

IN THE WAKE OF THE WEEK'S BROADCASTS

What News?

THIS age of speed seems to have bred a prodigious impatience in at least the average city dweller. As if it makes a hoot of difference to the ultimate fate of the five shillings or the fiver one may have laid on a horse, or the All Black team, whether people get the results at 5 a.m., 7 a.m., or 9 p.m.! There are plenty who wake early and metaphorically chew their finger-nails while waiting for the 7 o'clock announcements of the All Black matches, and others who cannot bide in patience between the time a remote race has finished and the time its result is announced at perhaps 7 p.m. This almost neurotic anxiety to find things out at the very earliest possible moment has become more marked in the last week, since the opening of hostilities in Abyssinia. There must be thousands of people like those several who have personally expressed their desire for news, news, news almost every hour of the day from the broadcasting stations, so that they may know immediately whether another thousand Ethiopians or another hundred Italians have been murdered. This class of person is patently unreasonable, for it is not the function of the national stations to supply their listeners with hour-by-hour reports of bloody engagements any more than it is expected that they should provide a running commentary on the fat stock markets. If such an overseas service were deemed necessary it would be incumbent on the Broadcasting Board to arrange for a special cable service at enormous expense, for no rational person would expect a daily newspaper to keep its office boys running to the broadcasting stations with cable duplicates from a service for which they pay heavily enough.

Cinema Relay

AT short notice it was announced by 2YA last week that a relay would be carried out from the Plaza Theatre,

Wellington, of Grace Moore's singing in the film "Love Me Forever." The occasion was a special charity night on behalf of the Health Stamp Campaign, the premiere on Saturday evening being attended by the Vice-regal party, the Prime Minister, and the Rt. Hon. J. G. Coates. At 9.5 p.m. the first song, "Il Bacio," came over the air from the theatre with excellent clarity, the sustained last note being the only fuzzy tone altogether. About quarter of an hour later the station again hooked up with the Plaza, and this time they broadcast Grace Moore in "Funiculi, Funicula," followed after a couple of minutes of dialogue by the ever-popular "Quartet" from "Rigoletto." The latter number, instead of being merely a quartet, was announced to be a combination of 40 voices. The general effect of the interpretation was pleasing, but without being able to see the crowd of singers, one could hardly overlook a certain raggedness in parts which probably would have passed unnoticed in the theatre. The novelty of the relay had its appeal, and the voice of the soprano lost little of its quality in its extra reproduction stage. It was a welcome interlude among the dance music.

"Football Songs"

IN several New Zealand programmes last week was Paul Robeson, the famous American negro singer. Robeson, who is a fully-qualified lawyer, has made two important screen appearances—as "Emperor Jones" in the film adaptation of Eugene O'Neill's

play, and as Bosambo in "Sanders of the River," an English film that had a record-breaking run in New Zealand recently. It is curious how a film appearance will help a star's radio popularity. Before "Sanders of the River" Robeson was fairly well known, but there were still plenty of radio fans who were a little hazy about him. Since the film was shown, 90 per cent.



PAUL ROBESON

"African lyrics sounded like American college football songs."

of the listeners don't need the announcer's remarks to know that Robeson is on the air. An American paper said that he made the African songs in "Sanders of the River" sound "alarmingly like American college football songs."

Interest in Maoris

MR. TANO FAMA'S series of talks from 4YA on some of the old Maori personalities of last century are finding an interested audience. It has been a pleasing feature of the national programmes generally in the last few months that talks on the native race of this country and performance of some of their music have been given a good share of programme time. It is strange that New Zealanders on the whole take so little interest in the Maoris. One of many visitors who have become interested in the race is Miss Florence Tory, who arrived in Auckland by the liner Niagara on Monday last week. Miss Tory, who is an experienced broadcast speaker, under the name of Tory Bic, hails from Canada. She is looking forward with great interest to making a study of the Maori people and their legends while she is in New Zealand, with a view to further-



IN NEXT WEEK'S CONCERT.—Featured on the same bill as Gladys Moncrieff at the Broadcasting Board's charity concert to be held at St. James Theatre, Wellington, next week, are Fred Bluett (left), the well-known Australian comedian, and Bill Bain who will appear in a version of the "Rumba."