

CANTERBURY NOTES.

Christchurch Opinions Of Board

Disappointment Expressed at Non-inclusion of Man With Technical Qualifications — Broadcasts From 3YA During Easter Week —
"Uncle Mac" For Hokitika—Radio Beacons at Lyttelton.

"GENERALLY, the new board seems to be an improvement upon the old one," Mr. W. G. Fernie, president of the Canterbury Radio Traders' Association, remarked when commenting on the personnel of the Broadcasting Board. "It is very doubtful, however, if, in view of the record of the old board, there is any justification for the inclusion of its members except the chairman, whose knowledge of the finances and working of the old board will be an advantage to the new one. It is also very doubtful if the introduction of a Doctor of Music will do anything to reduce the frequent complaints that the music from the board's station is too highbrow. It seems that there may be a continuance of the unfortunate policy of trying to educate rather than please the listeners."

PROFESSOR JAMES SHELLEY, of Canterbury College, and director of the Broadcast-to-Schools Committee of 3YA, remarked that a genuine effort seemed to have been made to secure representation of a number of interests concerned with the practice of broadcasting and the selection was certainly an interesting one. Much, however, depended on the workings of the board and it remained to be seen how it would operate. There was always the possibility with a board that members who were particularly keen and able in one phase of its activities would find the force of their arguments destroyed by the other members who were not so enthusiastic, but he hoped that the board would be wise enough to throw responsibility on to individuals, leaving broad outlines of policy for decision by the board. Mr. J. C. Stapleton, president of the New Zealand Radio Association, was disappointed that there was no member with technical qualifications on the board. However, listeners could but wait and see the effects of the change of regime.

EASTER week this year promises some outstanding broadcasts, and Shakespeare's birthday and Anzac Day falling in the same week listeners will have plenty of variety. The day following Anzac Day an outstanding piano-forte recital from 3YA is scheduled. This will be given by Mr. Ernest Empson, who is a master of the piano, and one of the best-known teachers in the Dominion. Mr. Empson's pupils have always succeeded in carrying off the highest honours in their examinations, and many of the brilliant pianists in Christchurch have come from his studio.

"UNCLE MAC" is conducting the children's hour from 3YA during Aunt Pat's vacation. This "uncle" is a versatile and natural entertainer, and is, in private life, the Rev. Allon Carr, a nephew of Mr. Clyde Carr, M.P., for Timaru, who was 3YA's first announcer. The Rev. Carr was ordained last Christmas, and has just been married. He leaves to take up his duties as Methodist minister at Hokitika at the end of this month. "Uncle Mac" is one of 3YA's most successful broadcasters, and he will be sadly missed by everyone, for he was the creator of "Micky and Minnie," and is a natural teller of stories.

LYTTELTON HEADS will be one of the first places to have a radio beacon installed. The request for a beacon here has been before the Government for some time, ship-masters, together with the harbour board, having urged its necessity because of bad fogs. The cost of each beacon is approximately £2000, and it is the Government's intention to place between 30 and 40 of them at suitable points along the New Zealand coast. Radio beacons are in use in other countries, where they are considered to be

indispensable aids to navigation where fogs or low visibility prevent ordinary coastal lights from being readily picked up. They consist of small transmitters operated mechanically, and sending a characteristic signal at fixed intervals on a wavelength between 500 and 1000 metres.

THE education of the amateur in the appreciation of good recorded music is the aim of the newly-formed Christchurch Gramophone Society, and the place of music in modern life and the value to a community of a society such as this was the subject of a recent address by the patron, Dr. J. Hight, rector of Canterbury University College. The constitution of the society set out its aims as follows:—(a) The presentation and study of recorded music; (b) the formation of a library of selected records and literature; and (c) the encouragement of whatever might tend toward a better appreciation of music.

A VERY fine booklet of 60 pages has been published on educational broadcasts from 3YA, and, under the heading of "Adventures in Exploration," there are details of a talk to be given by Mr. L. F. de Berrv, M.A., on Margo Polo. By a strange coincidence there is included in the programme for the following day from 3YA a three-act play to be produced by the Zenith Players dealing with this famous character.

SUNDAY hours will be observed by 3YA on Anzac Day, and the citizens' memorial service at 2.30 will be relayed from the King Edward Barracks. This will be under the auspices of the Christchurch Returned Soldiers' Association, the speaker being Mr. B. J. Jacobs, and instrumental items will be rendered by the R.S.A. Orchestra, under the conductorship of Mr. H. G. Glaysher. The R.S.A. Choir will give Tennyson's "Ring Out, Wild Bells." Massed bugles will play "The Last Post," and the "Reveille" will also be heard. The relay at 7 p.m. will be from the Christchurch Anglican Cathedral of a special Anzac Service under the auspices of Toc H and the R.S.A. The concert programme from 8.30 will include a bracket of tenor solos by Lionello Cecil and an Anzac Day programme of special recordings.

THE French radio paper, "Haut Parleur," has begun a campaign against broadcasts of "stupid songs concerning broken hearts, broken vows, tears and sadness." The author says that the time has come to spread confidence and optimism, and suggests daily talks from the French stations by "an encouraging feminine voice giving counsels of optimism and fortitude."



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