

NOTES FROM LONDON.

Competition in the Empire Service

Germany Should Improve B.B.C.—Big New Buildings—Fogg's Commendable Fantasy—Signal from "Beau Belles."

(Special to the "Radio Record" by Air Mail.)

London, September 15.

WHILE I was in Berlin a moderate-sized private house near the Rundfunkhaus (Broadcasting House) was pointed out to me as the offices of the shortwave service. I was also informed that this was to be demolished to make room for a considerable extension of the Rundfunkhaus. Presumably this indicates as much an expansion of the German "Empire" service as of the home service, for two new transmitters are being built at Zeesen and two others are to follow. From an international point of view it may be a pity that this race in the ether is taking place, but from the point of view of Empire listeners I am not quite so sure. After all, anything that induces the B.B.C. to put over better programmes and increase the power and frequency of transmissions has its beneficial aspects.

I HEAR that extensive new buildings are to be erected on the Empire station site at Daventry to accommodate the new transmitters. Plans have been approved and their scale shows that there are to be no half-measures in the development of the service.

LONDON'S music critics were pleased with a work of Mr. Eric Fogg, the Empire music director, which provided one of the first novelties at the promenade concerts this season. It was called "September Night," a fantasy overture. One critic praised its craftsmanship, and its "restraint in an age of bombast." One of Mr. Fogg's chief missions at the B.B.C. is the encouragement of Empire composers, in pursuance of which he is in touch with numerous musical organisations throughout the Empire. Through his efforts many works have received their first performance in Broadcasting House, and he is a disappointed man if he does not keep up the quota of overseas compositions. All this is apart from his work as director of the Empire Orchestra formed last autumn and lately increased to 24 members.

A TEMPORARY announcer raised a laugh at Broadcasting House the other night by entering the interval signal in the log-book as "Beau Belles." He is Mr. Christopher Hipsley, really a film actor under the name of Christopher Quest. There was less excuse than there might have been because the B.B.C. have just decided to have no more of the "Step Sisters" or "Dancing Daughters," as they called the troupes of dancing girls which they had for



"ARCH-CHANTER JOHN" is what Elgar has called John Coates, veteran English tenor. His versatility and his capacity for retaining in old age his gift for song have earned him an enviable reputation among English vocalists. John Coates was long ago introduced to broadcasting, and is frequently heard in recordings here.

two successive seasons to pep up studio shows. Listeners have much criticised this idea. Some of them found it most annoying to hear the tap dancing but to see nothing. So until we have television, high kicking by scantily-clad ladies will be banned. But to return to Mr. Hipsley. He was a very good announcer, and I think the B.B.C. would be glad to keep him if they could make him deaf to the call of that new Klondyke, the British film industry.

THE B.B.C. announces that Mr. J. B. Clark, who has been Empire programme director since the inception of

the Empire Broadcasting Service in 1932, has been appointed Empire service director. The name of Mr. Clark's successor to the position of Empire programme director will be announced shortly. These new appointments are consequent upon various changes in the internal organisation of the B.B.C., which were recently described in our Empire broadcasting newsletter. Mr. Clark, in his capacity as Empire service director, will be responsible to the new controller of programmes, Mr. C. G. Graves, who will shortly succeed Colonel Alan Dawnay. Mr. Graves has been the director of Empire and Foreign services of the B.B.C. since 1932.

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