

## Hot Shots

## Editorial Notes Hot Shots

GOWNS and mortar boards are being worn by the assistants behind the school books' counter in a Wellington store just now.

APPARATUS has been evolved for measuring women's facial features, but its commercial value is doubtful. Women like flattery.

THE announcer at the Canterbury Swimming Championships last week in Christchurch was the 1934 winner of the Annette Kellerman Cup.

A WELLINGTON shop is being altered for occupancy by "beauticians." Surely America's "morticians" is going far enough!

AN astronomer tells us that the Andromeda nebula is double its formerly recognised size. Some of the "stars" we applauded years ago are getting that way, too.

ACCORDING to some correspondents, Professor Maxwell Walker's talks on "The Art of Speech," should be given as a lecture to announcers.

THE suite of rooms originally planned to house the caretaker of Auckland's new palatial studio building has been occupied by the station director.

A BOYS' procession passing the Dominion Building Wellington, on Saturday morning was thrown into disorder when pennies were dropped from a fifth floor window.

WITHIN four months it is expected that the 79,000-ton French liner Normandie, will run her trials in the Bay of Biscay. Radio has helped to make possible such floating towns.

ENGLAND'S Anti-Noise Committee has estimated that if all the people in London screamed for two minutes they would create only enough energy to boil a cup of coffee. But think what a noise they'd make!

INDICATIONS are that in the years to come 4YA should not want for pianists. Piano playing is becoming a serious accomplishment in Dunedin, and the demand for instruments has been brisk lately.

A ROYAL memento in New Zealand is the moustache a la Duke. So if you hear a raspy, sand-papery sound in the middle of an announcement, you will know that your favourite announcer is getting too near the mike.

Wellington, Friday, February 8, 1935.

## WHAT OF N.Z. TALENT?

ON page 14 in to-day's paper is a story dealing with the engagement by the New Zealand Broadcasting Board of several New Zealand and overseas artists for broadcasts from the national stations. This selection should quieten some of those critics who are constantly inferring that New Zealand talent is being deliberately passed by. The Broadcasting Board is willing and eager to give a hearing to those New Zealanders who consider themselves capable of giving broadcasts, and, in the past year or two, hundreds of auditions have been given to aspiring artists. But the board has a standard to maintain, and in New Zealand, as elsewhere, it is only a very small proportion of budding performers whose work is suitable for the air. And, because of the high standard of recordings broadcast in the Dominion it would probably be the people who write of the "deplorable lack of local talent on the air" who would be the first to complain and criticise if the national stations gave every local Galli Curci and Kreisler carte blanche at the microphone.

It is only by importing artists and carefully selecting the talent available in the country that the board is going to maintain the quality of the broadcasts and, at the same time, point the way to those young people who one day aspire to a position in front of a "mike."

## "LEAGUE OF DECENCY"

MESSAGES we print in our film section to-day from leaders of America's film industry point to the fact that Hollywood is determined to lift not the general body of talking pictures but all pictures above the cheap suggestions of sex and crime that have characterised many of them in the past. The first rumblings of the storm were heard last year when hundreds of thousands of Roman Catholics in the United States banded together in a "League of Decency," the object being that members would attend only those films which were approved by their church authorities. The league has grown in numbers and to-day more than 16,000,000 Catholics are active members.

It would be idle to suggest that the League has not affected the making of films. Lists have been drawn up and films have been placed in three categories: A (approved), B (forbidden to children), and C (condemned). These lists have been widely circulated and, in many towns, theatre-owners have been afraid to screen those pictures that have fallen into the league's third category. In St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, one of the priests recently read the following message from the cardinal:—

Our family firesides have long been bemoaning without any means of vocal protest the low estate to which the screen has fallen. To glorify through the film, crime, shame and immorality must necessarily engender a baser appreciation of life and belittle reverence for authority in the family, school, and civic life.

The talking picture wields a power almost as great as broadcasting for the education and enlightenment of the people, and it is fit and proper that the producers themselves (who are, after all, in their jobs merely to give the public what it wants) should be brought to see that a vast part of the picture-going public is taking a firm stand against much that is trashy and sordid in the films to-day.

THE Auckland City Council is contemplating installing a modern loud speaker system in the Town Hall.

A WELL-KNOWN Auckland man engaged in the electrical trade won £1000 at the Takapuna races last week.

OWEN PRITCHARD, former programme organiser at 2YA, has left for his new home in Gisborne.

NELSON is at present besieged by people looking for jobs hop-picking and in apple orchards.

THE steel frame for Wellington's new railway station has now reached its full height. The new building promises to become something of a landmark.

THE view from the top of the Paekakariki Hill, near Wellington, was described by an English visitor last week as one of the finest in the world.

TWENTY-TWO bicycles are stolen in Christchurch every week, according to police statistics.

THE ground floor shops in the new State Theatre building in Christchurch are nearly ready for occupation.

AUCKLAND'S radio inspectors have been on the war-path again and recently bagged a number of "pirates."

IYA'S old studio building in Newton was handed back to George Court's, the drapers, last week. The building will in future be used as a storeroom.

THE General Committee has recommended to the Dunedin City Council that a swimming pool be erected on the Leith.

A GERMAN listener in South Africa, preferring the broadcasts from Berlin to the local ones, sent £1/5/- license fee to Berlin.

THOSE in Austria who had been victimised by the frauds of three brothers were recently asked over the air to come forward to give evidence.

CUTTING down overhead: the unlicensed listener who drops his aerial when he thinks the radio inspector is coming round.

SAYS a notice on a building being built at Pefoné: "Watch me grow. A. V. Swanson, Contractor." We were quite willing to, but we couldn't find Mr. Swanson.