

AUSTRALIAN NOTES.

Developing the A.B.C. Executive

Establishment of New Department Heads for Plays and Music—Use of Radio in Wilds of Papuan Jungle

POLICY changes of the Australian Broadcasting Commission were recently discussed by Mr. C. J. A. Moses, general manager of the A.B.C. Some changes designed to come into force during June or soon after will enable listeners in the less populated States of the Commonwealth to hear the National Military Band, the A.B.C. Dance Orchestra, and the symphony orchestras. "I think it is safe for us to assume that the majority of Australian listeners will be better pleased to hear short classical, instrumental and orchestral programmes frequently than long, drawn-out concerts which, without the inspiring presence of the performer, exhaust attention before they are halfway through," said Mr. Moses.

New Departments.

TWO Federal departments are being created within the working of the commission. Mr. W. G. James, programme controller of the Melbourne stations, is to be Federal Music Controller, and Mr. Frank D. Clewlow, the Melbourne producer, will be in charge of the Federal Play Department. These changes will call for some reorganisation, as eventually both of these men will join the federal staff at head office. In their new positions these officers will be responsible for relays of music and plays; they will be able to plan so that music and play productions may develop along definite lines, and will prevent overlapping of music and play relays between Melbourne and Sydney. With the Federal Talks Controller, Mr. Bronner, they will form a programme committee on national programmes.

Better Plays.

ASSURANCE was given by Mr. Moses that the Play Department would encourage writers. The department would read and select plays, and would be able to advise on productions in other States. For instance, of the six winning plays in the A.B.C.'s last competition, two were to be performed in Melbourne, two in Sydney and one each in Melbourne and Adelaide. The Federal Producer will see that these are done properly, and, if necessary, will take leading actors from one State to another to ensure their success. Another appointment



THIS NEW ZEALANDER IS VERSATILE.—A new Spencer Digby study of Elaine Hamill, the young Taihape girl who is one of the stars with the J. C. Williamson Comedy Company, which opens its Auckland season this week. In the course of a few weeks Miss Hamill has appeared before the microphones of the national broadcasting stations, on the stage throughout the North Island, and on the screen—she is in "Thoroughbred," Helen Twelveteeth's Australian talkie.

is of Mr. Howard Carr, to be Musical Editor—to write original music for the commission. More of this is needed, and Mr. Carr, who has been responsible for some of the best lyric-writing in British musical comedies, and has the reputation in London of being one of the finest orchestrators in the Empire, will be responsible for important orchestrations and adaptations in Australia.

Useful Set.

WIRELESS is proving of great service to the Archbold Expedition, which has been sent to North-West Papua by the National Museum of Natural History, New York, and is now in the wilds of that territory. The radio telegraphist in charge of the Amalgamated Wireless Station at Port Moresby has reported that the expedition has maintained communication with him for 560 miles up the Fly River, to the junction of the Palmer. The expedition is using a small A.W.A. Teleradio unit, which has been especially deve-

loped for use in country where everything has to be carried by porters. The unit is supplied with power by a bicycle-like structure upon which a Papuan native seats himself and pedals as if on the cycling track. With this simple contrivance the advance party and the main body of the expedition have kept in touch. During the long steam up the Fly River, the signals were quite good.

Six Wives.

THE charm of Old England, with all its love, life and laughter, will be brought to us by George Edwards in his dramatisation over 2UW of "The Wives of Henry the VIII." This new series commences on June 1, following on the current presentation of "It's Never Too Late to Mend." Four nights a week will be apportioned to deal with the separate story of each of his wives. "The Wives of Henry the VIII" will be presented at 10.0 p.m., Mondays to Thursdays inclusive, and at 9 p.m. on Saturday, over Station 2UW.