

announcing staff, was here a year before the service was organised. Of the senior half-dozen men in the station three or New Zealanders and three Englishmen. The only person of foreign birth is George Vryer, "The Wanderer," who is Dutch.

Young Farmers

FIRST talk of the agricultural series at 1YA for the year begins on May 2, when at 7.30 Mr. P. W. Smallfield, fields superintendent of the Department of Agriculture, Hamilton, will speak on "Young Farmers' Clubs." These agricultural talks will continue right through the year on consecutive Mondays until December 1.

Len Bates, Of 4ZB

BY profession a school teacher, Len Bates has been associated with radio for the last 13 years. He began his radio career with the original 4ZB



LEN BATES

... Is heard on 4ZB's breakfast session.

(now 4ZD) in Dunedin, and was later associated with several B-class stations in the southern city. In 1932 he was appointed director of 2ZR, Nelson, remaining there until the Government took over its control. He then joined the commercial service and was made announcer at 4ZB, where, in company with Peter Dawson, his cheery voice is heard on the breakfast session.

Men Only

HERALDED by announcements put over for several nights in dramatic whispers, the first session of a new 4ZB feature, "For Men Only," was put across last Tuesday night. The session opened with an injunction to all men to make sure the "missus" had gone to bed, to light up pipes, to put both feet on the mantelpiece, and be ready for a bright half-hour. The entire staff of evening announcers were the hosts, and the entertainers were Ronald Frankau, George Formby, Sophie Tucker, Max Miller, "Little Audrey," Sandy Powell, "Daisy and Gert."

Outdoors

STATION 4ZB is taking to the great outdoors. Within the space of a week excellent outside broadcasts were relayed from the Cape Saunders light-house; the Sea Scouts' camp at Company's Bay; a leading city laundry; the clock tower of the Town Hall, from

Tragic Story of Mimi In Opera

LAUGHTER OF THE BOHEMIANS ENDS IN SADNESS

PUCCINI'S Bohemians, taken from Murger's novel of Paris life, were Colline, the great philosopher, Marcel the great painter, Rudolph, the great poet, and Schaunard, the great musician—inseparable comrades. At their favourite haunt, the Cafe Momus, they were known as "the four Musketeers."

The period is about 1830. The scene of Act I is the garret which they share. It is Christmas Eve and bitterly cold; there is no fuel for their stove. Marcel offers to burn his picture, "The Crossing of the Red Sea," but Colline and Rudolph object that the smell would be too unpleasant, and Rudolph nobly sacrifices the manuscript of a tragedy, burning it act by act. As its feeble warmth vanishes, errand boys come in with food, drink and fuel, followed by Schaunard, who is in funds; he has found a generous patron.

They proceed to toast each other in the unlooked-for wine, when their landlord, Benoit, appears to demand his overdue rent. They make him drink with them and chaff him, turning him out half tipsy, and then Schaunard insists that the occasion demands a festive meal at the cafe. Rudolph has an article he must write and stays behind, promising, as the others go out, to follow soon.

It is then Mimi enters, a pale and fragile girl, who introduces herself as a neighbour, asking for a light for her

candle. Rudolf and she are at once attracted to one another. "Your tiny hand is frozen," he sings, and "They Call me Mimi," she tells him—two of the best-known pieces of melody in the opera.

The voices of the others are heard without, calling Rudolph to join them, and with Mimi's arm in his, they go out together, confessing their love for one another.

The cafe is at one side of the scene in the second act—a square where four streets meet. A merry throng of people are there.

A supper-party, including the "Four Musketeers" and Mimi, is the setting for the ensuing action.

When the curtain rises on Act III it is daybreak on a wintry morning at one of the city gates of Paris. Mimi comes in, pale and coughing, from the tavern; Marcel, and, a little later, Rudolph and Musetta join her.

The young people are accusing each other jealously of faithlessness and the two-fold quarrel becomes a quartet, which is one of the outstanding numbers of the whole work.

The final act is again the garret of the Bohemians. Here what begins as a frolic ends in stark tragedy with the death of poor Mimi. The scene at the curtain is one of the most impressive in all opera.

A complete recorded presentation of Puccini's opera "La Boheme" will be heard from 1YA on Sunday, May 1.

£15 CRIBBAGE COMPETITION

(A Genuine Skill Competition Of Outstanding Merit)

The object in this fascinating cribbage puzzle is to re-arrange the cards given in the accompanying diagram so as to score as many crib points as possible. Each row of five cards makes a crib hand, so that there are five horizontal hands, five vertical hands, and two corner-to-corner hands.

The card suits are represented by H for hearts, D for diamonds, C for clubs and S for spades.

J _H	8 _S	10 _H	5 _H	K _D	4
8 _D	9 _C	Q _S	10 _D	J _C	6
K _C	2 _C	5 _S	2 _S	4 _S	5
8 _C	3 _D	6 _C	7 _D	J _S	4
A _D	Q _D	10 _S	7 _C	8 _H	5
2	2	8	4	2	7

TOTAL POINTS - 51

As the cards stand in the diagram, the total points amount to 51; but it should be easy to improve on this score with the aid of the identical cards extracted from a pack and re-arranged on a table. Points are not allowed for "nob," "heels," or four-card flushes.

Write your final re-arrangement on plain paper and show the points for each hand as per diagram. Mistakes in counting, or the use of any cards except those given, will disqualify. Underneath the re-arrangement write your total score, and your name and postal address.

The highest score sent in will be awarded the prize-money of £15, which is held by "Truth" (N.Z.), Ltd., as a guarantee of good faith, but not so as to involve that firm in the liability of stakeholder or otherwise. In the event of a tie, winning entrants will share equally in the prize-money. Results and winning re-arrangement will be published in this paper on May 20.

Enclose 1/- postal note (1/1 stamps if P/N unobtainable) with your entry and post not later than May 9 to "CRIBBAGE COMPETITION NO. 12," Dept. R., P.O. Box 829, Wellington.