

is the brilliant piece by the famous George Bernard Shaw. On Thursday, July 14, the chorus and soloists of the Auckland Choral Society will present from the studio excerpts from "The Bohemian Girl."

For Children

THE first duo in commercial broadcasting—"Dorothy and Neddo"—are together again. This time it's in a series of Saturday morning children's parties at the Majestic Theatre. Remember that these parties, held last year at the Regent Theatre, were a distinct hit? Capacity houses can just about be guaranteed for the popular pair. A film, a concert, and community singing are included, and the 10.30 to 11 a.m. period is broadcast. The first show was held last week.

At 3YA

THE evening of July 10 will find a considerable space on 3YA's programme devoted to "flesh-and-blood" artists. From the North Island comes Miss Dorothy Buckingham, who will be heard in a soprano recital. Then Mrs. Tristram Willcox will sing contralto numbers. The very popular combination, Miss Nancy Estall, cellist, and Mr. Harry Glaysher, harpist, will be heard on the same evening.

Bohemian Duo

THE Bohemian Duo, engaged for the 1YA evening session on July 16, have had considerable radio experience. They were engaged for the opening night of 1YA in 1926 and have broadcast at intervals ever since. Previous to this they toured Australia with Williamson's Celebrity Vaudeville and Union Theatres and the A.B.C. They specialise in the lighter type of songs, harmonising and playing their own accompaniments on guitars.

In Sydney

LAATEST news from Sydney indicates that Thea, of 12B, is having a successful and pleasant holiday in Australia. Her last letter conveyed that it was a hectic rush rather than a rest. She is doing half a dozen broadcast programmes for well-known stations. She is at present in Melbourne, staying with her old friend Gladys Moncrieff.

Manners

THERE are many stories about hard drinking in the old days. One concerns an all-night party somewhere in Scotland, at which, in the early hours of the morning one of the celebrities noticed that a certain man was sitting very still. He drew his neighbour's at-



tention to this: "McDougall's very quiet," he said. "Oh," was the reply, "McDougall's been dead these two hours, but I didn't like to spoil the sport." Father Walsh in his talk in the Manners and Morals series at 2YA on Monday next, July 11, will deal with social conditions like these. He should have a rich field to explore in the field of drinking. The title of his talk, "As Drunk as a Lord," is intriguing.

IT HAPPENED IN EGYPT

VERDI'S OPERA "AIDA" WAS WRITTEN TO THE ORDERS OF THE KHEDIVE

THE story of "Aida" is founded on an episode in Egyptian history discovered by the celebrated archaeologist, Mariette Bey, during research amongst Coptic manuscripts. It was submitted to Verdi, who had just been commis-



VERDI.

... Was far from jolly.

sioned by the Khedive of Egypt to write an opera expressly for the new opera house at Cairo.

The composer was enchanted with it and began setting it at once. The

opera was first performed in Cairo on Christmas Eve, 1871, after long delays caused by scenery and properties being held up in besieged Paris; five years later it reached Covent Garden.

From the first it was one of the most successful, and has remained the most popular of all Verdi's operas.

"Aida," well known among radio listeners, ends in tragedy. In most of his plots Verdi was far from what we would call jolly. The scores are usually glorious and the stories gloomy.

In "Don Carlos," the son of the King of Spain falls in love with his young stepmother and is condemned by his father to be buried alive. In "Rigoletto" the jester carries off his daughter's body in a sack; in "The Force of Destiny" Alvaro stabs his sister and leaps over a precipice; in "Luisa Miller" the protagonists poison themselves; in "The Sicilian Vespers" they are torn to pieces by the mob; Violetta of "La Traviata" dies of consumption; Count Richard of "The Masked Ball" is assassinated at a fancy dress ball; the hero of "Hernani" commits suicide; and in "Il Trovatore" Manrico is beheaded after Leonora has taken poison.

To complete the crime sheet Verdi made settings of "Othello" and "Macbeth," though he redeemed his reputation with "Falstaff," one of music's greatest comic operas.

A complete recorded musical presentation of Verdi's "Aida" will be heard from 2YA on Sunday, July 10.

And Wales

GREAT Rugby battle of long ago is to be fought all over again—from 1YA on Monday, July 18, at 8 p.m., when one of the NBS series, "Scenes from the Sports Past," is to be broadcast. This is the international Rugby match between Scotland and New Zealand, played on November 18, 1905. It will be the re-creation of a thrilling sporting event as it would have been heard through the microphone had radio been in existence at the time. Sportsmen are wondering whether the NBS is contemplating a re-creation of the epic struggle between Wales and the All Blacks during that same 1905 tour when the Welshmen got the doubtful try that won the game!

The One Question

THERE have been reports from time to time of the gravity of the drought in Australia—one of the worst, if not the worst, in history. Mrs. M. Foster-Barham, of Nelson, paid a visit this April to relatives of hers who run a huge station beyond Bourke, a thousand miles from the sea, and she brought back vivid impressions of a country in the grip of drought, and a community occupied with one main thought—when will the rain come?—yet cheerful and astonishingly fit physically. Where there is water, the land

blossoms, and Mrs. Foster-Barham tells of one sweet potato that sufficed for twenty people. Mrs. Foster-Barham is to speak of her experiences and impressions at 1YA on July 15 under the title of "The Heart of Australia."

His New Role

MR. ROBERT ("Whang") McKENZIE, sporting announcer from 4YA, is being cast in a new role. The South Dunedin Business Men's Association has decided to conduct a weekly community sing in the southern area of Dunedin, and this sing will be held every Wednesday in the Mayfair Theatre. Proceeds are to go to the mayor's relief fund for the borough of

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