

is generally just one "too many" for White. Their appearance before the microphone should be a welcome one. The change from stereotyped recordings in itself should give gratification. Reno and White will perform on Wednesday night next, from 4YA.

Strings And Voice

MEMBER of a highly-musical family—she is a daughter of Mr. R. J. Estall, conductor of the Woolston Band—Miss Nancy Estall, 'cellist, will be accompanied by the harpist, Mr. H. G. Glaysher, in a recital from 3YA on May 8. The same evening Mr. Ernest Jenner, pianist, Miss Vera Martin, contralto, and Miss Gladys Vincent, violinist, will be heard in recitals of well-chosen works.

Play Night

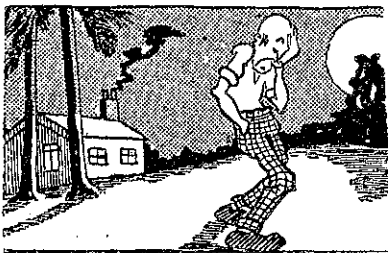
STUDIO play and a recorded play will comprise 4YA's "play night" next week. At 9.5 on Monday night, Audrey B. King's "Under the Stairs" will be presented, the production being by Kathleen Falconer. Having realised the futility of making any sort of prognostications regarding studio plays, we will leave the announcement at that. The recorded play will be "Secret of Turkey," one of the Mystery Club dramas, produced by George Edwards.

Without Horrors

IN the children's hour the other night from 3YA came a very finely-told narrative of Gallipoli, and a story of the humane "Johnny the Turk," by Mr. D. W. Russell, prominent Christchurch lawyer. Then the Rev. O. W. Williams, Chaplain of Christ's College, took his small listeners to France during war-time, following up the Anzac activities. Both talks were graphic and illuminating, and entirely devoid of the sordidness of war. They brought home to the children the virtue of courage and the need for peace among the nations.

The Farmer

IMPRESSIONS of the recent Empire Producers' Conference in Sydney will be given by the Dominion secretary of the New Zealand Farmers' Union, Mr. A. P. O'Shea, in a talk from 2YA on May 12. Mr. O'Shea was one



of the official delegation from New Zealand, and should have much to say of interest to farmers. He gave a well-liked talk on wool some months ago from 2YA, and may be expected again to speak in lively fashion.

Baby Talk

THERE is no need to say how well the Plunket Society has lived up its motto, "To help the mothers, and

The Launching Of "H.M.S. Pinafore"

GILBERT AND SULLIVAN DIAMOND JUBILEE

WITHIN a month of the sixtieth anniversary of the first performance of "H.M.S. Pinafore," we turn back the pages of history and glimpse a memorable first night of the days of our grandparents.

This initial performance fell on a Saturday, on May 25, 1878, to be exact—the place the Opera Comique in the Strand.

The theatre has vanished and the author and the composer have long since passed to make merriment and music in some other sphere. The opera is still with us, seemingly as fresh as a bunch of spring violets.

It is continually being performed by professionals and amateurs all over the English-speaking world, with scarcely a word of its libretto, a bar of its music, or a scrap of its "business" altered.

In the London of that far-off day in 1878, the Queen's birthday had been officially celebrated that morning with the Trooping of the Colour; the Royal Academy was drawing its May crowds; and an Australian eleven, which included Spofforth, the "demon bowler," the two Bannermans, Blackham, the great wicket-keeper, and W. L. Murdoch, was beginning to open the eyes of the public at Lord's and the Oval.

Mrs. Langtry, in the early glow of her beauty, had just been presented at one of the Queen's Drawing Rooms, carrying a bouquet of Marshal Niel roses, so enormous that it perfumed the whole room; a Mr. Oscar Wilde, of Magdalen, had just carried off the Newdigate, to the delight of his College; :

The opening weeks of the opera were by no means successful. There was even a good deal of talk of its being taken off. It is quite possible that its reception by some of the other critics contributed to its early difficul-

ties. A number left it alone altogether while several of those who wrote about it seemed to have been completely bewildered.



SIR ARTHUR SULLIVAN.

... As the painter Millais saw him.

The critics were utterly at a loss to find themselves suddenly in the presence of an extravaganza so polished and so shapely, so preposterous and yet so logical, so fantastical and at the same time so realistic as "H.M.S. Pinafore."

Happily for radio listeners, sixty years after that red letter night in London's stage history, there are such things as complete recorded musical renderings of this and other G. and S. operas.

Station 4YA listeners will hear "H.M.S. Pinafore" on Sunday, May 8.

save the babies." There is no need here to go into eulogies concerning the humanitarian work of this great society. Every so often, however, the Plunket Society has to appeal to the public for support, and that support is freely given. On Monday next, Mrs. James Begg, Dominion president of the Plunket Society, will speak from 4YA at 7.25 p.m., and she will talk of the 1938 "Plunket Society Appeal."

Cooling

AFTER a surfeit of swing, high-pressure work and modern-day adaptations of old themes, one welcomes the dignity of an interval of chamber music. From 3YA on May 9, the Chamber Music Players will be heard in Sonata in E Flat Major for Flute and Piano (Bach), and Mozart's Piano Quintet in G Minor. These interludes, in an ether seething with the sophisticated musical efforts of many nations, are often as welcome as a cool and soothing hand on an all-too-fevered brow.

Dressing-Room Chat

AFTER interviewing Lofty Blomfield before the microphone the other night, 3ZE's bright young men, "Mac" and "Chiv" repaired to the theatre where Blomfield and Tonti were to argue on the mat. Later, in Tonti's dressing room, "Chiv" put a few questions, all of which were answered to the satisfaction of listeners.

Singing Cowboy

PAT FRALEY, latest wrestler to be imported to New Zealand, delighted juvenile listeners last Thursday night, when he was featured on the children's hour at 1ZB. Pat, who is known as the "Singing Cowboy," is both a genuine cow-puncher and a fine singer. To the accompaniment of his guitar he delighted the kiddies with his cowboy songs, and in an interview with "The Shepherd" he told them how he started life as a cowboy, and all about rattlesnakes and rodeos in which he had taken part. Starting life as a