

The New Zealand Radio Record

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Electric Home Journal

(Incorporating the "Canterbury Radio Journal.")

P.O. BOX. 1032, WELLINGTON.

Published Weekly. Price 3d. Subscription Post Free in advance, 12s. 6d. per annum; booked, 15s.

Literary communications should be addressed: "The Editor"; business communications to "The Manager"; technical communications to "The Technical Editor."

Advertisers are asked to note that alterations of advertisements should be in hand Friday of each week for insertion in the succeeding issue, printed Tuesday, bearing Friday's date. No responsibility is accepted for blocks remaining unclaimed three months after each insertion.

RADIO PUBLISHING COMPANY OF NEW ZEALAND, LTD.,
P.O. Box 1032, WELLINGTON.

WELLINGTON, FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 1930.

MUSIC WEEK.

QUITE an interesting discussion has been proceeding in the Press upon Wellington Music Week. A general sympathy is shown for the aims of the Music Week Committee in popularising a love of high-class music. This sympathy extends to the unfortunate outcome, from a financial point of view, of the venture. It is, however, very much to the credit of listeners that the deficit of approximately £50, which was the outcome of the week, is steadily being reduced by voluntary contributions from their ranks. So far £24 has been received and more is expected. This shows that the lovers of genuinely good music in various parts of the country who are numbered in the ranks of listeners are prepared to contribute when appeal is made to them.

THE discussion, however, reveals that the point of view of the average person and the average listener must not be overlooked. If it was the purpose of the organisers of Music Week to popularise good music, then the point we made last week that that object would best be achieved by tactful incorporation of popular numbers to draw the crowd would have been desirable, holds good. From the listeners' point of view, too, a more diversified programme would have been welcome. Genuine music-lovers attending a chamber concert will revel in the full performance of a number extending to an hour, but listeners in their own homes, unless their taste is of a high order, will find such a protracted performance a little tiring. From their point of view, therefore, greater diversification would have been desirable.

ONE point that we think commendable is the consideration shown by all classes to the aims of the Music Week Committee. Even those whose taste runs to jazz and other forms of musical entertainment accepted without undue question the full programmes as arranged by the Music Week Committee. This we think very much to their credit, and shows a breadth of view that should be appreciated. From it the Music Week Committee may derive the comfort that definite good has been done. At the same time we think it would be definitely desirable and commendable if the organisers of Music Week were to assess the value of the experience gained this year in future efforts and aim at a greater popularisation of the occasion. It might also be advisable to stage the week slightly earlier in the year, before the weather has definitely broken into its winter characteristics.

Radio Record Spelling Bees

Entries Approximate Fifty

GREAT interest will be taken by listeners in the "Radio Record" Spelling Bees, which are being conducted at 1YA on Tuesday, August 26, and 2YA on Thursday, August 28. Splendid prizes are offered, particulars of which have been given in the "Radio Record." The adjudicator at 1YA will be the well-known lecturer, Mr. A. B. Chapell, M.A., and the judge at 2YA will be Mr. J. Norrie, chief librarian at Wellington Public Library.

Everything is being arranged so that competitors need have no qualms or fears as to the fairness of the competition, and every detail will be weighed most carefully. Many people would doubtless be afraid of entering into such a competition if they had to appear in public, but on this occasion their only seen audience will be their fellow-competitors and the station officials. Arrangements are planned so that even the adjudicator will not be seen nor will he be able to see the competitors.

This competition should prove of very high entertaining value. The winner at Auckland will provide a competitor for the finals, which are to be conducted at 2YA. The winner of the competition at Auckland will visit Wellington at the expense of the "Radio Record." The entries for the Wellington event approximate fifty.

Miscellaneous concert programmes will be broadcast in addition to the "Spelling Bee" competitions.

Preceding the Spelling Bee at 1YA will be an elocutionary item by Mr. J. M. Clark, entitled "The Spelling Bee at Angel," by Bret Harte. This is an amusing incident of the early days of San Francisco, when the sole survivor is supposed to be the speaker. The rest of the competitors went "the way of all flesh," involuntarily. Competitors in this competition need have no fear of such a calamity befalling them. A further elocutionary item will be given by Mr. J. M. Clark, Mark Twain's "Story of the Old Ram."

"Faust" On the Air

Produced by Signor
Cesaroni.

LISTENERS will be interested in the announcement that Signor Lucien Cesaroni is to give a complete rendering of "Faust" from 2YA in the near future. The quality of Signor Cesaroni's singing is well known, and his performance on the evening in question will be a treat to listeners.

The Signor has recently returned from a comprehensive tour of Europe, and speaks highly of the place that radio broadcasting is now playing in the artistic life of the Old World. This point, in fact, greatly impressed itself upon him. After spending several weeks in London and hearing the fine programmes of the British Broadcasting Corporation, and learning the general satisfaction expressed with them by many London music lovers, he visited Germany and other parts of the Continent, and wherever he went was in touch with the part that broadcasting was playing in musical culture. In Berlin he found that not only was music of the highest quality broadcast in ample degree, but that scientific lectures were also being regularly transmitted by well-known university professors. These were addressed definitely to students in distant cities and country towns, in accordance with a pro-

gramme of general education. It was recognised that immense possibilities were to be found in broadcasting for the future.

In Milan the Signor had the pleasure of again meeting the Bonsalez brothers, his old managers, and so well known throughout Australia and New Zealand by reason of their successful tours of 1918 and 1929. It was possible that they would again visit New Zealand in the near future. In their company Signor Cesaroni was treated to a fine broadcast of a famous production from La Scala, one of the greatest opera houses in the world. The opera was "Il Trovatore," in which appeared a new tenor of unusual gifts, Commendatore Lauri Volpi. The enunciation was perfect, and it was a real pleasure to hear such a fine reproduction over the air. So perfect, indeed, were the broadcast transmissions from the various important centres of Europe that even such experienced artists as the Gonsalez spent many of their evenings at home enjoying, by means of radio, these famous programmes from operatic centres. For instance, they frequently listened in to the fine orchestral and sacred concerts given from the "Augusteo," Rome, from the Opera House, Turin, and Conservatorium performances from Naples. Everywhere, says the Signor, one could not help but admire the progress made in enunciation and articulation, and the branches of education by those artists who are taking advantage of the opportunities of radio broadcasting to attain the largest audiences and the greatest culture.