# SONG IN THE ALMANAC

# LISZT'S COLOURFUL ELABORATION OF SCHUBERT'S FAMOUS "WANDERER"

on June 10, and from 9.30 to 11 p.m. on June 11, 13 and 14. Each day from 11 p.m. until 5 a.m., the Dominion station, 2YA, will continue the relay. Speaking from Daventry, and rebroadcast by all stations, W. A. Oldfield, celebrated Australian wicket-keeper, will be heard in an eye-witness account of the match at 9.35 a.m. on June 11; at 9.10 a.m. on June 12; 9.5 a.m. on June 14, and at the same time on June 15. 2YA alone will present this feature. For the benefit of those who cannot attend to radio matters at these times, recorded versions of his descriptions will be broadcast from all stations at 6.45 p.m. on June 11; 1.45 p.m. on June 12, and 6.45 p.m. on June 14 and 15.

#### Chesterton Play

FOR those many listeners who like a good radio play there will be something out of the programme hox at 3YA on June 16, when an adaptation of G. K. Chesterton's "The Honour of Israel Gow" will be presented by the Avon Players. It is some time since a Chestertonian effort was heard from National stations.

#### Buddha

NEW Monday feature for 2ZB is "Buddha Looks Down," for which the speaker is the pleasant-voiced Mrs. D. Wheeler, well-known to listeners to 2ZB's "Charm School of the Air."

# Spotlight On U.S.A.

THE NBS proposes to do the U.S.A. pretty thoroughly in the near future. Well-known Canterbury College graduate, Miss Eltine Tosswill, who has recently returned from America, is to speak at 3YA on June 13 on her impressions of America. Professor B. G. Alexander, who is coming to New Zealand with the team of negro debaters from LeMoyne University late this month, will give a talk, "Let's Visit America," from all the main stations. Finally, Mr. J. H. Kemnitz, now of Masterton, who visited U.S.A. as a member of a New Zealand debating team, is shortly to give two talks from 2YA, one in his general impressions of the States and the other on American University Life. The lastmentioned talk is expected to deal cogently with the "Co-Ed" angle of university studies.

# Off To London

WELL-KNOWN for his Friday night readings from 1YA, Mr. D'Arcy Cresswell has given his last talk from 1YA, and is leaving New Zealand for



England on July 2, with—it is reported—a manuscript or two in his bag. He leaves from Wellington, and the NBS hopes to put him on the air from 2YA before he sails. Future readings will be arranged at 1YA from time to time

THERE are frequent instances in music of a composer's special fondness for one of his works leading him to set it more than one way. The great composer, Schubert, had such a fondness for his song, "The Wanderer," that he arranged a plane fantasy on it.

The song ranks as among the most liked of the six hundred that Schubert wrote, and the author of the words was Georg Philipp Schmidt, born in 1766, an obscure poet of Lubeck.

Schubert is said to have found the poem in an almanac dated 1808. He composed the song eight years later in October, 1816, and his piano "Fantasy" was arranged in 1822. The song became the delight of Viennese drawing-rooms some time before it was published.

At length it appeared as Op. 4, No. 1, in 1821, dedicated to Patriarch Pyrker, who, according to Richard Capell, gratified the composer, with 20 ducats and a letter of charming compliments. "The Wanderer" is said to have brought in 27,000 florins within forty years to Diabelli, the publisher.

In his "Fantasy," Schubert elaborates the idea of the song—one who wanders alone through the world looking for happiness and reaching the melancholy conclusion that only there, where he himself is not, can happiness be found.

In 1856 Liszt took Schubert's Fantasy and arranged it for piano and orchestra. Liszt stated in a letter that

"the whole of the conclusion of the C major Fantasies I have rewritten in modern pianoforte form, and I flatter myself that Schubert would not be displeased with it." Throughout Lizzt



LISZT.
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has, of course, added a certain amount of his own material and embellishments.

On Wednesday, June 15, 3XA listeners will hear the work. It will be played by Clifford Curzon, planist, with the Queen's Hall-Orchestra, under Sir Henry Wood.

in the hour on Friday night. On Friday, June 17. Mr. A. J. Sinclair, Te Awamutu, who is well-known for his talks on Scottish subjects, is going to tell the old Border ballad tale of "Muckle-mouthed Meg," an ancestor of Sir Walter Scott, and a lady so ugly that she had to be married to a Scottish prisoner, who was given the choice of marriage to Meg or execution.

#### The Big Top

STATION 1ZB has just added another enjoyable feature to the children's session. It is entitled "The Romance of the Sawdust Ring," and deals with circus life. It is arranged by Frank Broad, "the veteran of variety," who talks to the children in the guise of the famous French clown, "Groc."

#### Aviation

LIONEL McGOVERNE, 3ZB's aviation expert, has concluded his flying talks concerned with Irak, and will shortly begin a new series. His graphic style has brought him many admirers, both among professional flying ranks and layman listeners.

#### Victoriana, No. 4

THE fourth series of Victoriana is now being recorded in the NBS studios. It deals largely with the preparations in London for the 1851 exhibition, showing the intense opposition that the Prince Consort had to face before he got his wish to hold the exhibition in London's Hyde Park. Some said that it would bring ruin to the West End to have all these "vulgar people" in Hyde Park. Others said such a display would bring down the wrath of the Almighty on London.

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