

Plays on the Air

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—I read with interest the article in your edition of the 13th instant, contributed by "Call Up," anent "Seeing Radio from a New Angle." I was especially interested in Mr. J. M. Clark's views on the production of plays on the air, for Mr. Clark (an old friend of mine) is a gentleman of long experience, especially in elocutionary work of every kind.

I agree with much that he says as to the standard of plays on the air and the need for full rehearsals, etc., so that the presentations should not develop into mere "readings"—and often very indifferent readings at that. At the same time I am greatly surprised at some of the other comments and views expressed by Mr. Clark.

It appears from the article that he has held the view right along that three-act plays could be successfully presented over the air. Well, I held similar views, but there was this difference: I not only held those views, but I presented the plays, and it was not till I had presented something like 40 or more of them from 1YA (a number of these being three-act plays) that anybody else ventured into the field.

Then, when it was seen that the thing could be done, and that hundreds of listeners from all parts of the Dominion expressed pleasure and approval of our work. Others came forward, after two or three years, to try their hands—some good, some bad. With the possible exception of one attempt at 2YA (which was not repeated), the Auckland Comedy Players, under my direction, were the pioneers in this work of presenting plays on the air, and for a long time they were the only ones. Mr. Clark says he had the temerity to present a tragedy in blank verse some weeks ago (and I have no doubt it was excellently done), but actually I had the temerity to present a tragedy in blank verse ("Macbeth") two or three years ago (I haven't the exact date before me), and several three-act plays before that.

Altogether I have presented about 70 plays on the air from 1YA, and have introduced something like 60 different performers to the public, which is something of an achievement. All credit is due to Mr. Clark and others who present plays, if they do them adequately, but I think full credit should be given to those who led the way and showed that the thing could be done. Innumerable letters and personal congratulations from perfect strangers go to prove that our work has been appreciated.

I agree with Mr. Clark that radio plays should be clean, and that sex matters should be avoided. By all means let us keep the home circle untainted; but surely "Paolo and Francesca," for instance, deals almost entirely with matters unsuitable for the home circle. It is, in fact, the story of a handsome young man who makes passionate (and successful) love to his brother's wife out in the garden, and, again, if I remember, in her private room late at night; and just about here the outraged husband discovers their guilty secret, and (quite rightly, I should say) slays the pair of 'em out of hand. Surely this is not a suitable theme for the home circle and the children! Etc., Mr. Clark.

J. F. MONTAGUE.



Mr. LEON DE MAUNY, the prominent Wellington musician, who is taking part in the programme.
—Andrew, photo.

A CONCERT OF
OUTSTANDING
MERIT

A RELAY FROM 2YA

IN connection with the official opening of Nimmo's new music warehouse in Willis Street, Wellington, 2YA will broadcast the inaugural concert held in Nimmo's concert chamber on July 3.

The splendid programme which has been arranged will include instrumental, vocal and elocutionary items

by Madame Evelyn de Mauny, Madame Eugenie Dennis, Miss Ena Rapley, Miss Madge Freeman, Mr. Leon de Mauny, Mr. Edwin Dennis and Mr. Claude Tanner.

With such an array of talent, listeners to 2YA on July 3 are assured of a concert worthy of such a notable occasion in the musical world.

THE PROGRAMME:

1. "Trio" in D Minor (1st Movement), (Arensky) Mmc. Evelyn de Mauny, Mr. L. de Mauny, Mr. Claude Tanner
2. "Pipes of Pan" (Arcadians) Miss Ena Rapley, Soprano
3. "Au Pays" (A. Holmes) Mr. Edwin Dennis
4. "Cello Solo" (a) "Memoire" (Popper) Mr. Claude Tanner
(b) "Andaluzza" (Granados)
5. "Fisher Lad" (M. C. Day) Miss Madge Freeman, Contralto
6. Piano Solo, Selected Mmc. Evelyn de Mauny
7. Humorous Sketch—"The Way to Accept Him" Mme. Eugenie Dennis
8. "Sonata" in G (1st movement) (Greig) —Mme. Evelyn de Mauny.
9. "Like Stars Above" (Squire) Mr. L. de Mauny
10. "Sing, Joyous Bird" (Phillips)—Duet, Miss Ena Rapley, Miss M. Freeman

A Popular Combination Hawke's Bay Hospital

Mr. Bishop and The
Melodie Four

Installation of Radio

THE hatchet has been buried! Mr. Bishop and the Melodie Four, artists known to all listeners of 2YA, have agreed to combine, at least temporarily, in "The Eight O'clock Review." Mr. Bishop, about whom a personal note appears on another page, entertains listeners every Saturday night with light humour. Many of his favourite jokes are directed against the Melodie Four, who usually retaliate rigorously.

These productions are the outcome of the undoubted success which attended the united efforts of these artists when they produced their evening at an old-time music hall for the benefit of "Little Daisy Dewdrop" some months ago, and we feel sure that the many listeners who wrote letters of appreciation regarding this previous broadcast will welcome this announcement.

The company presenting these revues will be strengthened by the inclusion of Miss Elsie Croft and Miss Doris Clarke, and a number of novel features are being planned, among which will be a prize competition in connection with which cash prizes will be offered by the "Radio Record."

We feel sure that this burying of the hatchet will be attended by the happiest results.

THE Napier Radio Society has for some time past been working actively to install radio in the Napier Hospital. Through the generosity of various donors, the society has now installed a fine modern receiver and equipped the children's ward with three loudspeakers. This installation has been proved to be an unqualified success. The society is still conducting a campaign to raise a total sum of £800 for the equipment of the entire hospital.

A handsome donation received toward this end was from Lady McLean, who has forwarded a donation of £100 to the society for the installation of receivers in the Margaret ward of the hospital. This donation has been made with the object of assisting in the preservation of the memory of the late Sir Douglas McLean. In addition to that sum, a cheque for £25 has been received from Miss Fanny Ormond. Further donations are earnestly desired by the society, and contributors may forward remittances to the secretary of the society, Mr. Tyler, care of Messrs. D. S. Laing and Son, Napier.

So Goes the Story

THE imagination of sensationalists is always ready to start a "story," and everyone ready to believe them. Someone saw the chance of a rare joke last week when he put in circulation the story that 2YA had broadcast the news that Kilminster, the dirt-track rider, had been killed in a smash. The story spread with amazing rapidity, and 2YA was besieged with inquiries to find out if this was true. Nothing of the kind was broadcast from the station, for every piece of news is carefully filtered before it goes on the air.

"Look for the Silver
Lining —"

The Optimists from 2YA

LISTENERS who heard the recent programme presented by the Wellington Optimists' Club will be pleased to learn that on June 28 the "Optimists" will again entertain. On this occasion the evening will be devoted to numbers for the "Old Folks at Home."

This club, which was formed only recently, consists of a number of cheery business men who are endeavouring, and not in vain, to make everyone with whom they come in contact look on the brighter side of life. Once a week they meet at luncheon, and sing choruses and popular songs, and regularly they may be found visiting hospitals and sanatoriums, cheering the inmates with their brightness and optimism.

The First Test

A Relay of Surprises

A RELAY around which a great deal of interest was centred was that from Dunedin on Saturday last, when the description of the first Test match was broadcast. Unfortunately an electric storm had interfered with the telephone lines between Dunedin and

British Rugby Matches

THE remaining matches of the British tour scheduled for broadcasting are:—

July 5.—Second Test, at Christchurch (3YA and 2YA).

July 9.—v. Maoris, at Wellington (2YA).

July 19.—v. Auckland, at Auckland (1YA).

July 26.—Third Test, at Auckland (1YA and 2YA).

August 9.—Fourth Test, at Wellington (2YA).

Christchurch, and shortly before the time for the relay, prospects were looking doubtful. Persistence on the part of the P. and T. Department, however, cleared a line well enough to allow a relay. This accounted for the background of noise—but noise or quiet the relay was a decided success as far as Rugby enthusiasts were concerned. The enthusiasm of the last few moments will be remembered by those who listened in.