

if there is more than a trifle of glamour about it—mass performance over the radio (3ZB) and the possibility that in distant parts of New Zealand Cousin Jane may be able to pick out the voice of Cousin Mary.

### Harmonica Finals

OF the B stations, 3ZB Christchurch seems, up to the present, to have had the best selection of entrants for the national harmonica contest. Some of the performers, though not exactly in the Larry Adler class, have produced excellent single tones and commendable harmony, now and then. The general grading has been surprisingly high. The finals in Christchurch commence on July 18 in the studios. The performer given highest marks will receive a week's engagement at a leading city theatre. The three judges on the job are extremely competent and, what is more, take their work with fitting seriousness.

### Departure

**DEPARTURE** of "Aggie" (Mr. Cecil Agassiz) from 2ZB to resume broadcasting in Sydney removes from the ranks of Dominion broadcasters one of the most popular announcers in New Zealand. "Aggie" will probably be best remembered for his hospital sessions which set a standard it will be extremely difficult to emulate. His "Sidelights" also were outstanding broadcasts. The best wishes of many thousands of listeners go with him to the Commonwealth.

### "That Radio Station!"

ALTHOUGH 4ZB will soon have been on the air a year, hundreds of people still pay weekly visits to the southern commercial station. They drop in at any hour of the day or night. It really is an entertainment watching the announcers "doing their stuff," for all that separates performers from spectators is a large area of thick glass. Moreover, it is a case of see and hear, for loud speakers have been set for the benefit of guests. As the liftman expressed it the other night: "Working this lift wouldn't be such a bad cop if it wasn't for that blinking radio station on the third floor!"

### Ourselves

THE staff of National Magazines, which includes the "Radio Record," will hold a dance in Wellington on July 22. Station 2ZB is to relay selections and items from the dance from 11 p.m. to midnight.

### Submarine Drama

THRILLS a-plenty are promised from 4YA next Monday night at 9.5, when the NBS recorded version of C. S. Forrester's sensational play, "U97," will be presented. This is described as "a drama played out on the floor of the sea, in which one tiny submarine is pitted against the greatest fleet the world has known."

### Reality In Opera

THERE will be distinct novelty attached to 4YA's operatic recording on Sunday night, when Frederic Smetana's "The Bartered Bride" will be broadcast. During the presentation the announcer's voice will be heard breaking in from time to time, and he will

describe the settings of the songs just as though he were looking down upon the stage. Incidentally, critical opinion in Czechoslovakia differs whether or not Smetana was a greater composer than Dvorak. They were Bohemians both, although not contemporaries. Fittingly, 4YA's version of the Smetana opera was recorded in the Czech National Opera House, at Prague.

### Bells Would Ring

FAINT background to 3ZB's programme for an hour or more the other night was the sound of bells, big bells, rung in old English style. Reason was that the station's temporary studios and offices in Cathedral Square are close to Christchurch Cathedral and, although the bells had been fitted with Davis silencers, their voices were still audible to the microphone. All the same, since one of the members of the Society of Bellringers, Mr. J. Baker, added some improvements to the bells a few months ago, people working at night in city offices are no longer disturbed by heavy clangings on practice nights.

### Nicis In Australia

WHEN Carl Nicis, Russian tenor, made appearances in 3ZB's studio, he gained many admirers—despite the fact that his voice sometimes lacked the fire one would expect from an artist of his experience. Seen and heard in the flesh, Nicis is a different person. At several private gatherings his performances would be hard to surpass for sheer artistry, especially when he was singing Russian folk songs. The popular Carl has now gone to Australia to fulfil broadcasting engagements.

### "Old Pro's."

RADIO gives employment to the "old hands" as well as to the bright young man. Frank Broad, 1ZB's "Veteran of Variety" (he was on the boards in London in 1908 in the same show as Charlie Chaplin) pointed out last week that three prominent roles in the great radio presentation and dramatisation of "Mutiny on the Bounty" were played by "old pro's." They are names well known on the music-hall stage in England, Australia and New Zealand: Les Wharton, Reg Hawthorne, and Lou Vernon. In the famous serial they carry important roles with conspicuous success.

### Autograph "Poets"

AN idea from 3ZB that has caught popular fancy is the "Autograph" luncheon session. Listeners compose a trifle of verse—a sonnet, a limerick or the most utter doggerel will do, so long as it is to the point—and sign their names. The result goes into the 3ZB autograph book, which is already reaching large proportions.

### Happiness?

WHEN the negro debaters, from Le Moyne University, U.S.A., meet the Canterbury University College team at 3YA on July 18, the subject will be, "That Americans Have Found the Formula for Happiness." Canterbury will be represented by Miss Margaret Dalzell and R. Hurst (leader), while the visitors will be J. S. Bijas (leader) and Charles W. Gilton. Listeners who have heard records of negro lectures, religious and otherwise, will appreciate the fact that they have

## CONDUCTOR

### PAUL SCHRAMM DUE TO STAY

PAUL SCHRAMM, in the opinion of many, is the finest pianist heard in New Zealand since Madame Carreno was here 27 years ago.

He intends to settle in Wellington when he arrives in New Zealand from Sydney on July 21. His wife is coming, too. She also is a splendid pianist, and they have been touring the Australian radio stations, with



PAUL SCHRAMM AND HIS WIFE, DINI SOETERMEER. . . . One of the few successful duos on two pianos.

programmes for two pianos, very successfully during the last couple of months.

Schramm is to give three recitals at Wellington Town Hall (Concert Chamber), on August 15, 17, and 19, the second one being devoted to concerted music in which Mrs. Schramm will take part.

Later on, probably in September, Schramm intends to engage the Wellington Symphony Orchestra for a concert of his own compositions, and he will then show his noted capabilities as conductor.

something of the poesy of the Maori. Their performance should be of unusual interest. The same evening at 9.35, Miss Valmai Moffett, cellist, and Mr. Ernest Jenner, pianist, will present Strauss' "Sonata in F Major."

### Royal Purple

4ZB radio reporter found himself in an odd corner recently, when he went to the Town Hall to view the robes worn by the King and Queen at the Coronation. Possibly even a competent reporter might have found it difficult to describe convincingly the "Royal purple," but he was spared. Mrs. Murray Fuller, who is touring the Empire with the robes and regalia, relieved him of all responsibility, and gave a concise and precise description, which must have been understandable to all who heard it. The broadcast concluded on a patriotic note, with Mr.