

RECEPTIONIST

WHAT PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW FROM 4ZB

"TAKING one consideration with another," a receptionist's life at Radio 4ZB is one of varied experience. One seldom hears them on the air, nor does one see their photographs in the favourite radio weekly.

Station 4ZB is proud of its receptionists, and it has reason to be. In these days of radio-consciousness, people just naturally turn to the telephone—and to 4ZB. "Could you tell us the time, please?" "When, and from where, does the bus leave?" "What was the final score in the last England-Australia cricket Test in 1932?"

One lady wanted advice as to a good place to go picnicking in winter, another asked to be directed to the home of Dunedin's quadruplets, "and could you please tell me when they are most likely to be at home, as I wouldn't like to walk all the way up the hill for nothing?" Another seeker after information demanded, "The date of Easter, 1940, and hurry, please."

In addition to knowing all these things and more, relating to the outside world and its events, a receptionist must be fully acquainted with every detail of station working, from advertising rates and broadcasting schedules to the most intricate of technical details, for the hundreds of visitors who are shown over the station are avid for information.

clearly at night. The King Country, a spot which many stations fail to cover, apparently is sure of good reception at night.

For Amateurs

MANY a good artist has come from the competitions platform, and so 3ZB, Christchurch, has inaugurated a series of amateur trials. Entries have poured in and the whole show has been a success, for the judge, Mr. Len Barnes, of Christchurch, is hard put to it to separate the finalists. A similar series will probably be held during the next school holidays.

For The Sick

RECENT decision of Mr. C. G. Scrimgeour, Controller of the Commercial Service, to include the popular feature "One Man's Family" in 10 a.m. hospital session, Sundays, at all ZB stations has been met with much appreciation, mostly from country districts. Writers say that "Lights Out" regulations had previously cut out thousands of invalided listeners from the weekly presentation at 9 p.m., Fridays.

Oratory

THIS year's Bledisloe Medal contest for oratory, for students of the New Zealand universities, will be held at Auckland on June 8. Victoria College, Wellington, will be represented by 2ZB's Mr. Fingi Tahiri and Mr. J. B. Almers, winners of the 1935 and 1936 medals, respectively. The contest is held triennially and is confined to people and events notable in New Zealand history.

Kingi's subject this year will be "Te Rauaparaha," famous chief of the Ngati Toa and Ngati Raukawa, of which Kingi claims prideful membership. Commending him for his willing effort in 1935, Professor Von Zedlitz, one of the judges, said: "Mr. Tahiri's oration has won a contest in which the standard reached is the highest yet."

Wagner

WITH its 21 specially selected soloists, the Auckland Dorian Choir, under the conductorship of Mr. Albert Bryant, delighted 1ZB listeners last Sunday night week in a specially arranged 30-minute broadcast. Linked up by splendid continuity, the choir sang excerpts from "Tannhauser" in celebration of Richard Wagner's anniversary. Better choral singing has not been heard for a long time. The choir will next be heard from 1ZB in another special presentation on June 19.

His Song

AUNT DAISY has lost the distinction of being the only radio announcer whose sessions are introduced with a song about her famous, if somewhat mythical, namesake. Jay McNamara's Marton hour is now introduced with the lilting "My Name Is McNamara and I'm the Leader of the Band." The song, "McNamara's Band," was the team song of the British Rugby team that toured New Zealand in 1930.

Lou Paul Back

SINCE his return from the southern commercial stations, Lou Paul has been well liked at 1ZB, where he has been featured extensively. Last Sunday he went on the air in a number of Maori songs at 3 o'clock, and again at 8.30, when he sang Hawaiian songs to his own accompaniment on the electric guitar. After this session many listeners asked for a repetition of the broadcast, and accordingly, the smiling and talented Maori came on again at 10.30 p.m.

Korero

LIKELY to be enjoyable is the relay arranged by 2ZB of the Korero of the Charley's Aunt Club from 10.30 p.m. to 11.30 p.m., Wednesday, June 8. Chairman for the evening is Commercial Broadcasting Service's national secretary, Harry Bell, of the club's executive, who will have good broadcasting assistance from Barend Harris, 2ZB's film relay announcer, and the versatile Kingi Tahiri.

Mr. Sproggins

WHO is Mr. Sproggins? That is a question that has intrigued 4ZB's listening public for some time. He has been a competitor (and, alas! an unsuccessful one) on every occasion that the amateur trials have been held at 4ZB. To date he has tempted (or should we say defied?) fortune with nine instrumental essays. Piano, mouth organ, Jew's harp, bagophone, mandolin, tin whistle, bagpipes, Swanee whistle and violin, he has tried in turn, but though he succeeds in amusing the audience and his fellow competitors, he has failed to impress the judges sufficiently to achieve a place among the winners. With almost pathetic optimism he continues undaunted to persist.



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