

Hot Shots

Editorial Notes

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SHOTS for a film to be called "The Stoker" were taken on board the Strathaird during her last Pacific cruise.

CHRISTCHURCH'S new Avon Theatre, to open at Easter, is attracting a lot of attention by virtue of its external Spanish architecture.

FOR the first time a band played in the big studio at 1YA last week. The honour was enjoyed by the Auckland Municipal Band.

"GRIFFO" is the nom-de-plume used by 1ZB's new sports announcer. "Griffo" is already receiving a hefty fan mail each week.

THIEVES in Auckland are now turning their attention to stealing wireless aerials and lightning conductors. One stole the aerial pole and aerial from a house at New Lynn.

LONDON hostesses are said to be tiring of the young man whose "Sorry, I was plastered" seems to be ample excuse for having committed murder, rape, arson or even throwing plates about in a restaurant.

LIEUTENANT H. R. A. KIDSTON, R.N., has just imported from England a complete dinner for himself and 14 guests. It arrived at Wellington in the Tamaroa's freezer.

"NOTHING," said an author-ess recently, "is so shocking to me as a piece of blank paper with no writing on it." Isn't that what the striking printers hoped to see?

THE Duchess of Kent's sister, and the younger daughter of the late King Constantine of Greece, has been travelling incognito in New Zealand. In hotel registers she appeared as "Miss Constantine."

HERE are some samples from a batch of new "powders":—

A Fascist is a man who has beauty culture.

The Romans left Great Britain quickly because they were afraid of the Gals.

In 1066 Edward the Professor was King of England.

The stars appear to move in a straight line round the moon.

Meteors are used to tell you how much electricity you are using.

A geyser is part of a chicken's body.

A motor is driven by an infernal combustion engine.

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BROADCASTING RUGBY

THE Otago Rugby Football Union and various sub-unions in the south seem to be at variance on the question of football broadcasts. The South Otago Sub-Union urged that some if not all of the fees paid by the New Zealand Broadcasting Board to the parent union be distributed among the sub-unions as compensation for the fact that broadcasting was adversely affecting the gate takings in the country centres.

Just what effect broadcasting is having on gate takings and public interest in Rugby it is yet a little early to discover, but it is a definitely established fact that the indiscriminate broadcasting of matches is having a detrimental effect on football broadcasting in general and on the attitude of the public toward the game in particular. The various unions could do much to arouse greater public interest and to promote better football if they choose the matches to be broadcast with some care. And so far as some country districts are concerned their sub-unions would be better advised to attach less blame to broadcasting for the smallness of their gate takings than to the poor standard of football that is played on their grounds.

A MORE PRESSING NEED

THERE has been a great deal of talk lately about the subsidising of an opera company for the purposes of giving broadcasts from the Australian national stations. It was first suggested that the Australian Broadcasting Commission should subsidise a company—a suggestion that the Commission did not receive with any noticeable degree of enthusiasm; the second idea was that several wealthy opera-lovers might find the necessary cash and the third that the Commonwealth Government should grant an annual subsidy.

And while the Press and the broadcasting authorities are beating big drums in the cause of opera the scheme for the formation of a national symphony orchestra—a scheme worthy of earnest support—seems to have been quietly dropped. Most New Zealand listeners are familiar with the Australian broadcast programmes and it must have become apparent to most of them that there is a woeful lack of real symphony concerts on the air. On the other hand grand opera has been given a most generous airing—50 performances from the Sydney stations in the past 12 months, compared with fewer than 10 symphony concerts in the same period.

A national symphony orchestra is essential in a country which has a listening public the size of Australia's; once firmly established perhaps a trip or two to New Zealand may not be beyond its powers.

STAGE COMING BACK

THERE has been a lot written in the past 12 months about a theatre revival, some of it nonsense and some of it sound fact, but up to the present time New Zealand has seen little of this revival. Good companies have been sent across the Tasman in the past five years only to pack up after a few weeks' tour and take a sad departure. However, there are certain indications that this is changing. The company that is presenting "Ten Minute Alibi" and "The Wind and the Rain" in New Zealand at present is doing splendid business and is attracting not only the old theatre-goer but the young people—the youngsters who have been brought up on a diet of talking pictures and have scarcely seen a flesh-and-blood show in their lives. Word, too, comes from Australia that regular companies for presenting English and American musical and "straight" plays are being organised for touring New Zealand and Australia. It would seem that the theatre is to come back into its own.

"I ONLY Have Eyes For You" (song title). Must have been a Scot?

WINTER is upon us: "The Wind and the Rain" sweeping up through both coasts of the North Island.

A LECTURETTE next week from 2YA is entitled "The People's Railways." Oh! Yeah!

NOW, this is what we call appropriate: Gracie Fields sings "What can you Give a Nudist on his Birthday?" and then, "The Isle of Capri."

"SYMPHONIC Study—Fall-staff." (Item in Australian programme). This should be something really big in the way of music!

THE three movements of a sonata to be broadcast from 2YA next week rather remind one of a persistent general health advertisement: "Grave—courante—vivace!"

FUNNY how the police are seldom there when called for, such as when a vociferous, and apparently foreign gentleman with a knife tore out of a cafe in a Wellington street in the wee sma' 'oors last week.

AN increase in pay to the staff of the Christchurch Public Hospital involves an extra expenditure of £4700 annually.

THE nom-de-plume at the foot of a letter in the "Auckland Star" last week caused much merriment in the northern city.

IF a Dunedin announcer is to be believed, a new musical combination had made its appearance—the "Play-deum" Orchestra.

THE new Pennant Hills radio station, Sydney, is nearing completion. The highest in Australia, the mast is 450ft., compared with Auckland's 500ft. effort.

IT is strongly rumoured that a well-known judge is shortly to leave the bench to take up politics, and that an Auckland M.P. is standing down in his favour.

A WELL-KNOWN Auckland man, prosecuted on summons in the Police Court last Friday, caused his counsel some embarrassment because of his inebriated condition.

THE company playing "Ten Minute Alibi" and "The Wind and the Rain" in New Zealand has done the best business since Dion Boucault was here about six years ago.