

CANTERBURY NOTES.

Radio Makes Factory Life Happier

Christchurch Employer Instals Set in His Factory—Many Good Things Promised From 3YA at Easter — Broadcasting and the Church — Professor Shelley Receives Cheque.

ALL classes of listeners will be provided for during Easter week, for St. George's Day and Shakespeare's birthday fall on the same day, April 23, and Anzac Day two days later. The programmes have now been arranged, Good Friday, of course, being a Sunday broadcast. Running commentaries on the two days of trotting and two days' gallops will be started at the Metropolitan Trotting Club's meeting at Addington on Easter Saturday, with the Bailey-Marston Band making its first appearance before the microphone from the Winter Garden from 9-11.30 p.m. Easter Monday will see the start of the Canterbury Jockey Club's two-day meeting at Riccarton. On Tuesday, April 23, a typical St. George's Day programme will be given, and in commemoration of Shakespeare scenes from "Hamlet" will be presented by Miss Ngaio Marsh and her company. The cast for these scenes is a particularly strong one, and includes most of the performers who took part in the morality play, "Everyman." The usual appropriate broadcast will be made on Anzac Day with special service during the afternoon.

THE Commercial Travellers' Concert Party intended to introduce a programme typical of their calling for their next concert, and the connecting dialogue and vocal numbers will be in keeping with the title "(K)night on the Road." This concert will be broadcast by 3YA, and listeners can be assured of a good evening's entertainment.

THE president of the Methodist Conference, in his inaugural address to the annual assembly of the Congregational Church of New Zealand, expressed concern regarding the possible effects of radio on the future of the church. He could even foresee the developments of television as a factor in superseding the church as at present constituted. The radio is a wonderful medium, and has conferred blessing upon thousands of invalids and elderly people who are unable to attend worship, but is a poor substitute for worship in the church. Although there seemed a distinct possibility that fewer and fewer churches would be required, he believed that the church should be ready to use every possible avenue of scientific development, and any statement concerning its future must keep in mind the many-sided nature of the work, and the work of the pastor is vital and must continue. No possible development of radio or television or evolution or robot mechanism can make an acceptable sick visitor, or bring comfort to the house of mourning.

ALTHOUGH Professor James Shelley is a very busy man at Canterbury College, he finds time to give a helping hand to many organisations in

Christchurch. Beside being an authority on broadcasting, he has given much time for the extension of the educational broadcasts on the English system, is patron of the Christchurch Orchestral Society, and in recognition of his great services for the Canterbury Repertory Society was presented with a cheque for £25. Dr. J. Hight, chairman of the society, made the presentation, and highly praised Professor Shelley's work.

THE Royal Christchurch Musical Society's first concert will be given on April 30 in the Civic Theatre, when the first two parts of "Hawatha," "The Wedding Feast" and "The Death of Minnehaha," will be presented.

MISS VALENTINE DIAKOFF, who is to narrate the programme of Russian music from 3YA on Monday, April 2, is leaving no stone unturned to make that particular hour a success. Listeners will remember this Russian girl's talk on "Glimpses of Other Countries" at the beginning of the month. Miss Diakoff is arranging the programme of Russian music herself.

AT the annual meeting of the Ashburton Repertory Society it was stated that the third annual report showed that the progress of the society in its dramatic work was a source of great satisfaction to all members. The plays produced during the year had been of varied types, ranging from pure drama to those bordering on farce. The only full-length play produced by the society during the year was such a success that the committee decided that it should become the policy of the society to present plays produced by its members whenever possible. G. B. Shaw's "Pygmalion" had been recommended for the society's next production, and the committee decided that the services of an outside producer would be obtained.

THE month of March is a very busy one where annual meetings are concerned, and all the different musical societies are busy balancing their budgets in preparation for another season. At the Orchestral Society's annual meeting held in Christchurch, it was suggested that the funds of the society might be greatly helped if the concert programmes were broadcast. It was stated that attendance at concerts had decreased and that patronage had dropped greatly in the past four years. The broadcasting authorities had been approached about broadcasting the concert programmes, and it had been said that a concert would be accepted if it took place on May 15. While considerable revenue might be available from this source, it was necessary, however, that new subscribers be obtained, and

it was decided that, in addition to the ordinary committee, the whole orchestra be constituted a committee to consider ways of obtaining increased membership. Mr. Alfred Bunz is the conductor of the Orchestral Society and Miss Bessie Pollard is the official accompanist.

MR. W. H. DIXON, who left New Zealand in August, 1934, for England, returned by the Rangitane last week. Mr. Dixon resigned from the conductorship of the Royal Christchurch Musical Society on his return from judging the Ballarat Competitions in 1934. Since leaving New Zealand he has spent some time in Germany, and it is his intention to settle in Auckland.

THERE is evidently one employer in Christchurch who believes in increasing the contentment of the worker and relieving the monotony of factory life. This man has had a set installed in his factory for 12 months—a line now adopted by many American and English firms. It was argued that it was quite probable that the effect of music in factories would be to increase production. On the other hand, radio in schools was for teaching purposes and to increase the children's appreciation of music. The radio in the factory was only turned on in moderation, and the sole idea of installing it has been to give pleasure to the staff; by making conditions of work more pleasant, the music tends to counteract the effect of the staff losing interest in their work toward the end of the day.

THE manager of this factory said that the radio was turned on for about three hours a day (the bright breakfast session always in demand) though this period was largely determined by whether there was anything on the air the workers particularly wanted to hear. They were nearly always "on the air" during the lunch hour, and it was also very popular toward the end of the day and was a distinct benefit to tired workers. The staff definitely liked the music, and would not want to be without it, and the radio was particularly valuable when there was overtime to be done.

IT is said that some American and English factories have found that production has been increased up to 23 per cent. by the introduction of radio, but the Christchurch man said he could not state definitely that production in his factory had been actually increased, though it might have been a little.

LIKE the pianist in the "Wild West" hotel, who put up the notice, "Please don't shoot the pianist," Mr. Hore Belisha is doing his best.—Sir Lawrence Chubb.