HOTEL CARGEN

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## **OPERATIC**

## NEW SOCIETY FOR CHRISTCHURCH

SINCE Christchurch last had an operatic society all to itself. much water has flown under the Avon bridges. Now attention is being focused on light opera again by the formation of a new amateur operatic society.

ground-work - choosing The chorus, voices, casting and all the routine matters that have to be decided, is in the hands of a keen committee.

Applications for performing membership have poured in to the musical director, Mr. Len Barnes. And in Len Barnes, who is a well-known radio baritone, the society will have an ex-

## SCHOOL RADIOS

RADIO sets for all schools and homes in the country for the reception of lectures is the suggestion of Professor Shelley (Director of Broadcasting) to the Govern-This was announced by the ment. This was announced by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon, M. J. Savage, when speaking to Christ-church residents and pupils the The suggestion, the other day. Prime Minister said, interested him very much. The Government provery much. posed to develop the conservatorium or school of music in conjunction with the broadcasting service. There was no reason, said Mr. Savage, why young Dr. Malcolm Sargents should not be produced in New Zealand.

director-capable and ever cellent willing to help and to teach-but no nonsense, please.

His career has many highlights. good many years ago he stood outside the door of the Christchurch Cathedral tower, waiting to have his voice tried. He became a boy chorister, and then a lay-clerk in the choir, but after a few years' choir work, business took him to

a job in a Wellington film exchange.

The outside world appealed, and he found himself studying music in Sau Francisco, and earning his living by singing. He did broadcast in the States in 1919, when radio, even in the samples of the states in 1919, when radio, even in the samples of the states in 1919, when radio, even in the samples of the states in 1919, when radio, even in the samples of the states of the state America, was in its comparative in-fancy. London was the next port of call, for further study, operatic and concert platform work and an engagement with the BBC.

Home again to New Zealand in 1923, and since then he has sung for practically every choral society from Auckland to Dunedin, and conducted countless musical bodies. For some time he was station director of 1YA, and, for four years, conducted the 1YA broadcasting choir.

Associated with him in the new society will be two highly experienced bands—Stan Lawson, producer, and Miss Ray Powell, training the ballet. The first production? The ever-green "Belle of New York," in the St. James Theatre, Christchurch, at the end of October.