

AROUND THE STUDIOS

PROFESSIONALS IN ROLES

NBS Play Production Of Florence Nightingale—Radio Service For Cricket Tests—Polling In Municipal Elections To Be Broadcast—News From The Commercials

UNUSUAL move of the NBS has its fruit in the presentation of a radio play on the life of Florence Nightingale, from 2YD Wellington, at 9 p.m., on Sunday, May 8, and at later dates, not yet fixed, from the main National stations in other centres.

For this presentation the large cast used included several members of Miss Fay Compton's company, who visited New Zealand in the play "Victoria Regina." They were Miss Dorothy Barclay, Mrs. Field Fisher and Mr. Field Fisher, and Mr. Guy Hastings, Lynda Hastings taking the part of Florence Nightingale.

This is the first time members of an overseas touring play have taken part in an NBS recorded production. The Ethel Morrison touring company took part in an unrecorded play some eighteen months ago.

The feature has been adapted from Warner Brothers' film scenario of "The White Angel," which starred Kay Francis.

The story graphically portrays the difficulties and intolerance encountered by Florence Nightingale in her endeavours to establish the principle of women nurses in the proximity of the battle field.

ALEXANDER KIPNIS, world-famous Russian basso, who arrives in Wellington in June under contract to the NBS for a series of public appearances, has a voice which he knows how to use in all its aspects. His interpretations are perfect, perfect in their sense of dignity and in serving the composers' intentions.

AT the time of writing, Dora Lindsay, comedienne, was giving her inimitable Scottish programmes in Dunedin. She is scheduled to take the microphone at 3YA again on May 12 and 14. One may be pardoned for wondering if her Scottish burr will be any thicker after her trip to the New Zealand Highlanders' home.

FOUR national stations will encourage listeners to stay at home instead of getting jammed in streets crowds on the night of the municipal elections—May 11. Results of the polling will be announced as they come to hand, and will be given out until the issue is decided. Should any speeches be made, however, listeners desiring to hear these may have to venture into the cold night air,

as it is not the station's intention to touch these. The stations will set aside May 11 for a full and detailed series of progress reports on just how the city fathers are faring at the poll. Bright recordings will be interspersed.

STATION 4YA will play a part in rebroadcasting commentaries on the cricket Tests between England and Australia. On the first day of each Test the station will handle the



ALEXANDER KIPNIS.

... Who arrives for an NBS tour next month.

relay from 10 till 11 p.m., and on subsequent days from 9.30 p.m. until 11 p.m. Station 2YA will be on the air all night from 10 p.m. until 5 a.m. The Tests are scheduled to begin as follows: First Test, June 10; second, June 24; third, July 8; fourth, July 22, and fifth, August 20.

IN future, Christchurch listeners who find complete radio satisfaction in serial programmes—and there are many of them—would be well advised to set aside Tuesday nights for the fire-side with the dial-pointer indicating 3YA. With the conclusion of the "Story of the Life of Empress Josephine" on May 10, 3YA will present "The Strange Adventures of Mr. Penny" and "William the Conqueror" and "Hotel Revue," a musical serial. All these events will take place between eight and nine o'clock. On Saturday nights, "Coronets of England" and

"The Fourth Form at St. Percy's" will be running. Thus, there will be two nights in the week for serials.

FLESH-AND-BLOOD patter comedians of any sort of quality are rare from the stations of the NBS. Two local artists have for some time made platform hits in Dunedin, and the appearance of Reno and White has always drawn spontaneous applause. White is the aggressive member of the duo, and is also a vocalist of fair calibre. Reno is an excellent foil, but

LEADING LADY HONOUR TO AUCKLAND GIRL

AT long last the lead in the Dunedin Operatic Society's £1200 venture, "The Vagabond King," has been announced, and the coveted role has been awarded a singer virtually unknown in Dunedin. Miss Rita Stone, Auckland soprano, will, for a time, become known as Katherine de Vaucelles.

She heads an impressive cast, the pick of local talent having been drafted for this play. Leading parts are taken by Freda Elmes, Tui Northey, Mrs. John Hamer, James Macfarlane, who plays Villon, the Vagabond King, Richard White, John Gordon, R. A. Wilson, Stan Lawson, R. P. Murphy, Mark Gaston, E. W. Griffiths and Donald Munro.

In addition to this outstanding cast there is a chorus of 76, 40 women and 36 men, under the direction of Mr. James Clark, the society's musical director.

The presentation of this opera is far and away the biggest thing the Operatic Society has ever attempted. Its cast promises success. The very ambition behind the project deserves success. And a lot depends on its success.

Apart from the return the society expects to obtain from the people of Dunedin, it is hoped that the success of the play will mean an easing of the financial outlay of £1200. Much of the expense involved has been created because the original settings and costumes have been imported from Sydney.

If the opera is a success in the south it will be repeated by amateur societies in other centres and the initial cost of importing the scenery, etc., will be partly borne by these other societies.

The production of the play is in the hands of Mr. Stan Lawson, and the ballets will be supplied by the Lawson-Powell School of Dancing.