

into the programmes. Otago and Canterbury University Colleges are to lead off on April 28 with a discussion of the subject, "That Humour is a Passport to Fame." The subject should lend itself to lively treatment. The Canterbury team, taking the negative—as befits provincial solemnity—will consist of B. J. Wilson (leader), Miss B. Freeman (No. 2), and J. McLean (3). And the judge is Mr. J. H. E. Schroder, of Christchurch, who knows a good speech when he hears one. The Otago team will consist of Mr. E. Hefford and Miss L. McKenzie, and will be led by Mr. A. W. Stewart, who has had considerable experience in this sort of thing.

At The Piano

THE Wellington province has many talented young pianists among its ranks, including Cara Hall, Jocelyn Walker and Colin Horsley, all three of whom are known to 2YA listeners. Making their first microphone appearance at an early date, two more join the throng of artists whom the NBS presents. Residents of Wellington, Dorothy Downing and Paul Magill, will shortly display their abilities to lovers of piano music.

N.Z. Oddities

THERE are a lot of interesting happenings in out-of-the-way corners of New Zealand, and queer characters worth the attention of the historian and the writer of fiction. At 3YA on April 26 Mr. Arthur Harrison is to lift the veil from a forgotten corner of Southland, and tell the story of a little country settlement where Chinese and other relics of the gold rush lived on. Mr. Harrison will be remembered for a recent talk in the "How it Began" series, on the very early days of radio in New Zealand.

Farewell

SOPRANO voice of Wellington's Jeanette Briggs bids farewell to 2YA on April 29, as she is shortly leaving to live permanently in Auckland. Among the songs selected by her will be "Carmena," by Lane Wilson, and "Oh That It Were So," by Frank Bridge.

Uncovering The Past

AMONG English visitors to New Zealand at present is Mrs. F. Phouless, who is an enthusiastic Egyptologist, an interest that was shared by her late husband. Mrs Phouless has visited



Egypt and seen excavators at work. She is to give two talks at 2YA, one on April 28 and one on May 5, on the work of uncovering the past in Egypt and what these discoveries mean.

Mozart Said "They All Do It"

DELICIOUS OPERA WRITTEN FOR HIS EMPEROR PATRON

AT the invitation of Prince Lichnowsky, a not very remote ancestral relative of the German Ambassador in London in the fateful year of 1914, Mozart, after producing "Don Giovanni," went to Berlin, where he was offered a much more liberal income than he was then receiving from the Austrian Emperor Francis.

As a reward for his fidelity to the Austrian Court, Mozart was commanded to write the opera "Cosi Fan Tutte," or "They All Do It." This work was enjoying a great success when Mozart's patron, the Emperor, died, and the new monarch proved to be but a poor art devotee, so consequently orders were given to withdraw the work.

Lorenzo da Ponte, the author of the libretto as well as those of "Don Giovanni" and "Figaro," is said to have based the idea for his plot on an actual wager that had been laid in Vienna at that time. Da Ponte, however, made Naples the scene of his opera and reduced the incident practically to farce.

The title of this delicious opera may be translated as "Thus Do All Women," or "They All Do It." It has a jolly little love tangle of a story, while the music is as refreshing as anything Mozart ever wrote.

The plot concerns an elderly bachelor cynic who bets two young officers that their lady loves will not pass the

test for fidelity. Disguised as two Albanians, the young men woo the pretty creatures, are at first accepted, then detected, then made fools of.

An amusing moment in the opera is that at which the doctor revives the supposedly poisoned officers with a magnet. That was Da



MOZART

... Was faithful to his Emperor.

Ponte's dig at the then fashionable Dr. Mesmer, expert in animal magnetism, who lent his name to "Mesmerism."

Recorded presentation of Mozart's opera, "Cosi Fan Tutte" will be heard from 1YA on Sunday, April 24.

Country Life

RECENT talk by Mr. J. Cormick from 2YA on the country newspaper appealed especially to journalists. He illustrated the difference between country and city news values by the story of a fire. The country town about which he was talking had a new motor fire engine, but unfortunately when the first call came the engine refused to start, and the engine had to be towed to the fire by an old Ford. For the city newspaper the main interest was the breakdown of the engine and the towing, but the people of the country town wanted to know all about the fire itself—how much the owner of the destroyed house had lost and how it occurred, and so on. Journalists appreciated Mr. Cormick's description of the country newspaper where the editor was editor, sub-editor and reporting staff all in one, as he said it saved time in staff conferences. The NBS intends to give more of these country town talks.

Coals To Newcastle

WE call this section of the "Record" "Round the Studios," but, if what the "Record" reporter saw in Christchurch the other day has any counterpart in other centres, there might be instituted a special column, "Outside the Studios." It was a busy morning, and Colombo Street shop-keepers were beaming. Right outside the door of 3ZB, however, was an itinerant musician, with radio set and aerial. His

music, coming from 3YA, floated up the stairs of 3ZB. Did he later go round to 3YA and introduce to them some of cousin B's "pep" work?

Something New

NOVEL feature in preparation for an early broadcast from 2YA is a recital by Hammond organ, piano, and trombone. The trombone will be played by Eric Williams, an ex-champion of New Zealand, and still considered one of the finest exponents of his instrument, which in the hands of an expert can evolve beauties of intonation not usually associated with this member of the "brass" family.

Radiomen At Play

STAFFS of the National and Commercial Broadcasting Services in Wellington met pleasantly on a recent Saturday in a cricket match at Karori Park. The game was won by 2ZB to 10 runs in an exciting second-innings finish. With the time limit of 30 minutes each, both sides scored 212 in an hour, hitting 14 "sixers." Star performances with the bat were Peter Whitechurch (2ZB) and Courtney Hall, Foster and Cock (2YA). Best bowlers were Whitechurch, James and Hawken for 2ZB, and Hall, Clive Drummond and Cock for 2YA.

Shortwave

"SURELY," said the "Record's" reporter to a friend whose house is on the hills overlooking Lyttelton Har-