

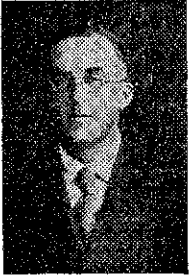
Excellent Entries

Song-writing Competition

TWENTY-NINE musical settings for the prize poem in the song-writing competition promoted by the IYA Musical and Dramatic Committee have been received, and the judges, Dr. S. Kenneth Phillips, Mr. J. Tait and Mr. H. Hollingrake, have announced their award.

The winner has proved to be Mr. Eric Waters. In awarding the prize to him the decision of the three judges was unanimous.

Mr. Waters is a composer who has already "won his spurs" for it was he who composed the music of the opera "Tutankamen," which created a furore when produced in Auckland. Besides this he has many other works to his credit.

As a musician, IYA listeners know Mr. Waters well as a piano soloist.  Eric Waters. He is pianist of the Orchestral Octet and of the Studio Trio.

The prize poem, the words of which have now been set to music, was written by Mr. W. Francis Chambers, of Wellington. In that competition there were 333 entries.

An Ingenious Scheme

For Conveying Messages

A YOUNG student working in London has, states an exchange, hit upon a novel method of informing his parents in Wessex that he was alive and well. On the day when a regular weekly outside broadcast was in progress, he took up his position as close as possible to the microphone and, during the silence which preceded the music, coughed loudly and with peculiar emphasis.

This signal reassures an anxious couple in the country who might, otherwise, be imagining that their boy had been shanghaied or led astray!

New Artists from IYA

ARTISTS who are to make their microphone debut from IYA during the next few weeks include Mr. J. Dagliesh, tenor, who will sing on December 30; Miss Robertson, contralto, January 8; Mr. A. G. McPhail, baritone, January 9; and a versatile combination known as the Zealandia Novelty Instrumental Quartet, who will play on January 10. Also on January 10 the new Savoy Male Quartet will be heard.

Radio Manufacture in Australia

Comparisons with N.Z. Industry

SOME interesting sidelights on Australian radio manufacturing were thrown by Mr. Wilkin, of the B.G.E., who spent a few days in New Zealand recently. "Set manufacture in Australia," he says, "just has to be, otherwise there would be no radio." A barrier absolutely prevents the entry of complete radio sets into Australia. Furthermore, there is a high tariff on imported parts so that the Australian who wants radio must make his own.

In various main cities large manufacturing concerns are now well established, and are making almost the whole of the radio goods used in Australia. A few parts are imported, but, as Australian plant is improving and increasing, these imports are becoming less. Five or six large manufacturing concerns are working now under high pressure to satisfy Australia's demands. One Australian factory is working now at the rate of 5000 radios a year, so it can be seen that radio manufacture has been speeded up to a great extent. Only recently an attempt was made to manufacture, or at least to assemble, valves in that country, but it has apparently not met with considerable success, as, for the time being at least, it is not being proceeded with.

Cheap Set Market.

The whole industry has grown within about three years. In the first place, American receivers came across and Australian engineers, making slight adjustments, decided that an Australian receiver would be a marketable proposition. The following year, what might be called the Australian editions of American receivers were turned out, but this year, with the complete embargo on imported receivers, the whole countenance of radio manufacture has changed. The Australian-made set is now quite different from the American.

Size of the Sets.

THE Australian-made set has four or five valves, usually two h.f., as this is all that is necessary to cope with the selectivity problem. Conditions over there are really different from either America or New Zealand. There is no call for a distance-getting set, as there is really no distance to be had. There are a very large number of stations in a relatively small area and each city has quite a few locals. The requirements of any set, then, is to bring in these main stations and differentiate between the locals and it has been found that the four or five-valve set will do this nicely.

"But do you not listen-in to America and New Zealand?" we asked.

"Not very much," replied our visitor. "American reception is very patchy and unsatisfactory, whereas the New Zealand stations are off the air before they can be well received, while there is practically nothing to the west. Thus you see that we have to rely on our own broadcasts. One rarely hears of a set picking up New Zealand stations, but 2YA comes in quite well in places. You go off the air

at about 8 o'clock or 9 o'clock our time."

Manufacturing in New Zealand.

MANUFACTURING in New Zealand is very much in the embryo stage, according to Mr. Wilkin, who took opportunity to visit most of the manufacturing firms.

"There is one case where you are miles ahead of Australia," Mr. Wilkin



J. J. FLEWELLYN,
the well-known 3YA elocutionist,
who will broadcast seasonal sketches
from Dickens.
—Steffano Webb, photo.

remarked, "and that is in power amplification and talking apparatus. I was in one factory in Auckland where the complete projector equipped with a sound system is turned out, and I was surprised at the remarkable accuracy with which every part was made. It was a creditable job and, I understand, about 30 theatres have already been equipped with this system. A Wellington firm has also equipped an almost equally large number of theatres, but of course these people do not make the projection apparatus as do the Auckland firm, who even make their own speakers from patterns designed by their own engineers. In Australia the sound picture industry is about where your radio industry is at the present time."

A Successful S.O.S.

ON a recent Sunday evening 4YA was asked to broadcast a message to find the whereabouts of a Timaru gentleman whose son had died and who was known to be somewhere in Otago. Within an hour of the announcement being broadcast, the gentleman called in at 4YA.

From all Angles

IN Palestine recently a radio expert attached to police headquarters accidentally stumbled across some signals in Russian code on a very high wavelength. By means of a frame aerial and a superheterodyne receiver mounted in a motor-car, cross-bearings on the mystery station were taken; and the latter thus located. During one night a squad of police rushed a disused warehouse and captured the astonished operator before he could send out an alarm. An installation comprising complete transmitting and receiving equipment was confiscated, together with sheaves of Soviet propaganda for inciting Arab disturbances.

ARRANGEMENTS are almost completed for the erection of a central high-power broadcasting station for the Irish Free State. It will be modelled on the lines of the new B.B.C. regional stations and, as it will have an aerial power of 60 k.w., it will be one of the most powerful stations in Europe. If it is found that the whole of the Irish Free State is not within crystal set range, the Government intend to remedy the defect by increasing the power by nearly one hundred per cent. The modern trend in Europe certainly seems to favour fewer and higher power stations.

THE latest system of centralised broadcasting is claimed to be that installed in a school at Fort Wayne, Indiana. It consists of a receiving set, an automatic gramophone, a microphone, and individual loudspeakers for each classroom. The studio is situated near the principal's office, and from there programmes are sent to all rooms in the school. The time usually consumed in assembling the students is saved by this device. Radio is becoming more and more popular in America and England, particularly in the rural schools, in bringing music appreciation, art, history lessons and special educational talks to the children.

THE following paragraph, taken from an American journal, affords a striking illustration of the efficiency of radio-equipped police squads when dealing with criminals. Two Chicago youths, Joseph Nagawewski and Lester Sybalski, established a record in their first attempt at crime recently. At 1.41 a.m. they attempted a robbery unsuccessfully. At 1.43 a.m. they were described to a roving police squad via radio. At 1.48 a.m. Nagawewski was shot twice in the back, and with Sybalski was captured by the officers.

Uncle Tom Retires

MR. T. T. GARLAND, who has been "Uncle Tom" at IYA for the past three years, has made his final appearance as an uncle before the IYA microphone. He has always been a great favourite with the children, and will be greatly missed.

