

NOTES FROM GERMANY

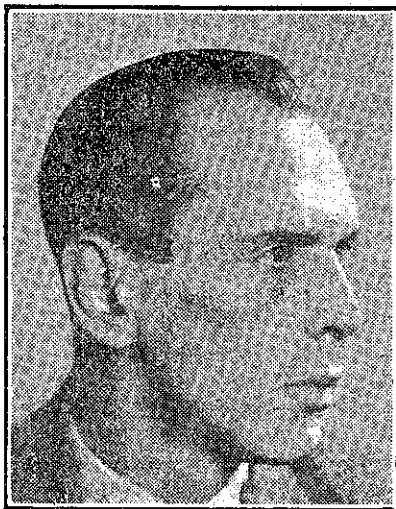
"Peace On Earth" Is Still Meant

Christmas Message of German Radio — Foreign Countries Addressed With Greetings—Folk Myths of Christmas.

"PEACE on Earth" Impressive was the call to peace and reflection upon the intrinsic values at the Olympic Games in Berlin. The Christmas Days bring this call back to our minds. "Peace" on earth and goodwill towards men" still means to us as much as it meant in the olden times. In this world of opposition, the German people earnestly acknowledges everything that is apt to reconcile men and to unite the peoples. It is the wish of the German shortwave station that the idea, "Peace on Earth" will not remain a longing to mankind, but that it will become a well-known message to us, which we shall be grateful to hear again and again. Ludwig Friedrich Barthel, one of the most famous poets of our nation, has chosen this beautiful idea as the basis of a programme under this title, to be broadcast on the Australian and New Zealand programme at 7.15 p.m. (N.Z.S.T.) on December 26. The music is by Kurt von Wohlfurt.

ON December 24 at 7.45 p.m., the "Reichssender" greets foreign countries in a general broadcast of the German radio. The German shortwave station again and again broadcasts selections from the "Reichssender" programmes, thereby expressing its contact with the foreign countries, as well as with the Germans abroad. This feeling of unity is stronger than ever on holidays, when people have time for reflection upon the sources of their strength of life. These sources are their work, their family, and their people. On Christmas Eve all parts of Germany want to send their Christmas greetings to Germans abroad, wherever they may live. The "Reichssender" will transmit these Christmas greetings by broadcasting programmes characteristic of all the different provinces of Germany. It will be a colourful hour, full of German Christmas adventures, and will be called "Our Christmas Greetings to Germans Abroad and to Foreign Countries."

OLD Christmas Customs: "The Stars give us a bright light." This programme, to be broadcast on December



THIS AFTERNOON AT FIVE.—If you tune in to the German shortwave broadcasts this afternoon at five—or any afternoon for that matter—the chances are ten to one that you'll hear the two announcers above—Herr Herbert Schotte on the left and Herr Gezorg on the right.

27, was created by the German Shortwave Station from the wealth of folk traditions of Christmas time. It is a time when one thinks of one's ancestors, at whose graves Christmas dances were once conducted, and who have bequeathed us the ballads by the "Reiter," who once brought them to the king's daughter on her death-bed. Even to-day, in remote parts these ballads are still played as dance music. Sigurd, the Dragon Killer, is the author of some such ballads. His story is similar to that of the youth who was chosen by the Fates to win his way against all dangers to the independence of the King's crown, as our folk myths tell us—those tales which have spread far beyond the German land. The tale of the "shepherd boy who became king," tells of this happening. Songs make a complete picture of this broadcast, which provides an insight into the rich tradition of Christmas folk-lore.

German Culture

AN interesting broadcast on December 10 will be "Testimonies to German Culture: III, The Cologne Cathedral." When in March, 1936, Adolf Hitler made his speech about peace in Europe, the chimes of the Cologne Cathedral were chosen to open this demonstration. These chimes awakened the sense of the greatness of German history. The Cathedral is a vital link between the past and the future. Centuries have been spent working on this cathedral. Often work had to be discontinued, and another generation worked untiringly until, after hundreds of years of untold effort, it was completely finished. But even yet it is being continually re-

paired, and this work is in itself a symbol of the German character. There was a time when the best people of our nation saw a German task in the perfection of cathedral construction. All that they strived for has become reality in the Third Reich; but at the chime of the bells there stands out before our eyes a view of the past and a prophecy and trustfulness in the future, and enlightens us to the eternal testimony of German culture.

Relay From Skis

IN its series "German Winter Sport Territories," the German shortwave station describes the Harz Mountains to listeners. The Brocken, of which we have all formed some idea, is to be visited in its winter glory. The landscape is covered in a white coat: snow-covered slopes and the fantastic forms of the snow-laden fir-trees will fly past the listener when the radio-reporter's team whizz down the slopes on their skis.

Johann Strauss

"LIFE is Serious—Art is Joyous," is a radio play about Johann Strauss. The melodies of the Viennese Meister, Johann Strauss, are played and heard with pleasure throughout the whole world. His waltzes and operettas will always be a foundation to musical programmes. Little is known of his life, and therefore the German shortwave station on December 11 will tell you something about his family life and his great achievements. In addition, some of his waltzes will be played. The manuscript is written by Wolfgang Hoffmann-Harnisch.