

of the volume should be in the Dominion within a month. His talks over the air have been as scholarly as his writings, and are always welcome by those who appreciate something "just a little better than the average." It seemed rather fitting that so prominent a writer should talk on another well-known writer. On Thursday last Mr. Allen was heard from 4YA discussing the Australian writer, Ethel Turner.

From The "Empress"

THE arrival in Wellington of the Canadian Pacific liner *Empress of Britain* on Sunday, April 10 will enable lovers of classical songs to hear the superb bass-baritone voice of the renowned Frederick English. Learning that Mr. English is on board the liner, 2YA officials immediately made arrangements to present the eminent artist to the New Zealand public on the one day the ship is in port.

Having travelled around the world no fewer than eight times, Mr. English has deservedly won a wide reputation as a radio and concert artist. He has performed over the air on most of the important stations of the world, including the BBC, the National Broadcasting Company, the Canadian Radio Commission, Radio Paris, France, the Indian State Broadcasting Company, and many others.

The programme selected by Mr. English for his 2YA broadcast on April 10 covers a wide musical range. He will perform songs by Schumann, Malashkin, Handel, Vaughan Williams and Mozart.

Empire Service

THE Empire station at Davenport is transmitting a recorded programme on April 8 of a broadcast from the Empire Exhibition, included in which will be a talk by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Neville Chamberlain. This programme, of approxi-

mately twenty minutes' duration, will be rebroadcast by the National station, 2YA, at 6 p.m., on Friday, April 8.

Sir John Stainer

FROM chorister in St. Paul's Cathedral, London, to professor of music at Oxford University, with, as stepping stones to fame, the distinct honours of being organist to the Oxford University and to St. Paul's Cathedral, indicates, in bald outline, the career of Sir



W. A. PENTON.

... Radio Man Who Wins Distinction.

John Stainer. He composed several pieces that will never be forgotten, foremost of which are the oratorio "Gideon" and the cantatas, "The Daughter of Jairus" and "The Crucifixion." What Handel's "Messiah" has come to mean to Christmas, so has Stainer's "Crucifixion" come to mean to Easter, and on Good Friday, at 9.5 p.m., Mr. Ernest Drake will present the Easter cantata from 4YA studios.

Distinction

NOTABLE distinction has come to Mr. W. A. Penton, station engineer to 3ZB, and latterly acting in that capacity at 2ZB, by his admission to membership of the lightly conservative Institute of Wireless Technology, London. One qualification was the writing of an original 10,000 word thesis which would reveal something unknown to radio service, and which eventually brought him into conflict with the Engineer-in-Chief of the BBC. Mr. Penton is the third New Zealander to enter the carefully scrutinised list of membership of the Institute.

Play Problem

THE smallest dramatic society, even in the out-back of New Zealand, should, by rights, pay a royalty on certain productions. This is a decided handicap to amateur effort, for only recently, after a country party of players had rehearsed for weeks in the south, and was just about to give its rendering of a light opera, the secretary got alarmed about the royalty. He wrote to headquarters and found that if the hall was packed twice over the sum demanded in royalty could not possibly be met. Result? No show. Annual meeting of the Canterbury Uni-

versity College Dramatic Society the other night found itself up against a similar problem. The meeting decided that in view of increased royalties and lack of funds it should appeal to the Students' Association for affiliation and a monetary grant. There was only a credit balance of 16/4 in "the kitty." This society is looking forward to an active year, as it has several plays in course of production.

Pianist

ROBERT G. HENRY, late of Invercargill, where he established a fine reputation as a pianist, presents a recital of works by Liszt, Chopin and Debussy in his broadcast from 2YA on Thursday, April 14. Apart from his capabilities as a soloist, Mr. Henry is an accomplished accompanist, and during his sojourn in the south was continually in demand.

Spell It

STATION 2ZB's Spelling Bee got off to a fair start on Thursday evening last, but the arrangers rather under-estimated the smartness of the spellers. Of fourteen competitors, eleven were still in the hunt at the end of 15 minutes' broadcast, three errors entailing disqualification. It was a worth while broadcast and promises to be completely successful. Next week, the prize will be doubled. Words will be tougher.

In Sydney

OTENE PAORA returned to Auckland last Friday after being sent across to Sydney under a special reciprocal arrangement with station 2GB, in exchange for Jack Davey's coming to Auckland for two weeks. According to reports from Sydney, Otene was found a fine artist and a well-liked personality. His introduction to a flesh and blood audience at the Savoy Theatre community singing concert was a jubilant occasion and he was received with deafening applause. Says a Sydney writer of him, "Mr. Paora is a great lover of music. He says he could sit and listen to it all day. In his own rendition of songs is his born love of the melodious in music and the heartfelt emotion in song."

UPSET HIS DAY

BAD LUCK FOR PROGRAMME MAN

SIDELIGHTS on a programme organiser's problems!

It is well known that Mr. Eric Waters, of 1YA, is not a keen follower of horse racing. In fact he knows very little about it.

One day last week he was rushing down to the Post Office and boarded a tram in Queen Street. As he alighted he noticed that the destination sign said "Racecourse, 1/6 return."

"Good heavens," he said to himself. "I've not arranged for a relay from the racecourse to-day."

Back at the studio he found that there were no turf events necessitating a relayed broadcast, and that the tram conductor—or motorman, whichever it might be—had made a mistake.

But they frightened the programme man.

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