

WELLINGTON NOTES.

Wellington's Xmas Community Sing

Popular Christchurch Song Leaders to Conduct Sing to Raise Funds For Wellington's Needy Families — Edgar Allan Poe Story to be Heard From 2YA—Toc H Farewells Lord Bledisloe Next Week.

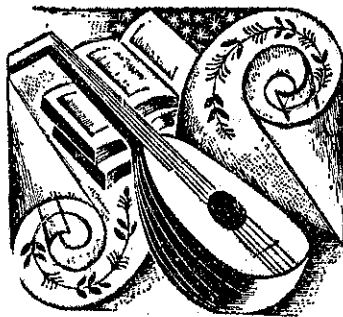
WELLINGTON is to have a Christmas community sing in the Town Hall on Monday, December 10, to raise funds for providing Christmas cheer for needy families. The two Christchurch song leaders, Mr. Alan Brown and Mr. Bert Goodland, will act as song leaders, and a choir of 120 voices will lead the singing. The assisting artists will include performers not hitherto heard over the air in the Dominion, and a special feature will be a four-grand-piano quartet, playing popular melodies and song "hits." The "sing" has been arranged by the Smith Family Joy-spreaders, and station 2YA will relay the proceedings. Permission has been applied for to hold several raffles in connection with the "sing," and some valuable gifts have been offered for disposal in this manner.

LISTENERS to 2YA have come to know the productions of radio plays by Victor S. Lloyd, and to look forward to them particularly. An outstanding presentation should be his production of "The Cask of Amontillado," adapted from the story of the same name by Edgar Allan Poe. One of Poe's most thrilling stories, it has been cleverly adapted into an extremely dramatic radio play, which will be interpreted from 2YA by an outstanding cast of players well-known in Wellington repertory circles: Mrs. John Hastings, whose picture was published on the repertory and drama page of the "Radio Record" last week in connection with a recent repertory presentation; Mr. G. H. A. Swan, Mr. Ralph Hogg, and Mr. Victor Lloyd. "The Cask of Amontillado" is to be present from 2YA on Thursday, November 22.

ON Saturday, November 24, 2YA is relaying from the Memorial Hall of Wellington College the Dominion festival guest night of Toc H, when a farewell is to be tendered to his Excellency the Governor-General, Lord Bledisloe. The speakers for the evening will include his Excellency, who will be introduced by Dr. F. T. Bowerbank; the Dominion president of Toc H, Major-General Sir Andrew Russell, and the Rev. Herbert Leggate, M.C. Songs will be presented by the Madrigal Singers, and the assembled family of Toc H is to sing several well-known choruses.

IT is not difficult to visualise a great musical composer under the spell of some fascinating myth or noble legend of antiquity, setting to work to enshrine it in worthy music. For instance, Schubert, almost immediately he read Goethe's poem, "The Erl King," sat down in a perfect fever of excitement and dashed off what is now recognised as a masterpiece of song. The same may be said of Loewe in reference to the old Scottish legend of "Tom

the Rhymer," and so on. Classical themes in freak and other mythologies have provided abundant material for operas, tone-poems and lesser musical forms, and the whole history of the art is crowded with instances of



myths and legends from the storied part being used as foundation material by composers. "From the Storied Past" is the title of the lecture-recital to be given by Mr. Karl Atkinson at 2YA on Sunday, November 18.

PROBABLY one of the best entertainments heard from 2YA for some time was the programme presented by "The Man in the Street" on Wednesday, November 7—"The B.B.C. on Parade." Excellent variety was shown in the arrangement of this programme, and the bright style of the comments delivered by the compere kept interest alive throughout the evening. The programme aroused more comment among listeners than anything presented for some time, and many expressed the opinion that the majority of the programmes should be presented in the same style.

FROM 2YA on Friday, November 23, at 8.15 and 9.10 listeners will hear Miss Olive N. Fish, New Zealand contralto, in two brief recitals. Miss Fish has not been heard on the air for some time, but she possesses a beautiful contralto voice, and she is sure to make friends among listeners who have not heard her before when she broadcasts next week. Miss Fish, who is at present in Masterton, has been for some time in Napier, where she organised a branch of the British Music Society, being the first honorary secretary for that district.

BACK on the job and looking brown and fit after a holiday spent beside the sunny shores of Kawhia is Mr. S. J. Hayden, assistant manager of the New Zealand Broadcasting Board. "Kawhia's a great place for a holiday," said Mr. Hayden. "It's miles from anywhere, and I hardly saw a motor car or heard a radio set the whole time I was away. But I couldn't escape from the people who wanted to know who the dickens listened to wrestling broadcasts, and why there couldn't be more jazz on the air and why—well, you know

the sort of questions that people are continually asking," he concluded with a smile.

ON Sunday, November 18, a new musical combination will be heard from 2YA. This will be a recital for two violins and a piano, by Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Meier (violins) and Miss Ormi Reid (piano). This talented group will be heard in two numbers by English composers: "Golden Sonata" (Henry Purcell) and Thomas Arne's "Sonata in E Minor."

Talking of Talkies

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Paul Graetz, who gives a clever and convincing study.

A few steps down a Wellington street took me from Vienna to Bagdad, and brought familiar songs of "Chu Chin Chow" back to an audience that remembered Oscar Asche's spectacular production at His Majesty's, London, in the hectic war years. The film version has captured all the glamour, all the barbaric splendour of the stage play, but it has brought something else to it, too. It has given the play a subtlety that was never present in the legitimate production. My memories of "Chu Chin Chow" are of a stage filled with a vast number of dancing girls, fat merchants, negro slaves, camels, coloured draperies and brass. It was spectacle all the time. But not so the talkie. The dramatic moments stand out, clear and simple, from the lavish tomfoolery of Kasim's palace. When Ali Baba, discovering the magic words which opens the doors of the robbers' cave, runs in and, kneeling on the ground, pours the gold coins over his head in a paroxysm of joy, the picture approaches true greatness.

Ali Baba is played by George Robey, the man who can express more with his eyebrows than some men can in a whole book. Anna May Wong is the slave girl who first befriends Abu Hasan and later betrays him. Abu Hasan is Fritz Kortner—and may we never see a better one. Nur-Al-Din is John Garrick (in New Zealand as Reginald Dandy in "Rose Marie"), while Jetsam, of broadcasting fame, plays the part of Abdullah. All the "Chu Chin Chow" music is in the film—and all of it is extremely well sung. The settings leave one a little breathless, for nothing quite so lavish has ever before been attempted by an English producer. The last scene, where Abu Hasan and a huge brass band go howling down the marble staircase together, is a masterpiece.

"Blossom Time" and "Chu Chin Chow" are as different as chalk and cheese, but both are in the "must be seen" class.