

WELLINGTON NOTES.

Poe Thrills Wellington Listeners

"The Cask of Amontillado," Presented at 2YA Last Week, Outstanding Among Radio Plays—Arrangements in Hand for Big Community Sing on December 10—Technical College Choirs to Broadcast Again.

LISTENERS to 2YA had a real thrill last Thursday night, when Victor S. Lloyd and company presented "The Cask of Amontillado," adapted from the story by Edgar Allan Poe. Every member of the cast was excellent in this presentation, which ranks among the best radio plays heard in this country. Mr. Lloyd's production was of a very high standard, and the "effects" were of considerable value in unfolding the plot. Comedy and drama were cleverly intermingled in the play, which, without losing any of the horror of Poe's original, has by no means slavishly followed the story, to the detriment of the piece as a radio play.

MR. A. J. ("MICK") DARBY, who will be heard "over the air" from 2YA for the first time on the occasion of the big Christmas community sing in the Wellington Town Hall on the evening of Monday, December 10, is not only a remarkably gifted entertainer, but is also one of the Dominion's outstanding athletes. Mr. Darby, who hails from Wanganui, is an exceptionally clever mimic, as well as being a baritone of no mean ability. At the Town Hall "sing" he will present a baritone solo and several imitations of a novel character, also a special novelty turn, which, it is claimed, will deceive all listeners who have not previously heard Mr. Darby in this particular item.

AS an illustration of Mr. Darby's remarkable gift of mimicry, the story is told that on one occasion he was attending a concert at which the superintendent of the local fire brigade was also present. From the back of the hall Mr. Darby gave a realistic imitation of the fire brigade's siren—so realistic that the superintendent rushed from the hall and did not stop running till he reached the fire station. Listeners are sure to enjoy the various items which will be presented by Mr. Darby during the sing on December 10.

ONCE again listeners are to hear the boys' and girls' choirs and the orchestra of the Wellington Technical College on the air, when these combinations are to present the second half of 2YA's programme on Monday, December 3. When they first broadcast some months ago, it was the first occasion in Wellington on which school organisations had provided the entertainment for listeners to the main station. After the last performance, most listeners agreed in praising very highly the performances by these school pupils, and they will look forward to hearing them again next week.

IN connection with the Smith Family's Christmas Community Sing in the Wellington Town Hall on Monday, December 10, an illustrated souvenir booklet and programme is being issued. This is more than a mere programme of the

night's entertainment and will give readers some idea of what is being done to ameliorate the lot of those who have been "up against it" during the economic crisis. With each copy of the booklet an art union ticket is enclosed, entitling the holder to a share in the drawing of the 16 prizes which have been donated for the occasion. These include 13 beautifully dressed dolls, which will gladden the hearts of the children who receive them. For boys there is a Hornby train and for adults there is a still life oil painting, valued by an expert at £20, and a model Maori whare intended to be used as a post box. Applications for booklets and tickets should be made to The Secretary, Smith Family, Wellington, sixpence in stamps (or otherwise) to be enclosed with each application. There are no expenses in connection with this art union and booklet, and every penny received will be devoted to purchasing actual necessities for deserving families this Christmas.

A VERY old friend of Wellington listeners will return to the "mike" on Saturday, December 8. This is Mr. J. W. Heenan, whose talks on various subjects connected with racing were eagerly listened to by many some



time ago. Sporting enthusiasts will remember particularly Mr. Heenan's fine series of talks on various notable turf contests seen on the Trentham racecourse during the last 30 years or so. On Saturday week Mr. Heenan is to speak on "Royalty and Racing."

ON Friday, December 7, a visitor from Auckland will be introduced to Wellington listeners in the person of Miss Mina Caldwell, who is to be heard in two brief contralto recitals. Miss Caldwell is well known in Auckland, and listeners should not miss the opportunity of hearing this talented artist when she broadcasts from 2YA next week.

MISS RUTH MANN, who is to be heard in contralto solos from 2YA on Monday, December 3, is no stranger to the microphone, for she has sung several times before from the Wellington station. Miss Mann has been fortunate in arousing the interest of Madame Elsa Stralla, the famous Australian soprano, and this well-known singer speaks very highly of Miss Mann's voice.

MR. CLIVE DRUMMOND, announcer at 2YA, is on holiday and his place is being taken by Mr. L. E. Strachan whose voice is heard by listeners to this station every Wednesday. Prior to taking up his broadcasting activities, Mr. Strachan was well-known in musical circles in Christchurch, both as a performer and writer on musical subjects. His musical career dates back to the time when he was five years of age, when he commenced his musical studies under the late Mr. Faulkner, the blind organist and choirmaster of St. John's Church, Christchurch. Subsequently Mr. Strachan was a chorister in the Christchurch Cathedral Choir for several years. At the age of 15 he was appointed organist of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Christchurch.

MR. STRACHAN holds three diplomas from Trinity College of Music London—Associate Pianist, Associate Organist and Teacher's Diploma. He also completed with honours the full course in music at Canterbury University College, equivalent to the requirements for the Mus.Bac. degree. Mr. Strachan will preside at the grand organ in the Town Hall on the occasion of the Smith Family's Christmas Community Sing on Monday, December 10, and will also act as accompanist for Mr. Harold Prescott, the New Zealand tenor, who has been associated with Mr. Strachan on many musical occasions in past years.

FARMERS all over the country will no doubt be anxious listeners to 2YA on the morning of Saturday, December 8, when, at 8.30, there is to be a relay from the Wellington Town Hall of the proceedings at the first wool sale of the 1934-5 season. Indeed, there will be many other listeners besides those on the land on that occasion waiting to hear what is to be the fate of the New Zealand farmer this season.

ENGLAND is now the best-dressed nation in the world.—*Sir Francis Joseph.*

IF Larwood has done anything "not in the interests of cricket," let us be told what it is. So far as I can learn he has done only what every bowler always does, but he does it better.—*Dr. Edward Lyttelton.*

WE cannot possibly foresee the standards of living that will be available to the people of America and Great Britain even twenty-five years hence.—*Professor G. P. Warren.*

THE occupier of the rich silt lands of Lincolnshire ought not to be tempted by artificial prices to put under wheat land that could grow vegetables.—*Sir Daniel Hall.*