

Hot Shots Editorial Notes Hot Shots

MR. STANLEY BALDWIN confessed the other day that he lives on his overdraft.

IT is not yet known whether the voice of Princess Elizabeth will be heard by the Empire during the King's Jubilee Week.

HEARD from 2YA during a recent dance session: "We will now have a vocalude—antlude—a vocal interlude."

JOY-RIDING must have eaten up a few useless miles of lift travel since the two new insurance skyscrapers in Wellington have opened.

THE latest musical composition by Mr. Thomas Gray, of Wanganui, will be performed by the Port Nicholson Silver Band from 2YA in May.

ITEM in a recent Wellington radio programme: "Dannny Malone," "The Same Stupid Gosssoon Am I," Well, that is putting it frankly.

BRIGHT opportunism: The Wellington delicatessen proprietor whose window full of chickens on the day of Viscount Galway's arrival was labelled, "Fit for a Governor-General."

A FILM for screening in connection with the King's Jubilee is at present being rushed out to New Zealand by air mail.

A radio hoaxer at Limerick Has ridiculed matters most politic.

The P.O. and police Cannot make the chap cease From being a Limerick heretic

SONGS of birds outside William Wordsworth's Westmoreland cottage were broadcast to America on the anniversary of the poet's birth a couple of weeks ago. Apparently the bird's word's worth something to the B.B.C.

THE Auckland Mayoral election promises to be interesting this year. Apart from the Labour nominee, there is an elderly lady representing the Douglas Credit movement, a well-known Prohibitionist, and the managing director of the biggest liquor firm in Auckland.

AFTER an order for possession had been made in the Magistrate's Court, Dunedin, a defendant began to protest, but was told to be silent. "Silence, my foot," she mumbled, and as she left the courtroom she indignantly remarked: "Justice indeed."

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REPETITION OF RECORDS

"THE ghastly repetition of mediocre records" is the gist of a complaint voiced in our correspondence columns to-day by a South Canterbury reader. This complaint is no new one and it is one which must find a certain amount of sympathetic agreement among many sections of the listening public. We have all heard Gracie Fields singing, time and time again, about the little pudding basin; we have heard "If I Had Napoleon's Hat," "Old Father Thames," the Roosters' Concert Party, and "Laughing Gas," a good many times, too. And when we learn that four national stations in New Zealand have between 60,000 and 70,000 records in their libraries it makes us pretty mad.

But, on investigation, we discover that all that glitters is not gold. Of those thousands of records many of them are duplicates, reducing the number of actual titles to about 20,000. And, of this 20,000 records, a very large percentage is composed of different versions and recordings of the same tune. For instance there are about 60 different recordings of "The Blue Danube." This tune is a particularly sore point with many listeners. There have been complaints—quite legitimate ones, too—that "The Blue Danube" has been played as many as half-a-dozen times from the one station in the same day! This is quite probable because it has been recorded under so many different titles. It may crop up in a recording labelled "Viennese Waltzes," again "Waltzes of Yesterday," a third time in "A Strauss Medley," a fourth time in the musical score of the play "Waltzes from Vienna." If the programme organiser had the time to play every piece of music through before he put it into a programme well and good. But he hasn't—and that's how the repetition occurs.

Actually considerable care is taken to see that the same record is not repeated from the same station too often. As each one is played it is stamped with the date and care is taken to see that that particular recording is not played again for some time. As recordings of dance music and talkie successes pass their youth they are dispatched to the alternative stations for a brief span of life there. For instance, there is not a national station in the country to-day that could muster up recordings of such once-popular songs as "Singin' in the Rain" and "Broadway Melody." While these tunes were in demand they were given to the public frequently; as they became a trifle *passé* they were put on the retired list and finally discarded.

As it becomes easier to tune in to any of the YA stations one is apt to forget whether one has heard "Little Man, You've Had a Busy Day" twice in one day from 2YA, or whether it was played once from 1YA and the other time from 2YA. However, we are warmly in sympathy with those listeners who consider that there are some recordings that should be retired and we look forward to the day when several recordings by Gracie Fields, Cecily Courtneidge and the Roosters' Concert Party are duly cremated.

LIMIT OF CONCENTRATION

THERE is a great deal to be said in favour of the contention that an entire evening devoted to the broadcasting of a symphony concert from a public hall is too much for most listeners. Many people cannot concentrate on the music that comes through the loud-speaker for more than an hour at a time—and it must be borne in mind that the effort of concentration in listening to a broadcast is considerably greater than that required in a concert chamber. The two-hour concert as a unit of broadcasting has no relation to the needs and tastes of most listeners. No programme organiser, were it not for the concert hall, would think of devoting an evening's programme to two symphonies and a concerto, any more than he would think of swamping the programmes with two hours of debate, talk or drama.

"**FRESH FIELDS**" is to be played in New Zealand by a company expected from Australia early next month.

RECENT headline: "Sober Realism." Which explains a lot of the money spent before 6 p.m.

AUCKLAND restaurants have advanced the prices of their meals owing to the higher prices of foodstuffs.

"**KID MILLIONS.**" Yes, that's what some U.S.A. film producers have been doing for years with some of the stuff they send over.

SOME members of the new Broadcasting Board are already receiving requests from "friends" hoping to secure engagements.

WHEN the new Governor-General's medals "came unstuck" during his civic welcome in Wellington he had to enlist the aid of his aide.

A BIG launch on Auckland Harbour is now installed with a modern electric refrigerator. The owner can now treat his friends to iced ale while at sea.

ALBERT RUSSELL and Reg. Morgan, Auckland's two community singing "kings," are now in Australia. They are engaged by the Australian Broadcasting Commission running community sings.

"**I** DON'T know what this car is supposed to be," said the announcer who described the procession at the opening of the Balclutha Bridge, "unless it's the local atmosphere; it's entirely empty."

A HIGH tribute was paid the Dunedin Symphony Orchestra last week, when its concert was broadcast by 4YA. One listener maintained that during the evening several orchestral records were played, whereas in actual fact the orchestra contributed the whole of the musical programme.

A DEVONPORT resident who left his large dog inside the house during his absence last Friday returned to find that the faithful hound had chewed two of the four legs of the big radio console.

AT last week's meeting of the Takapuna Borough Council an extremely garrulous member of a deputation had to be actually gagged and held in his chair by a colleague.