

OTAGO NOTES.

A New Series Of Broadcast Trials

Another "We Await Your Verdict" Presentation Arranged For Early Broadcast — Bright Holiday Programmes in Dunedin — Famous Singers in the South.

OTAGO listeners were deprived last week of a broadcast that had every promise of being most interesting. The Band of his Majesty's Grenadier Guards arrived in Dunedin by special train from Timaru on the morning of January 2 at 7 o'clock, and arrangements had been made to tender them a civic reception at the Town Hall at 10.30 the same morning, but at the request of the musical director (Major George Miller, M.B.E.), who wished the musicians to have their first day's rest since reaching New Zealand, the reception was postponed until the first concert that night. 4YA had prepared to relay the morning welcome, and many were anticipating the broadcast with pleasure, but at the last minute an apology had to be broadcast, and a programme of recordings given in place of the arranged item. It was a disappointment to listeners as well as to those who had intended being present at the Town Hall, but as the bandmen had worked strenuously until that time, no one grudged them a short respite.

THERE have been exceedingly well come visits to the Dunedin studios of late of singers famed in other countries, who by their recitals before the microphone, have won popularity among local radio audiences. Mr. J. Alexander Browne, the Australian baritone, has just returned to make three further studio appearances. On his first visit he claimed the undivided attention of a big percentage of listeners, and although he arrived the second time at the holiday period, when many were still away from town, he undoubtedly entertained a very large audience. This week Madame Goossens-Viceroy, the Belgian operatic soprano, and Mr. Raymond Beatty, the Australian bass-cantante, are to be introduced to local radio fans. These two have made many musical conquests in the north, and it is quite expected that they will further enhance their reputations by their recitals in this quarter. When they are heard again next Tuesday, Madame Goossens-Viceroy will feature a group of songs by Richard Strauss, and Mr. Beatty will sing several sea chanties. On the same programme, the second part of "The Pirates of Penzance" will be presented.

B.B.C. recorded programmes seem to get better every month, and the romantic play on Chopin scheduled for broadcasting next Sunday evening sounds extremely interesting. The play was specially written for the microphone by Wilfred Rooke-Ley and Christopher Martin.

IT is pleasing to learn that a further series of dramatic trials, "We Await Your Verdict," is to be given from the main station this year. The first of these is due for presentation on Saturday, January 26, and if it proves as entertaining as its fore-

runners, it will pave the way for those that are to follow.

BROADCASTING in Dunedin over the holidays was generally up to the standard usually reached at that time, all stations maintaining the holiday spirit by a choice of specially light music, and broadcasts of a sporting nature. The Plunket Shield cricket match between the Auckland and Otago teams was frequently described over the air, and provided a much appreciated service for those who were not on the ground. New Year's Eve broadcasts were, of course, bright and light-hearted, and many persons saw the year 1935 in to the tune of the radio.

THE first of this year's recorded Grand Opera broadcasts is to be played on Sunday, January 20, when "Il Trovatore" is set down for production from 4YA. This should be listened to by a large audience, as "Trovatore's" music is well-known and very attractive. It is not irrelevant to recall a story related about some opera-goers who once decided to attend a ball dressed as their favourite characters in

"Trovatore." When they were arrayed in all their splendour at the ball someone asked if they knew what the opera was about. . . . Not one had the slightest idea.

REGULAR talks on world affairs—mention was made of these on this page a few weeks ago—have now commenced from 4YA. The talks are to cover and explain to listeners any matter of interest at the moment, and Mr. J. T. Paul, a local newspaper man, is the speaker.

I HOPE that if my son reaches Melbourne he will have a hot bath and go straight to bed.—Mrs. Black.

YOU know, help your neighbour. But can I go around preaching these things? I should lose my public.—Mr. Larry Gains.

EVER since Cadmus brought the art of writing to Boeotia, every fool has printed his own poems and speeches, and they are all preserved.—Mr. T. R. Glover.

A Broadcast From a Famous Public School

NEARLY 600 boys of Oundle School, one of the most famous public schools in England, took part in a broadcast of Bach's B minor Mass, relayed by the B.B.C. from the school recently. Of the performers 230 were in the choir, 35 in the orchestra, and 320 in the special union chorus. For this broadcast Mr. Charles Woodhouse, who led the B.B.C. Symphony Orchestra at the recent series of Promenade Concerts at the Queen's Hall, London, brought a number of well-known players to augment the boys' orchestra. There were also four guest singers—Elsie Suddaby, Astra Desmond, Arthur Crammer and Steuart Wilson. Mr. Clement M. Spurling, Director of Music at Oundle since 1891, was the conductor.

Our picture, which shows some of the famous old school buildings at Oundle, will probably bring back memories to the several old boys who are now living in New Zealand.

