment provided, with no intention of joining in the singing, for items were given by Mrs. Wilfred Andrews, Mr. H. F. ("Tony") Wood, Miss Iris Mason, Mr. Sid Bernard, Mrs. Mercer, and Mr. Rudolph, whose saxophone item which surprisingly turned into a yodelling solo was one of the most popular numbers of the evening. Providing the accompaniments was Frank Crowther's Novelty Orchestra, and of course Frank himself was the pianist for the singing. For three hours and more the popular trio—Owen and Frank and Will—entertained and cheered the audience in the hall, and a far greater audience which extended all over New Zealand as well, and then, "Cheerio, everybody, . . . till next year." Their reward is in the regret which everybody felt on leaving the hall last Thursday night; some of the brightness and cheeriness which is so hard to find, and which those three dispensed so unflinchingly, will be sorely missed for a time.

A NEW musical combination will make its debut from 2YA next week; this is the Stanley Oliver string ensemble, which has just been formed by the talented conductor of the Wellington Choral Union. For its first number over the air in New Zealand the ensemble will play Bach's "Concerto in D Minor," for piano and strings. The solo pianist will be Miss Valerie Corliss, whose playing needs no introduction to Wellington music-lovers.

THE great Bach wrote comparatively few works for a single clavier with orchestra, and authorities are generally agreed that the one in D minor, usually referred to as "Number One," is the best of them. It is sup-

posed to have been composed at Cothen, whither Bach had gone in 1717, as Kapell-Meister to the Prince of Anhalt-Cothen. The Prince was an enthusiast in the cause of music, and had a warm affection for his Kapell-Meister—on personal as well as musical grounds—and Bach often went with his patron on the journeys which the young Prince had to take. Chamber music, in the real sense of the term, was Johann Sebastian's chief concern there; it was only in 1723, when he became Cantor at Leipzig, that church and organ music began to occupy the larger share of his thoughts. The Cothen period was thus rich in the production of instrumental works, in most of which, no doubt, the composer himself took part. It is easy, as well as pretty safe, to assume that he enjoyed writing concertos such as this, finding himself at home in a form which, in his hands, began to anticipate the present-day principle of giving the solo instrument passages of brilliance, and sometimes even cadenzas.

ON Tuesday, November 6, listeners to 2YA will be entertained by "The Circassians," Wellington's newest musical society, in a concert relayed from the Town Hall. "The Circassians" number 80 voices, and appear on the stage in specially designed uniforms in keeping with their name. Evergreen items which will be heard over the air include "Hail, Smiling Morn," "The Gipsy Chorus" from "The Bohemian Girl," and "Kentucky Babe." The assisting artist is Sydney Bernard, who, in company with Frank Crowther at the piano, will present several xylophone solos. Thomas Wood, the con-

ductor of "The Circassians," is also to appear as a soloist, and will sing selected numbers from his repertoire. Concerts given by "The Circassians" are proving immensely popular in Wellington, and invariably draw full houses.

A VERY famous musician will be heard from 2YA next Sunday evening, when Dr. Sydney Nicholson, who was organist at Westminster Cathedral, is to speak on "Those Who Sing." Dr. Nicholson will arrive in Wellington only a day or two before he is to speak. On the same evening from 2YA will be played a recording made at the Crystal Palace, London, in 1933, during the Festival of English Church Music, of hymns sung by massed choirs, numbering 4000 voices, directed by Dr. Williamson.

A NEW singer will be introduced to Wellington listeners on Monday next, November 5; this is Mr. Will Coleman, who has been engaged by 2YA to give a recital on that evening. Mr. Coleman is a young Wellingtonian with a very attractive light tenor voice which shows exceptional promise.

LISTENERS who heard Paul Vinogradoff play "The Wanderer" from 2YA last Tuesday, were greatly impressed with his fine interpretation of this work, which was first written by Schubert as a song only, but later was developed as a pianoforte solo, taking the form of a fantasy in four movements, which are played continuously. In the second movement, adagio, where the original theme of the song has been included, there is a wonderful description of a storm.

*4000 More Listeners Since
August 31*

Latest License Figures Show Big Increase

THE figures published below, giving the number of radio licenses in force on September 30, show that a steady increase of between 4000 and 5000 new licenses is being maintained from month to month. The grand total on August 31, this year was 140,606, and on September 30 a year ago was 108,868.

DISTRICT:	CLASS OF LICENSE.						
	Receivers.	Dealers	Trans- mitting.	Experi- mental.	Special.	Free.	Broad- casting.
AUCKLAND	43,383	401	182	1	—	134	5
CANTERBURY	25,693	224	173	—	—	57	3
OTAGO	19,660	152	109	—	—	37	9
WELLINGTON	53,503	372	368	2	1	80	9
Totals	142,239	1,149	832	3	1	308	26
GRAND TOTAL: 144,558.							