

## FROM THE PROVINCES

# Two Disappointing Audiences

Dunedin and Christchurch Did Not Turn Up in Great Strength to Hear Touring Celebrities in Concerts—College Boys Show Their Own Moving Pictures—John Amadio and Rugby.

**FAILURE** to maintain its reputation as a musical city of New Zealand must be causing the National Broadcasting Service to lose a good impression of Dunedin as the cultural centre. Last week's celebrity concert staged by the service at low prices in the Town Hall did not meet with anything like the public support it deserved. Admittedly, the hall is a large one, but the odd 1500 people present barely half-filled it, with the result that the artists had to contribute to an all-round magnificent entertainment while confronted by hundreds of empty and unresponsive seats. There could have been only one consolation to them—the wonderfully appreciative manner in which the small audience received every offering. Of course, the concert was broadcast by 4YA, but even then the townspeople would have shown a more sympathetic spirit if they had attended in person instead of listening in.

**IS** Christchurch really musical? It prides itself on being extremely highbrow, but its true appreciation of great overseas artists is demonstrated only spasmodically. For instance, when the last big charity concert was given at the Civic Theatre, the audience in the theatre was disappointing. Probably this was the result of success by the fireside and the loudspeaker in its tug-of-war against the weather. However, through the courtesy of the National Broadcasting Service, another charity concert will be staged in the same theatre on August 26. This time it will be largely a programme of comedy, but Senia Chostiakoff, Thea Phillips and Eileen Boyd will also be heard. One can't help thinking how queer it is that Christchurch has to empty one of its picture theatres to do duty for a town hall when great artists in the flesh give of their best!

**ONE** of the most popular stalls at the Christchurch Winter Show is a stand taken up by Christ's College boys who are operating a movie plant showing pictures taken by them at city factories and business houses. They know the game, these lads, for they judiciously snap in with a comedy or two at suitable intervals. The photography is excellent and is a joyous departure from the crudities which pass for movies in many private homes.

**RUGBY** football is a sport that has a very keen follower in the person of the famous flautist, Mr. John Amadio, who never misses an opportunity of attending a game, especially

if it is one of more than average importance. On the day after his arrival in Dunedin last week he expressed regret that his radio engagements had prevented him from coming to the city a couple of weeks earlier, so that he could have been among the 26,000 spectators who watched the clash between Otago and Southland for the coveted Ranfurly Shield. However, another shield game was played last Wednesday afternoon, and Mr. Amadio, accompanied by Mr. Browning Mummery, was recognised in the crowd that filed into the Carisbrook ground to see how Otago would fare against Manawatu.

## Leavening

**THERE'S** nothing like a little leavening in the broadcast loaf, therefore a new series of talks will begin from 3YA on August 24 when Professor James Shelley will have something to say about the British Commonwealth. His chat will link up with racial elements in the British Isles, and, later, Dr. James Hight, also of Canterbury University College, will tell listeners about Britain's contribution.

## Touring

**MR. AND MRS. BROWNING MUMMERY** have been doing as much motoring as possible in the South Island. They travelled by car from

Christchurch to Dunedin to fulfil engagements at 4YA, and during their stay in the latter town motored to as many of the city's beauty spots as time would permit, and were very loud in their praise of the scenery that greeted them wherever they went. When they left Dunedin last week it was with the intention of making for the West Coast and visiting Westport, Nelson, Blenheim and then on to Picton to catch the boat for the return to Wellington.

## Number, Please!

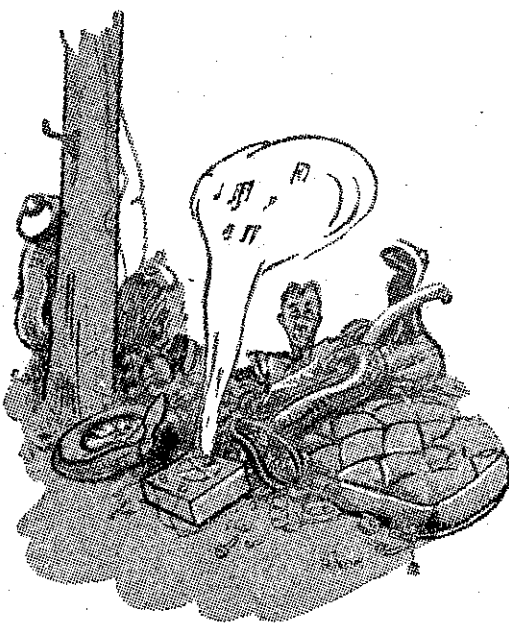
**VARIETY** is the thing to-day! Those in charge of 3YA, Christchurch, certainly believe in a change now and then for, on August 27, it will be a case of "Hello!"—if not "Number, please?" This station will broadcast from 9.20 p.m. to 11 p.m., the doings at the Christchurch telephone folks' jubilee dance. Music, on the dance floor itself, will come from the celebrated Bailey-Marsden Dance Orchestra—probably the best of its kind in New Zealand.

## Languages

**WHEN** he was chatting with an interviewer in the 4YA studio one morning recently Mr. Sydney de Vries mentioned that he had had to sing operatic arias in seven different languages. "You see, we have to sing the operas in the languages in which they were written," he explained. "I speak seven languages, but my wife can beat me, she speaks eight." He added with a smile that he was going to sing some Scottish songs from the station, but he would not try to be as broad as a real Scot. "Have you tried Maori yet?" was a question put to him, to which he replied in the simplest of all ways: "No." However, he was obviously proud of the fact that while in Wellington he took part in the presentation of the Maori opera, "Hinemoa."

## Boys' Choir

**AFTER** a feast of overseas musical talent Christchurch returned to its "ain folk" the other night when the Male Voice Choir, assisted by the Cathedral Choristers, Miss Vera Martin (contralto) and Mr. Noel Newson, clever young pianist, were heard from 3YA. This combination, which for years used the Choral Hall for its performances, is one of the finest exponents of part-singing in the (Continued next page.)



"Jack Hylton's Band will now play Only a Stone's Throw from Heaven."