

FROM THE PROVINCES.

A Musical "Hunch" Which Failed

Beatrice Pugh Missed Out on Queen of Song in the Melbourne Cup—
Michael Head's Recitals Considered as "Classics" by 2YA Listeners
—Octogenarian Prefers 'Planes to Cars.

NOT long after her triumphant tour of New Zealand national radio stations, Miss Beatrice Pugh, soprano, found herself among the race crowd on Melbourne Cup Day. With just a hint of superstition in the air, she took the musician's choice and backed Queen of Song with a modest five bob, according to a letter received last week from her by an official of 3YA. She missed the bus! Her chatty note goes on to talk of Jean Batten, and then Miss Pugh mentions her own flight from Christchurch to Wellington to fulfil North Island engagements. It was wonderful flying over the snow-capped Kaikouras, she says, and she remarks that while broadcasting a talk recently from 4QG, Brisbane, she told Australians a good deal about New Zealand. Miss Pugh winds up by saying that New Zealand is well ahead of Australia in broadcasting, especially in the presentation of plays. How's that?

AFTER listening to Michael Head's recent recitals from 4YA, one must involuntarily class them as classics. It is not often that such an accomplished musician, who can vary his entertainment by introducing vocal numbers to his own accompaniment, visits these parts, so it is pleasing to find the broadcasting authorities taking advantage of those who are available. Not only did Mr. Head sing and play, but, in a chatty style, gave his own annotations before the presentation of each number. The inclusion of several of his own songs in the recitals gave listeners the chance of judging for themselves his added ability as a composer of some standing.

"I'VE come to see the place those marvellous programmes hail from!" Station 3YA officials looked up from their desks one morning last week when these words issued from the lips of a very old lady, who was accompanied by her daughter. This distinguished visitor turned out to be Mrs. E. Reid, of Reid Street, Blaketown, West Coast. To the station director, and others, Mrs. Reid explained that she had listened to 3YA for quite a long time, and had always been anxious to see just how things were done

in the studios. In the course of conversation it leaked out that her ripe old age was 89 and that she did not use spectacles for anything. Believe it or not, she has a horror of the motor-car, but is game to take on a sky-ride, and hopes to be in the passenger's seat of an aeroplane ere long. The staff took her and her daughter all over the big building, and her interest in everything she heard and saw was of the keenest. Mrs. Reid knows quite a lot about modern radio, and told the staff all the virtues of her set, from which, she says, she gains the greatest of pleasure. "Mark you," she added, "it's 3YA that I listen to most, hence my visit."

Who's Right?

OSCAR WILDE'S famous play, "The Importance of Being Earnest," presented from 3YA the other Sunday night, by Miss Marjorie Bassett and company, was something "out of the box." It was finely acted and spoken and every member of the cast gave an excellent performance. The celebrated "questionnaire" gives the impression that Monday

is the best night for play presentations, and so the Christchurch representative of the "Radio Record" sought a few authoritative opinions. The impression he gained was that Sunday is by far and away the best night for the better class of play. Still, it's all a matter of opinion, but we believe that, as most families, in Christchurch at least, join up for the evening meal on Sunday, with a spot of radio to follow, it should be the best evening in the whole week for becoming a trifle serious. Oh well, let's see what the new director has to say about it!

"Fetters—Not Fritters"

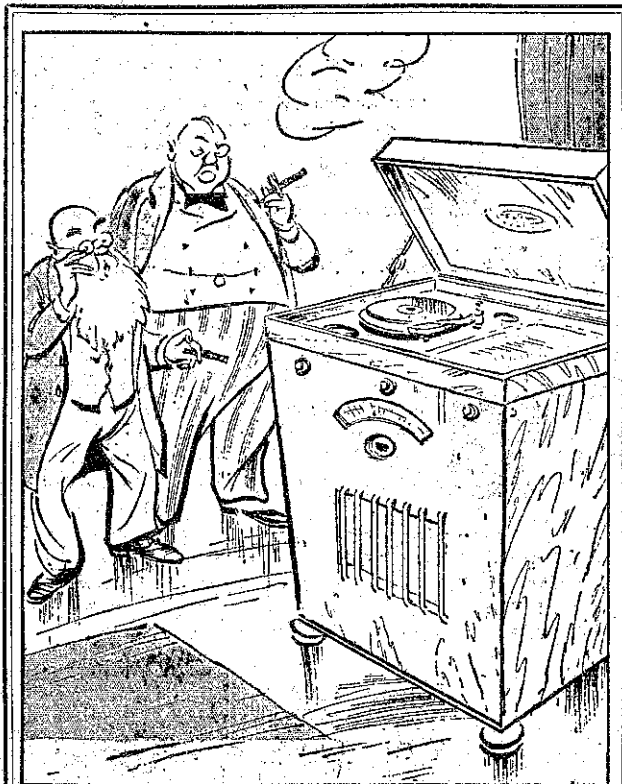
A HIGHLIGHT in the week's programme at 3YA, Christchurch, was a talk by that noted research worker, Dr. J. B. Condliffe, formerly of Canterbury University College, who told listeners quite a lot about world trade. While his talk naturally appealed mostly to the business man and the economist, many members of the general public found in it something distinctly new to think about. But whatever the subject, there is bound to be some irresponsible who will never, never take anything seriously. In this instance it was a well-known Christchurch business man who remarked to the "Radio Record" that the title quite properly could have been "World Trade in Fritters," instead of "Fetters," as Dr. Condliffe had it!

Victorian

THERE is a vast body of "international relationship" workers known as the Victoria League, which has branches all over the English-speaking world. In Christchurch it is particularly strong. Local members, therefore, will welcome a chat from 3YA's microphone on Tuesday, December 8, by Miss Drayton, C.B.E., of London, organising general secretary of the Victoria League, who will take as her subject "Closer Union Among British Subjects through the Victoria League and Kindred Societies."

All For Health

COMMENDED in a radio speech recently by the Governor-General of New Zealand, Lord Galway, the Health Stamp campaign is now in the full flush of success. It will be aided further in Christchurch when the Christchurch Orpheus (Continued on next page.)



"Mon, it's wunnerfu'! Does it gie oot any heat?"

—From the "Radio Times" (London).