

Hot Shots

Editorial Notes

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SAID a notice outside a King Country theatre the other day: "Merry Wives of Reno." Carefully cooled.

THE anonymous author of the Dunedin slum story, "Children of the Poor," is at work on another book.

AUCKLAND'S tramway men are to finish the summer in cooler suits of alpaca.

TWO Auckland pressmen have had a story on the Bayly case published in an American detective magazine.

A TRANSLATION of the inscription on the King's jubilee medal reads: May the fortune of the house endure!

AN American in New Zealand the other day described the Sydney bridge as "King Kong's coat-hanger in concrete."

B.B.C. Empire programmes are so popular in Canada that a special station is being built at Ottawa for re-broadcasting the Daventry programmes.

A BURGLAR who stole the duplicate key of a bedroom from an Auckland hotel office was kept at bay by a housemaid until help arrived.

"SEVEN One-Act Plays, 1933," is now out of print and is rapidly gaining in value from a collector's viewpoint. The plays are written by New Zealanders.

CHRISTCHURCH'S idea of holding a wedding on Brighton Beach as a Mardi Gras attraction has aroused a storm of controversy in the southern newspapers.

CANADIAN visitor, after looking at some of Christchurch's 40,000 bicycles, suggested to the City Council that it should impose a tax of 5/- on each one.

THE Christchurch Liedertafel treated ferry passengers to some beautiful singing on the wharf at Lyttelton one evening last week. The occasion was the departure of one of the foundation members for England.

A GIRL recently requested a Dunedin B station to play a particular record. Her mother afterwards wrote to the station stating that the girl was "very much upset" when her name was associated with another record played.

Wellington, Friday, March 1, 1935.

RADIO'S GREATEST ENEMY

AS we have remarked in this column before (and will probably keep on remarking, remembering the old adage about the stone and the little drops of water), the quantity of music-broadcast daily is radio's own greatest enemy. In the days when listeners wore headphones and tinkered with crystal sets the pioneer announcer would say: "That is all for this afternoon. We are now closing down and will reopen at half-past seven to-morrow evening."

But nowadays the loud-speaker is on the job almost before the lark, and it is possible for the housewife to perform the whole of her daily duties to the sound of music. And very nice too, you say? We disagree—very heartily—for it is a human impossibility to fill every moment of the day with worth-while radio entertainment. Mr. Owen Davis, veteran playwright and Pulitzer Prize winner, says:

Radio has exactly the same problem as Hollywood. The movies want 400 fine stories a year, and they haven't been written since the creation of the world. Hollywood realises that, and radio is beginning to feel the same limitations. The broadcasters run out of material. No matter how badly they want it, they cannot create it fast enough to supply the demand.

Don't blame the broadcasting authorities for this state of music day in and day out. They are there to please the listeners and, if the listeners demand more and more music—well, it must be supplied. But the man at the receiving end can help himself by turning his wireless on when he really wants to listen to it and by careful "shopping" for his radio entertainment.

GOD: THE MAN OF TO-DAY

CANON PERCIVAL JAMES, in an interview published to-day, expresses some concern for the future of church broadcasts in New Zealand, and suggests several reforms. We agree with him when he says that "radio religion" can never be a worthy substitute for worship in a church, but it is well to bear in mind that radio has done much to bring the church and the mass of the people into closer contact. There was a time—not so very long ago—when the church and the main body of worshippers were poles apart. These people attended church not because they hoped to gain any actual knowledge from their visits, but because it was the right thing to do. The preacher's doctrines were shadowy, dry-as-dust things for the most part, and the congregation's boredom was but thinly disguised. To-day that is all changed. The church has come to grips with modern problems, realising that God has a definite place in this twentieth century world—and people are coming to understand that the church can be just as fruitful a place for earnest discussion and enlightenment as the lecture hall or the smoking room. And wireless has played a manifold part in parading the ageless messages of peace and hope and goodwill before the eyes of Mr. and Mrs. 1935.

GERMANY FIGHTS AGAIN

A HINT is given by our London correspondent to-day that the B.B.C. is making strenuous endeavours to meet the German competition in the Empire broadcasting field. For some time the Berlin shortwave stations, DJB and DJN, have been transmitting special programmes for Australia and New Zealand (these programmes are being published in the "Radio Record"), and in the latest mail from Europe comes a questionnaire from Broadcasting House in Berlin. It asks many questions: Do you listen to the German stations regularly? What station do you receive better than the German stations? Are you bothered by local interference? Do you find our time schedule convenient? What items on our programmes interest you most?

This questionnaire represents a definite attempt on the part of the German broadcasting authorities to discover the value of its overseas service and the preferences of listeners. We commend them on their enterprise.

ALL the Australian stations are to have a reshuffle of frequencies on September 1 of this year.

IN a Dunedin picture theatre: A young girl in a bathing costume. She simply slipped a coat over it at the end of the performance.

CLEM DAWES'S revue company, which opened its New Zealand tour in Auckland last May, has just reached Invercargill.

CHRISTCHURCH is having to reconcile itself to the fact that the white butterfly has taken up its permanent residence there.

THIRTY-SEVEN Adelie and Emperor penguins were brought to civilisation in the ice chamber on the Byrd Expedition ship, Jacob Ruppert.

ENTERING the Auckland Friendly Road radio station, 12B, by a fanlight, a burglar stole several shillings and a dozen letters addressed to the Rev. C. G. Scrimgeour.

A "COPPER TRAIL" across Cook Strait is the latest method of raising funds adopted by the kindergartens of Christchurch and Wellington. One penny represents two yards of ocean wave.

"STEEL Foundry from Symphony of Machines" is the name of a piece of music being featured by 2BL, Sydney, next week in a programme entitled "Strange Music of the New Russian School."

AFTER successfully negotiating a most difficult pronunciation test the other night, a B.B.C. shortwave announcer unexpectedly remarked: "By jove, that was a mouthful."

THE biography of "Uncle Scrim" of the Friendly Road is soon to be published by a well-known Auckland, who has been working in conjunction with the well-known radio figure.

A SECOND-HAND copy of "The Bayly Case," published by National Magazines, Limited, was sold in a Wellington book auction the other day for its full published price.

COLE PORTER, writer of the musical play, "The Gay Divorcee," is at present on a holiday visit to New Zealand. With him is Moss Hart, author of "As Thousands Cheer," a successful Broadway hit.