

The Home Forum

Wants Cricket

D. Whitford (Owen River): I am heartily disgusted that no broadcast comes through of the cricket matches in England. Surely they deserve a place. There are thousands of Aussies in the New Zealand outback, where newspapers do not arrive for a week. Why not put something over at 7 a.m. A little, I believe, has come at 8.10 a.m., and that is useless to us. We are at work.

Library Broadcast

WHAT about a broadcast from the Turnbull Library? Throughout New Zealand there must be thousands of men and women who have always wished to visit Wellington. If it was only to see the wonderful books and historical documents in the far-famed Turnbull Library. Most of these will never realise their ambition, but what would be better than to take the wonders of Turnbull Library to their homes by broadcasting a trip through the library?—"Little Caesar" (Wellington).

Microphone Placing

John C. Bradshaw (Christchurch): I shall be obliged if you will allow me to comment on the reference in a recent issue to the broadcast of Beethoven's Sonata in F, Op. 24, by Miss Croucher and myself. Your contributor "Scherzo" states that "the piano consistently overpowered the violinist." I have no quarrel to make with this statement. From what I have been told by listeners I am certain that the balance of the two instruments was very bad. I think, however, there might have been sufficient discernment

on the part of "Scherzo" to suggest to him that possibly there was some reason for this weakness other than that which he clearly implies, want to judgment on my part. On a day previous to the broadcast we rehearsed the work, and Mr. Young, of 3YA, went to considerable pains experimenting with the relative positions of the violin, piano, and microphone. He finally marked on a chart an arrangement which he considered gave a perfect balance. What happened to alter this at the broadcast I do not know. The operator in charge, presumably, followed the directions on the chart, but evidently something was wrong—possibly the angle of the microphone to the two instruments was incorrect. At my previous broadcast with Miss Croucher of Grieg's Sonata in G, the result was exactly the reverse of the Beethoven. The violin part predominated throughout: I have been told on reliable authority that the effect was that of a violin solo with piano accompaniment. I must add, however, that for the Grieg, the positions marked on the chart by Mr. Young had not been adhered to at the broadcast.

This question of balance in chamber music is, of course, of first importance: without it practically all is lost. It is evidently a very difficult matter to secure good results, and "Scherzo's" statement that he had yet to hear an ideal presentation of a violin and piano sonata in this country seems further to indicate that the scientific side of the subject requires more care and attention.

THE British system is wooden, even satanic.—*Mr. Gandhi.*

Tauber Tour

GREAT interest is being shown in the forthcoming Australian tour of Richard Tauber, which opens in the Melbourne Town Hall on June 30. His Sydney season begins at the Town Hall on August 2.

Probably there is no name better known in the world to-day than that of Richard Tauber. This great singer was born at Linz, in Austria, and after the death of Caruso, the musical world speculated whether there would ever be another singer to take his place—the brilliant, young Austrian tenor was the answer to the speculations.

In the course of a few years, he built up a tremendous reputation in Europe. Then, with his sensational first appearance in England in "The Land of Smiles," the operetta of his friend, Franz Lehár, the name of Richard Tauber was soon known throughout the English-speaking world. Then followed his series of screen successes, and his triumphs as a gramophone artist.

Mrs. Tauber, who is the English screen actress, Diana Napier, will accompany her husband.

Radio For Aborigines.

SOME of the mission stations and posts in North Queensland, where Government officials come into contact with the aborigines, are hundreds of miles distant from any town, and one of the chief disabilities experienced by the white workers at such places has been the complete isolation, often extending over months at a time.

That isolation has now been broken by means of a system of wireless communication. Six months ago Amalgamated Wireless was instructed by the Queensland Chief Protector of Aborigines to provide fifteen radio stations at as many mission outposts, and one on the Government ketch "Melbidir," which operates in North Queensland waters and maintains contact with the missionaries. The scheme included a central station at Thursday Island.

The work has just been completed and A.W.A. are advised the whole system is giving very satisfactory results, bringing lone officials, who formerly were weeks away from civilisation, within actual speaking range.

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