

and showed throughout the results of careful rehearsal and a fine sympathy for the singers in both solo and chorus work.

As Hinemoa, Madame Austral was well up to the great expectations of the audience, and her reception was a personal triumph. She had a generous share of solo work, and on every occasion her singing was of that rare quality and colour which justifies her illustrious name—a worthy country-woman of Dame Nellie Melba.

Sydney de Vries had the double burden of interpreting the parts of Tohunga and Tutanekai, bass and baritone respectively. His fullness of voice was most satisfying throughout the range he had to cover, however, and his first public performance in New Zealand must have earned him the immediate friendship of everyone in the hall who knew a first-class voice from a mediocre one. Over the air, too, his notes registered perfectly.

Tiki, Tutanekai's friend, was interpreted by Browning Mummery, the Australian tenor, and some of his passages gave him great opportunities, some of which were thrown away. His soft tones were almost like Tutanekai's flute in their quality, but his power was amply demonstrated within the same hour. To draw comparisons between the soloists would be unfair to one or another, for the whole was so completely pleasing that there was no room for smaller criticism.

In the second half of the programme each of the visiting performers had a further share of classical and operatic work, and mention of John Amadio's flute music and obbligatos is hardly necessary except for those who were not at the concert or not tuned in to the stations. Those who heard his performance revelled in the music of a player who provided them with beautiful music on this instrument such as has not been heard in New Zealand for long years.

Lawrence Hagglitt's accompaniments on the grand organ were a necessary and well-balanced background for some of the evening's music, and in others the organ took a more prominent part to the satisfaction of hearers. People in other centres who will have the opportunity of hearing the visiting artists from the stage should find the dates and keep them reserved for the treat they will have in store.

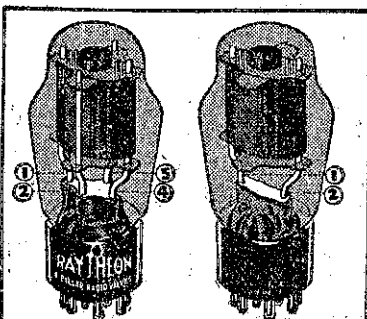
DURING an important political broadcast in Belgium, where there are so many parties that wish to be heard, and so few who wish to listen, the telephonist pushed over a switch and heard, "This is the Prime Minister's Office. Cut out Mr. X's speech immediately." The telephonist passed the order on to the control-room, and the speech stopped in the middle of a word. An official then got on to the Prime Minister's office, and learned that no one had rung from there.

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