

the first command performance years ago.

Possessing a repertoire of 125 songs, Miss Shields imparted the information that she could proceed against anyone who merely played the chorus of some of them, because they were her exclusive property.

For The Arts

AS its name implies, the Society for Imperial Culture, Christchurch, with which Professor James Shelley has been associated for long, gives its energies to the fostering of the arts, particularly music and the drama. So strong is this society and so attractive are its programmes, both in speech and vocal and instrumental music, that the controllers have little difficulty in persuading the best performers and speakers in the city to attend their meetings and give members the benefit of their experience. Lecturers during the past



MR. HOPE JONES, M.I.E.E.,
F.R.A.S.

... English expert on Time, will give a recorded talk from 1YA on April 8, called "Time and Tide Wait For No Man."

year have included Drs. K. Popper, F. W. G. White, and H. E. Field, Messrs. Ian Donnelly, H. C. D. Somerset, Ernest Jenner, and Professor Shelley, while leading musicians have presented appropriate selections.

Players

AND still they come. Christchurch seems to be a training ground, and a valuable one, for the repertory movement. Now it has a new group, added to the many which have been heard over 3YA, and the name is the "Beverley Players." "London Wall," John Van Druten's three-act play, will be given by the new players from 3YA on April 7 from 8 p.m. to 9.15 p.m.

Highlight

WHEN drawing attention to important material to be broadcast from 4YA it is impossible to overlook "Mas-

WOODS' GREAT PEPPERMINT CURE
For Coughs and Colds, Never Fails

England's Cockney Wagner

MUSICIAN WHO FOUGHT HARD UNTIL HE "ARRIVED"

MANY fairly well-informed musicians still associate the name of Josef Holbrooke with some excellent variations on that popular tune of the nursery—"Three Blind Mice"—and nothing more.

Although one would naturally expect a clever elaboration of the tune from so marvellously brilliant a pianist it is a pitiful commentary on our knowledge of modern music that so absurd an association of ideas should be the sole clue to the identity of this arresting figure.

Hannan Swaffer, writing an appreciation of Josef Holbrooke, referred to the composer as the "Cockney Wagner," a by no means inapt title.

Josef Holbrooke began his career as pianist at Collins's Music Hall, Islington, deputising for his father, who was also a musician, as was his father before him. Josef's father is said to have composed the music of "The Blind Boy," celebrated by Chirgwin, the "White-eyed Kaffir."

The son and grandson of musicians, Josef Holbrooke was regarded in the early stages of his career by older colleagues as quite definitely the "bad boy" of English music. He had to fight hard for anything like adequate recognition of his original gifts. That he has

now won something like an assured position is largely the outcome of his unyielding faith in his own work.

Among those who helped him with encouragement and understanding was that wealthy, but public-spirited peer, Lord Howard de Walden. Writing under the nom-de-plume of "T. E. Ellis," Lord de Walden wrote a great work, "The Cauldron of Anwyn," which is a kind of saga of Welsh mythology based upon the doings of folk of the period of King Arthur. Holbrooke was anxious to compose an operatic trilogy based on these stories, and the project gradually took shape and was carried to successful completion.

The subject is one in which Holbrooke's romantic temperament found full scope, and the music is vivid and forceful in keeping with the tragic, passionate story. The operas comprising the trilogy are "The Children of Don" (produced in 1912 and financed by the poet-peer to the tune of £32,000), "Dylan," which appeared a year later, and "Bronwen," given its premiere by the Carl Rosa Opera Company at Huddersfield in 1929. The "Dylan" Prelude is from the second of these operas and 2YA listeners will have an opportunity of hearing it played by a symphony orchestra under Clarence Raybould, on Sunday, April 3.

terpieces of Music." The manner in which these highlights are presented to listeners makes of them outstanding highlights. Dr. Galway will conduct the session from 4YA on April 7, when two important numbers will be given: Fugue in G Minor (the Great), composed by Bach, and "Eventyr" (Once Upon a Time), by Delius.

Strauss

THE complete opera "Rosenkavalier," by Hugo von Hofmannstahl—music by Richard Strauss—will be presented by 3YA on April 3. Delightful themes are interwoven into the movements of this work, some of the most haunting occurring again and again. The presentation will take from 8.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m.

Motoring

IT is some years since 1YA offered listeners talks upon motoring. Formerly these talks were well liked, but they were discontinued after a long period of weekly chats had been presented. But now there are so many thousands of owner-drivers and domestic cars are so ubiquitous that the station has decided to resume these discussions under the label of "Motoring." A series of three are to be given by one who prefers to be known as "Condenser." The first will be

heard at 7.30 p.m. on Monday, April 4, and the others will follow at weekly intervals.

Birds To Give

EARLY last week the Mayor of Auckland, Sir Ernest Davis, communicated with Neddo, of 12B, to seek his advice in order to solve a problem. The problem—or problems—consisted of 60-odd homing pigeons which were far too many for the Mayor to have flying around his home at Kohimarama. Some years ago Sir Ernest brought two pairs of pigeons to his home, but now he has over 60 birds. Could Neddo give some away to his army of child listeners? "Of course," replied Neddo. "Thanks," said Sir Ernest, for he did not wish to destroy them. And so that

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