

## WELLINGTON NOTES

## Improving the Eyesight by Radio

Valuable Talks By Opticians—Repeating Amusing Radio Play—Sir Alexander Young At The Mike — Farewell To Their Excellencies Next Week.

QUITE a number of people who realise that their eyes are not too good, intend visiting an optician, but for various reasons keep putting it off; but eye-strain is something that should not be treated lightly. At the first signs of this trouble a remedy should be sought to prevent future trouble. The series of four talks on "Your Eyesight," being given from 2YA by a representative of the Institute of Opticians of New Zealand, are, therefore, being listened to with more than passing interest by many who welcome this advice at home from a qualified optician. The first of these chatty talks in dialogue was given on February 19, and the next will be heard on Friday, March 15, at 7.40 p.m.

ON Christmas Eve listeners were delighted with the B.B.C. presentation of "Playing the Game" which came from 2YA, so its second performance from this station on March 11 will doubtless be popular. "Playing the Game" is a farcical extravaganza by L. du Garde Peach. The musical score is by George Barker, and the production by Charles Brewer. The B.B.C. Male Chorus and Orchestra, conducted by Stanford Robinson, support a strong cast. This extravaganza is a burlesque on the English Soccer game, and is based on incidents in the football field, where the trainer's daughter has rather a hectic time during the suspense of the game, wondering whether her hero, a new player, is really going to be a hero in everyone else's eyes.

## House Discusses The Broadcasting Bill

DIVERGENT views were expressed by Members of Parliament last week when the Broadcasting Amendment Bill, was placed before them for the first reading. Although there was no difficulty about the passing of the first stage, members spoke freely on the administration of the Act at present in force. Many of them had words of praise for the Broadcasting Board's work during its current term, and some had little to say in favour of the programmes offered to the listening public.

It was recognised that the proposed abolition of the Advisory Council was an obvious step in view of the enlargement of the board from three members to seven. Severe criticism was levelled at the board for its "strangling" attitude towards the B stations. It remains to be seen whether the powers to be vested in the new board for complete control of all programmes in New Zealand will improve relations between the B stations and the Government. One member considered that if it were not for the service provided by the B stations there would be a considerable reduction in the number of listeners.

The following portion of the Bill explains the powers to be allowed the new board in the control of all broadcast programmes in New Zealand:

The board will have all such powers as may be reasonably necessary for the effective control of such programmes, and in particular may:—

(1) Require the licensee of any broadcasting station to submit to any authorised officer of the board such particulars as may be required relating to programmes intended to be transmitted from the station.

(2) Prohibit either absolutely or

subject to such conditions as the board thinks fit to impose the transmission from any broadcasting station of any programme or any part of a programme.

(3) Require the licensee of any broadcasting station to include in or exclude from any programme to be transmitted from the station any matter specified by the board.

(4) Give to the licensee of any broadcasting station such directions as the board thinks fit in relation to the contents, arrangement, and presentation of programmes to be transmitted from the station.

(5) Report to the Minister any failure of the licensee of a broadcasting station to comply with any direction or requirements of the board given or made pursuant to this section.

Upon receiving a report by the board that any licensee has failed to comply with any direction or requirement of the board the Minister may in his discretion cancel the license. Nothing in this section is deemed to constitute the owner or licensee of any station the agent of the board, or to impose any liability on the board in respect of any expense incurred by such owner or licensee.

No advertisement intended for the pecuniary benefit of any person shall be transmitted from any broadcasting station whether operated by the board or any other person.

No licenses for broadcasting stations not operated by the board shall be issued if the effect of such issue would be to increase the number of licenses in force at any one time beyond the number in force when the Bill becomes law on April 1.

The chairman's salary is to be retained at £650 a year. The other six members will be paid £250 a year, compared with £350 now paid board members other than the chairman. A consequential amendment increases the quorum from two to four.

THE talk by Sir Alexander Young, Minister of Health, on "The Wellington Children's Camp Association" from 2YA on Saturday evening will be listened to with interest by all who are helping in this splendid cause. The Hon. Sir Alexander Young received the decoration of Knight Commander of the Victorian Order after the visit of the Duke of Gloucester. Sir Alexander, who was born in Auckland, passed the State examination in dentistry, and for 20 years before 1915 he was engaged in the practice of his profession at Hamilton. He contested the Tauranga seat against Sir William Herries in 1908, and was elected for the Waikato electorate in 1911. Since the formation of the Hamilton electorate in 1919 Sir Alexander Young has represented Hamilton in Parliament. He conducts a dairy farm at Mangawai, North Auckland, and is an honorary member of the Independent Order of Oddfellows, Manchester Unity, and also of the American order.

THOSE who cannot attend the Wellington Town Hall on the evening of Thursday, March 14, will have an opportunity of listening in to the civic farewell to their Excellencies the Governor-General, Lord Bledisloe, and Lady Bledisloe, who sail the following day for England. During his term of office in New Zealand, Lord Bledisloe has interested himself in all departments of public life, having given more than his time and valued words in so many cases. His gifts to the public of this Dominion have been made without stint, and he has undoubtedly proved in this direction the most public-spirited Governor-General we have had for many a year.

The number of sporting trophies alone which commemorate his name are sufficient tribute to the popularity which he has enjoyed. Those who listened in to the broadcast of the Dunedin and Christchurch farewells last week, will know what to expect at Wellington on Thursday night, and it is certain that those who are taking part in the function only by way of their receiving sets, will be as heartily present in spirit as is possible, for this will be one of the occasions when formal public speeches to a departing public figure will be really sincere in their regret at New Zealand's loss. Their Excellencies will leave by the New Zealand Shipping Company's liner, Rangitiki, at 10 o'clock on Friday morning, March 15. They will board the ship at 9.45 a.m.

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