

CANTERBURY NOTES.

Treatment of B Stations Discussed

Radio 3ZM Club's Annual Meeting With Board Member Present—Inter-Varsity Debates Are Worth Listening To—Charity Concert Promises Good Mixed Fare.

MR. H. G. LIVINGSTONE was present by invitation at the annual meeting of the 3ZM Club in Christchurch on July 4 and more than two hours were devoted to a discussion with this member of the Broadcasting Board on the subject of "B" class broadcasting stations, with particular reference to 3ZM. Strong arguments were put forward by members of the audience for better treatment of "B" class stations by the board than had been meted out to them by the present Government. Mr. Livingstone said that he felt that, as a member of the board, he occupied a position of trust—that he was there as a representative of listeners generally, and he assured the meeting that he would lay their views before the board in due course. Captain D. Cossgrove, the chairman of Radio 3ZM Club, outlined what was proposed to be done to increase the membership this year. In consultation with the executive and the station directors, they had evolved a scheme whereby, after completing a card index of all who had contributed toward the

support of the station during the past three years, a postal appeal would be made to those who had not renewed



H. G. LIVINGSTONE.

their subscriptions, or, where such had expired, to again subscribe this year. Some twenty collecting "stations" scattered throughout the city, suburbs and outlying towns, where members could leave their subscriptions or donations instead of having to send them in by post, were in process of establishment. The card index had just been completed and the issue of the circulars would commence immediately. Captain Cossgrove pointed out that the successful working of this scheme called for a considerable amount of work and mentioned, incidentally, that that was the reason he had refused nomination for re-election to the presidency this year.

DEBATES between the two Universities in the South Island are as interesting as the "We Await Your Verdict" series, and certainly create as much interest. Listeners will have a further opportunity of hearing another inter-Varsity debate at the beginning of next month from 3YA and 4YA, when the leading debaters of Otago University and Canterbury University College will engage in a subject of vital importance.

PIANOS RETURN TO PUBLIC FAVOUR

"The Novelty of Radio Has Worn Off"

"PARTLY because the novelty of radio as a means of entertainment has worn off, and because an increasingly large number of young people are having the desire to express themselves musically, pianos are returning to favour," said the manager of a leading Wellington music house to a "Radio Record" representative the other day. "Radios have taken on a new aspect in the public view. Whereas they were for years a medium of entertainment, they are now taken as a matter of course in our everyday life, and there is not the same mental satisfaction in radio programmes that there is in flesh and blood performances."

"The desire to do something for oneself has a psychological effect on the enjoyment rather than having someone else play or do something for you. In England pianos began to fall away from public favour in the latter part of 1931 and sales did not start on the upward path again until the latter part of 1933, but an improvement was not noticed until about a year later in New Zealand."

Recently small or miniature grand pianos were placed on the market in large numbers, and thus sold to a public who, though liking the grand, which is pleasing to the eye and ear,

would have purchased an upright on account of the lower price.

The desire to play is universal; reports from Europe and the United States show that a reaction toward radio has already taken place and a large number of pianos have been sold on the Continent. England, for the first time, has come to the fore in markets for pianos, supplying Belgium, France, Italy and Holland, where hitherto Continental makers had held the monopoly, thus reversing the position of previous years.

Piano manufacturers have awakened to the fact that instruments must be made to comply with modern interior decorations and are accordingly building their instruments to suit modernistic fittings. Small pianos are being made, too, for the convenience of modern apartments, whose limited space does not allow the addition of an ordinary sized piano to its furnishings. Due to an improved knowledge of acoustics piano manufacturers are now able to produce pianos at a reasonable price, with a very beautiful tone and an evenness of scaling that previously had been lacking in all but the most expensive instruments. One can safely assume that the new piano to-day is an infinitely superior instrument to the piano of ten or twenty years ago; so much superior, in fact, that it is questionable whether it is advisable to buy second-hand instruments in view of the cheapness and quality of new ones.

The sale of sheet music also has shown a marked increase, especially that of ballads, which are again becoming quite popular. Inquiries for songs are increasing, showing that more people are learning singing.

MR. FRANK PERRIN, the English comedian, who is making his broadcast engagements so successful, and whose appearance is scheduled at the Charity Concert in Christchurch on the 23rd, will entertain listeners with fifteen minutes of humour on the Monday evening preceding, from 3YA. Mr. Perrin's humour is refreshing, and his clever thumb-nail sketches go over wonderfully well.

MISS GLADYS MONCRIEFF will be assured of an enthusiastic welcome when she arrives in Christchurch on Friday morning. Listeners here were thrilled to hear the great reception Wellington accorded her on her appearance at the N.Z. Broadcasting Board's concert there, and appreciated the description of her frock and the numerous bouquets with which she was presented. The appearance in Christchurch of Miss Moncrieff at the big Charity Concert on the 23rd is being eagerly awaited, also her broadcast from the studio on the evening of her arrival.

"SEQUOIA," which is to be shown at one of the leading theatres in Christchurch, and which is being featured in serial form from 3ZM, Christchurch, is now in its eighth chapter. This exciting story is holding the attention of listeners, and another novel feature was introduced by this station last Saturday evening, when Sid Shachell's Four Instrument Dance Orchestra relayed a whole evening of dance music from 8.30 until twelve o'clock, when listeners were provided with an uninterrupted programme of music on a very convenient evening.