

Hot Shots

Editorial Notes

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HEARDED in a Wellington teashop: He's got a face like the Spinach!

METHYLATED spirits drinkers seem to be growing in numbers in Wellington.

MADAME ELSA STRALIA has concluded her engagement with the national broadcasting stations and is now singing at a Wellington picture theatre.

SOME of the scenes in the film on the Morro Castle tragedy are a sickening example of "anything for a picture."

THE pointed tower on the new Colonial Mutual Life Assurance building in Wellington promises to become a landmark.

SIR HEATON RHODES is playing host to Lord and Lady Bledisloe during their Carnival Week visit to Christchurch.

AS an indication that the bicycle is finding favour among Dunedin girls, one retail dealer sold six women's machines in one day recently.

THE Rev. J. K. Archer, speaking from Christchurch in the same broadcast: Christchurch is a city on wheels. We have 60 or 70 bicycles here.

THE Hon. Adam Hamilton, speaking in the International goodwill broadcast from Wellington the other evening: . . . our cold lakes, some of them a thousand miles above sea level.

A CHRISTCHURCH paper, reviewing "The Dubarry," said that some of the more risqué scenes were saved by the fact that "they did not make vice attractive."

PROBABLY Dunedin will co-operate in the movement initiated to invite Scott and Black to fly to New Zealand, and visit the various centres.

A CHILDREN'S party is to be given on board H.M.S. Dunedin this week, when the cruiser visits the port from which she has taken her name.

AND, incidentally, Mr. Hamilton had scarcely uttered the above remark before the telephone at 2YA started to buzz with listeners pointing out the mistake. And the calls continued for more than 10 minutes.

Wellington, Friday, November 9, 1934.

MORE ENTHUSIASM WANTED

HIS recent visit to England seems to have opened the eyes of Mr. L. R. C. Macfarlane, the South Island member of the New Zealand Broadcasting Board, to the difference in the attitudes of the Press and public in England and New Zealand toward their respective broadcasting institutions. "In England they are proud of their institutions, but the attitude here is quite different," said Mr. Macfarlane in an interview. "There should be a little more enthusiasm and pride in the country for what it has done."

In commenting editorially on this statement, a southern newspaper says:—

Mr. Macfarlane must surely realise that the organisation of talks is still elementary, that little attempt has been made to exploit broadcast plays, and that there has been no systematic attempt to foster and organise local talent. The weakness of programmes on the political and sociological side is not entirely the board's fault, since the absurd restrictions on controversy have left it very little freedom.

In other words, the writer would infer that a spirit of complacency is abroad among the people concerned with the country's broadcasting service. Actually no such spirit exists. The programme organisers and the people associated with them are eager scholars, learning their trade in a school made hard by the impositions of a limited income and a scattered and diverse public. Some sections of the programmes may be elementary, but it is right to remember that New Zealand, in broadcasting as in many other branches of public service, must learn from experience alone. The Dominion has never been a copyist, and it has built many sound institutions on the foundations of hard-earned experience. So must it be with our broadcasting service.

It would seem fair to point out, however, that the writer of the editorial of which a portion is quoted above, did give some credit to the New Zealand Broadcasting Board for having produced "in a very short space of time, a remarkable improvement in the coverage and technical quality of New Zealand broadcasting." Here is another aspect of the board's activities that has been given scant attention by the Press and the public. Since it took over the service less than three years ago, the Broadcasting Board has so improved and increased the coverage of the national stations that there is not a hamlet in New Zealand that is not adequately served by at least one wireless programme. And when the present scheme is complete these same hamlets will have a wider choice of programmes than some cities in other parts of the world.

BREAKING WITH TRADITION

WE announce to-day that the New Zealand Broadcasting Board is considering a revised programme schedule, which will probably be brought into operation early in the New Year. Just what the revisions will be we have no idea, but it is known that the board has kept a close watch on public reactions to certain features presented during the year, and the schedule will be remodelled with due consideration for these facts. It has been apparent to regular listeners that the talks—to take one instance—have branched out into a wider field. They have escaped from the lingering influence of the old-fashioned spoken lecture, with its traditions of length, dullness and remoteness from everyday life. As their experience grows, speakers have come to realise that they are not speaking to a hall full of people who, willingly or unwillingly, have paid their silver coin for admission, but to a man and his family at their fireside, and the wise ones have shaped their material accordingly.

The B.B.C., in drawing up a new schedule, has announced some interesting titles for talks—"Science in the Making," "How I Keep House," "Life As I See It," "Theatre and Cinema," and "Is That the Law?"

THE demolition of the old Federal Club in Christchurch is almost complete.

MANY offers are said to have been made for Mr. J. W. S. McArthur's palatial yacht, Morewa.

COLIN TAPLEY, Dunedin boy, is to have a big part in the new American picture, "Limehouse Nights," starring George Raft.

A NEW paper, "Sales," intended for distribution among New Zealand shop assistants, made its appearance this week.

NEW ZEALAND boys may not be angels, but Dr. Nicholson thinks they can be taught to sing well in the "village choir."

SAID a Wellington maid to her mistress the other day: "This man Hitler wants to rule the world and he can't even speak English!"

A WELL-KNOWN woman radio speaker and contributor to the "Radio Record" has been asked to stand for Parliament.

ONE hundred pounds reward is offered by a wealthy bachelor staying at Brent's, Rotorua, for the return of his cocker spaniel.

WHILE in the Cathedral city, Dr. Nicholson formed the view that the singing of the choirboys was as good as that in many English cathedrals and churches.

A PROPOSAL for a Neolighted tower on the top of the new 1YA studio at the top of Shortland Street, Auckland, has been put before the Broadcasting Board.

NEARLY 15,000 women are being represented at the farewell to Lady Bledisloe by the National Council of Women in Christchurch this week.

"MET me in the naughty nineties" is the latest saying in Christchurch. The rendezvous is the new lounge of a big hotel where the decorations concern the period of wasp waists and hansom cabs.

A POLITICAL paper recently advertised for an assistant editor. There were 250 applicants, some of them receiving anonymous answers in unsealed envelopes to the effect that the position had been filled.