

FROM THE PROVINCES.

Radio Burlesque for the Crippled

Auckland Students' Bright Rag on Behalf of Charity Was Well Received
—Manufacturers Exercised About Suggestion of Cheap Sets
From Government—Better Sales in South.

A WELL-ORGANISED procession through the main streets of Auckland on Thursday last, staged by the students of Auckland University College to raise funds for the Crippled Children's Fund, attracted large crowds and caused an almost complete traffic block in Queen Street between 12.30 and 2.30 p.m. Some fine tableaux, mounted on lorries lent for the occasion by city firms, were decidedly laughable. Among the topical events which were burlesqued, radio played a prominent part. Particularly clever was the set representing the forthcoming demise of the Broadcasting Board, tombstones, running shoes, and so on, figuring largely in the display. Another made thinly-veiled reference to personalities connected with the Friendly Road station, 1ZB. "Uncle Scram" was there, and "Aunt Hazy," too. Humorous reference was also made to Post Office activities along "jamming" lines. Humorous speeches on current and topical events were broadcast on the slightest provocation, and at every stop made by the procession, through microphones and loudspeakers specially fitted on a public address van, lent for the occasion, plus the services of two men, by the well-known radio firm of Johns, Limited. Students of both sexes collected money from the crowd in "half-handles," and even baths so large that it took half a dozen young men to carry them. The students enjoyed themselves to the full, and, as a result of their fine efforts, the funds of the Crippled Children's organisation will benefit considerably.

PRESS reports regarding the possibilities of the Government's deciding to manufacture radio sets, or arranging with manufacturers to build them cheaply for the public, is causing much discussion in radio circles in Auckland, where several large factories are engaged in the manufacture of receivers. It seems to be generally agreed among Auckland manufacturers that the Government has not realised the difficulties involved. Competition has already resulted in sets of maximum performance and minimum price being produced. In fact, it is said that prices are at present too low to permit of durable and efficient receivers being produced. "If the Government is going to sell without profit, through the Post and Telegraph Department, charging losses to the Consolidated Fund, then it is going to affect all licensed dealers and their employees," said one big manufacturer.

SALES of receiving sets in Dunedin are increasing, according to reports. It is considered by some salesmen that broadcasts from Parliament have been to an extent responsible for

some of the additional sales, as many purchasers have said that they were buying for the purpose of listening to Parliament. One dealer reports substantial monthly increases since January in the numbers of his sales, the figures for last month being 195. Up-to-date models are selling freely, and purchasers are trading in their old sets.

"534"

WHAT'S in a name? "The Metamorphosis of Number 534" might be a further episode in the lives of a Jap. . . . No, of Inspector Scott and Company of Scotland Yard. It might be the final stage in the splitting of the atom. But it is nothing so dull. It is the title of a brand new feature from 2YA next week, Tuesday, June 30, at 9.5. The feature plans to reproduce in exact form the laying down of the keel of the good ship Queen Mary, will follow its growth until its launching, its speed trials with turbines racing, the mighty farewell at Southampton late last month on her maiden voyage. Here is something unusual and entirely topical, and will show in condensed form what has taken years to plan and build.

Extended Series

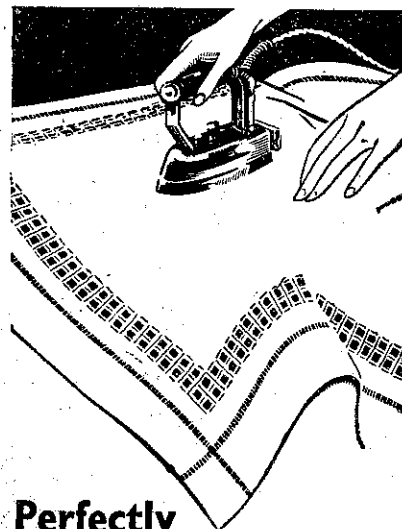
A SERIES of twenty-two very fine talks are to be given weekly from 3YA by highly-qualified speakers on each particular subject under the heading of "The Threshold of Our Age" and dealing with life and development in the nineteenth century. The first, on July 1, will be delivered by Miss A. M. F. Candy, who will take as her subject "The Background of the 19th Century," followed a week later by Dr. H. N. Parton on "The Age of Steam" and, on July 15 "The Age of Electricity" by the same speaker. To give listeners an idea of the value of these talks, "The Threshold of Our Age" series deals with raw materials, advent of the age of speed, movement of peoples and ideas overseas, with special reference to New Zealand, the natural science, anthropology, medicine, economic life and thought, the changing town, and home, labour, education, literature, drama, art and music.

Menin Memory

MR. PERCY NICHOLLS, of Christchurch, the composer of "Menin Gate Vision," which was first heard at last Anzac Day's service, has had many requests for copies. "Menin Gate Vision" will be heard from 3YA on New Zealand Composers' Night, July 3, and will be played by the 3YA Orchestra. The Woolston Band are also rendering this composition from 3YA on July 20.

Otago League

AMONG the 60,000 licensees in the Otago district it is considered time to revive the Radio Listeners' League, especially in view of the possibility of a great increase in the number of listeners if the proposed Government sets are to be available for poorer people. In an open letter to Otago listeners, the president of the league (Mr. W. J. Bardsley) points out that the Hon. F. Jones had said that listeners would not have direct representation on the proposed advisory council under the new regime. Mr. Bardsley claims that a representative "voice" at the proper moment is not only desirable from a policy point of view, but it is also a reasonable privilege in return for the £25,000 spent on licenses in the district. He further appeals to listeners not to wait "until the eleventh



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