

dresses, his subjects being "John Keate: the Flogging Headmaster" (July 12); "Arnold and Thring" (July 19); "The Classical Curriculum" (July 26); and "Understanding With Child" (August 2). The fifth talk will be given by Mr. W. W. Bridgman, well-known 4YA lecturer, and his subject bears the intriguing title, "Full Circle: Do As You Like."

### Recitals

**B**BROADCAST organ recitals from the Civic Theatre, Christchurch, by Clarence B. Hall, are being resumed. Mr. Hall has been the performer at many of these recitals, which were inaugurated by 3YA. His next appearance will be on July 10, with Mr. David McGill, tenor, as the soloist.

### Variety

**M**OST specialists, on linking up with a radio station, have one thing in mind—the airing of their own speciality. But David Cambridge, 3ZB's gardening expert, plays many roles in addition to his chats on plants and plant culture. Regularly at 9.30



GRACE WILKINSON.

... Former New Zealand contralto to return for NBS tour.

a.m. on Sundays, he conducts a band session, his recordings representing all nations. His gardening session is on Saturdays, from 2 to 2.30 p.m., just at the right time for a few hints about the afternoon's work. Then, on Wednesdays he becomes Mr. Natureman, drawing upon his wide acquaintance with plants, insects, animals, and the seashore. He transports children to his garden or anywhere in the country. Many children send in drawings of scenes spoken about—a tribute to Mr. Cambridge's powers of description.

### Charm School

**T**IME alteration places 2ZB's "Charm School of the Air" conducted by Dorothy Wheeler at 10.45 a.m., Tuesdays.

### Not So Dull

**U**NKIND overseas visitor the other day described Christchurch on a Sunday as "a graveyard lighted with neon lights." But, though any New Zealand city is bound to be somewhat dull in the eyes of a Continental visi-

## RADIO PLAYS

Prizewinners In NBS Competition

**PRIZE-WINNERS** in the radio play-writing competition of 1937-38, conducted by the National Broadcasting Service, are:

First prize (£40), "Endeavour," Isobel Andrews, Wellington. Second prize (£20), "The Tartan of Rangi Ngatal," Merrick W. Horton, Felling. Four prizes (£10 each), "Love Thy Neighbour," Henry McNeish, New Plymouth; "Southern Lights," Gordon Griffiths, Timaru; "The Honour is Thiers," Agnes L. Henderson, Dunedin; "The Trampled Herbage Springs," Ralph Hogg, Wellington.

The restriction of this year's competition to plays about New Zealand may be taken as the main or sole reason for the drop in the number of entries from 300 to 206, state the judges. This decrease has resulted in a rise in the average of quality.

This time competitors had to turn their eyes to their own country and make use of less showy material. There has been a valuable gain in sincerity of choice and treatment.

A play about New Zealand life, however, is something more than a play merely laid in New Zealand. What was looked for in the competition were plays depicting conditions typical of New Zealand life—political, economic, or social. In this important respect, the competition has been somewhat disappointing. There are still rich territories of incident and character that await further development, and, in deed, exploration.

A number of competitors have chosen the chronicle history form of play. This is an easy road in that the material is ready to hand, but the element of surprise is sacrificed; the audience, for the most part, is familiar with the outline of the story. Chronicles of history have their place in New Zealand drama, and they will have a special importance and appeal during the Dominion Centennial, but native drama will not develop if writers do not courageously grapple with the difficulties of creative work in the fullest sense of the term.

for on Sundays, that is by no means the fault of radio. For instance, 3ZB, along with the other commercial stations, has now inaugurated a regular Sunday night feature, "Mirth Parade." This is part of the NBS policy toward a "brighter Sunday night movement."

### Talking Film

**NEW ZEALAND'S** first talking picture has been filmed, and will be the subject of a fifteen-minute relay from 2ZB on Friday next at 7.45 p.m. It is a full-length feature, served by a cast chosen from 1000 applicants from in and around Wellington, under the name of "Oh, Mr. Gadd!"

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