

# NOTES and NEWS from the NORTH

Of Topical Interest

THE contract with the Auckland City Council for the broadcasting of the Municipal Band and the Municipal Choir runs out on October 26, but so far negotiations have not been entered into for its renewal. It is to be sincerely hoped that this popular band will not be put off the air as it was when the last contract terminated.

A NUMBER of interesting programmes are to be given from 1YA during October, these including one by the band of the Jubilee Institute for the Blind on October 15, the play "David Garrick" on October 17, a concert by the 1YA Choir on Sunday, October 19, a special Trafalgar Day programme on October 21, a programme by the Alpine Club relayed from the Lewis Eady Hall on October 23, and a programme by Mr. Barry Coney and company on October 31.

THE Blind Institute Band has previously been heard from 1YA, but has now reached a much higher standard of playing. The band, which consists entirely of blind people except for the conductor, Mr. G. Bowes, is at present touring the North Island, and their 1YA programme will be given on the completion of this tour. The band has two sections, a full brass band and a jazz band, and includes a number of clever instrumental and vocal soloists. Their programme will introduce several novelties and musical monologues, while an unusual instrument called the vibraphone will be heard in two solos played by Mr. R. Gerradi. The most versatile member of the band is Mr. S. Gordon, who plays five or six different instruments and sings well. Those who have never actually seen this band are apt to wonder how Mr. Bowes conducts them. His method is to thread his way in and out among the players, listening to them and touching them gently on the shoulder to give them the time or to make them alter their pitch.

PART of the musical play, "Tutankhamen," which is being put on for a week at His Majesty's Theatre by the Auckland Amateur Operatic Society will be relayed from 1YA on September 27 and October 2. This play, which was written by the well-known solicitor, Mr. Laery, scored a remarkably popular success in both its previous runs. Mr. Eric Waters, whose playing is well known to 1YA listeners, has written some special additions to the musical score for this production.

OTHER new artists to be heard from 1YA in October are Master T. R. W. Trafford, boy soprano, and Olive Munro, contralto, of Tauranga, both of whom will sing on October 22.

A VERY large number of entries has been received for the 1YA song-writing competition, and the judges will have a hard task before them. It is surprising to find so many budding song-writers in the community, and if only a small percentage of the entries come up to standard it would be possible to make a programme out of them.

MR. REX HARRISON, the popular bass-baritone, concluded his tour of the New Zealand broadcasting stations when he sang from 1YA on Sunday night. Quite an audience had assembled at the studio, and it was announced that special permission had been granted for the inmates of the New Plymouth gaol to stay up late in order that they might hear him. The programme did not conclude till 9.50 p.m. Before singing his last song, Mr. Harrison said that he wished to thank

Moments at the Piano." These artists, who have recently concluded a tour of Australia, were heard by Auckland listeners some years ago before the present 1YA was opened, but they were then known as "Wendy and Alphonse."

A French radio journal states: "The evening concerts of the Eiffel Tower are sad, sad, the musicians not worth twopence, and the programmes nerve-racking."

It is said that the sound film is responsible for the musical culture of not a few of Hollywood's stars. Many homes in that city are fully equipped with musical instruments, and of these radio is well to the fore. Richard Arlen, Gary Cooper, William Powell and George Bancroft are all radio enthusiasts, and if one enters their home at any time they are in, the sound of the radio will greet him.

## Chrysanthemums

CHRYSANTHEMUMS by an old stone wall  
Are maids in soft green dresses—

Ladies fair . . . so slim and tall,  
With quaintly piled up tresses.

Clustered coils of yellow hair,  
Curls of gold and red,  
Brown and bronze, and here and there  
A snow-white powdered head.

Ladies fair, of long ago,  
Clad in soft green dresses,  
Lightly swaying to and fro,  
Tossing perfumed tresses.  
—C.S.

the Radio Broadcasting Company for their courtesy and many kindnesses to him, and said that it had been a real pleasure to sing for them during his contract. He also thanked all those in charge of the four New Zealand YA stations.

GORDON HUTTER, 1YA sporting announcer, had a busy day on Monday when the local station relayed the Avondale races and then went on the air again in the evening to relay the Walker-Lurich wrestling contest from the Town Hall. The race relay consisted merely of announcements as to starters and results, the rain making any description impossible. The wrestling was one of the best exhibitions staged in Auckland this year, and provided plenty of thrills. The microphone was lucky to escape damage, and when one of the wrestlers was hurled over the ropes and nearly on top of the microphone, the announcer said, "I wish they'd find somewhere else to throw each other. If we go off the air you'll know one of them has landed on us."

A NEW combination to be heard from 1YA during October is that of Ernest and Wendy Luks, a professional musical comedy couple lately of J. C. Williamson, Limited, who will give an entertainment entitled "Merry

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