

## Broadcasting Religious Services

### An Interesting Controversy

THE question whether or not listening to broadcast religious services counts as attendance at a place of worship is one which is asked in other countries than this.

At a recent session of the Montreal Diocesan Synod it formed the subject of a debate. "Whatever advantages can be got from listening on the radio, one cannot worship on the radio," said a reverend speaker, and added, "the person who simply listened" to broadcast services "and thought he was doing his duty was sadly mistaken." Another speaker—also a clergyman—differed profoundly. He said that, while "perhaps one could not get the very highest that was to be obtained from worship by participating in it through a broadcast," he felt that it was an acceptable substitute for church attendance.

This view was supported by a third speaker, who said that he had been in homes where the family not only joined reverently in the service that came through the loudspeaker, but had gone as far as to take up a collection.

It appears, however, that the truth lies between these two extreme views. In this country, at any rate, the institution of broadcast services was never for a moment intended as a substitute for corporate worship in church. The services were designed to meet the needs of the sick, and aged, and those who were unable, from one cause or another, to attend a place of worship, particularly men in isolated positions, such as light-house-keepers.

## Radio Drama

(Continued from page 3.)

Ideally considered, radio drama is something that cannot be seen or pictured, or staged or acted; it can only be heard, just as music can only be heard. It was Pater, I think, who said that all the arts aspire to the condition of music. That is an aesthetic maxim to be borne in mind by whoever experiments with the wireless play. There may be verbal counterparts, it seems to me, to the motifs and rhythms of music, and radio drama will develop along the lines of an independent art if it discovers what they are and how they can be given dramatic form.

This is only a vague indication of the sort of thing one wants and expects from the wireless play, but it is for the genuine wireless dramatist to dispel this vagueness. If he can find a verbal equivalent for the first four chords of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, for instance, and develop the idea of those chords, there is a future, and an exciting future, for radio drama. If, during the next few years, we continue to get only adaptations of stage plays, varied now and again by a half-hearted experiment in radio expression, the future will hardly be worth considering. There will still be some sort of future in the strict sense of the word, no doubt, but it will not be a very interesting one.

# NOTES and NEWS from the NORTH

(By "Call-up.")

THE spelling bee for primary school children which was broadcast from 1YA on Friday was most enjoyable and a great success. Douglas Rogers, of the Te Papapa School, was the winner, having gone right through the preliminary and the final stages without a single mistake. The second prize was won by Avice Bowers, of the Normal School, Epsom. The prizes, which takes the form of books, will be presented at the schools by the headmasters. It is hoped to arrange further spelling bees, including one for secondary school children, in the near future. This is a practical example of educational entertainment, for while of an undoubtedly educational nature, these spelling bees prove most entertaining not only to those taking part, but also to listeners.

MR. N. M. Richmond, director of the Auckland branch of the Workers' Educational Association, will commence a series of tales from 1YA on March 10. Mr. Richmond gave a similar series of general educational talks last year which were much appreciated by listeners.

MR. REG. MORGAN, who is to sing a group of Welsh songs from 1YA on Saturday, February 28, in honour of St. David's Day (which falls on the Sunday) is surely one of the most versatile and accomplished artists to be heard from the Auckland station. Known by all listeners for his excellent concert and dance band, he is also an accomplished solo pianist, and is now very popular with the children who know him as "Uncle Reg." In addition, he is a vocalist of merit, as he will prove on Saturday. As his name implies, Mr. Morgan is a Welshman, so his songs will be sung in their true national style.

SEVERAL listeners and artists have mentioned recently that they would like the artist's name to be announced with all items broadcast from 1YA. At present, although speakers and many other artists are introduced to listeners, the majority of vocal soloists are not announced by name. Many listeners are interested to know who is singing or playing, and artists themselves rather naturally prefer to be announced, not only on account of the publicity, but so that their efforts are not confused with those of others! No singing teacher likes to have her voice mistaken for that of one of her younger pupils!

OWING to the extra work entailed and the large amount of programme time given to making announcements in regard to the earthquake, the programme arrangements at 1YA are somewhat dislocated and the schedule is considerably behind. Dur-

ing the last week a large number of messages have been broadcast for private persons in connection with the earthquake and many anxious and worried minds must have been relieved to hear over the air that their relatives were safe. The station staff deserve the greatest credit for the way they have worked at this time, for in spite of very long hours and many trying and annoying circumstances, they have willingly gone out of their way to help listeners in every possible manner.

ONE of the most versatile artists heard from 1YA is Mr. Reg. Morgan. Mr. Morgan is well known to all listeners on account of the excellent band he conducts, while the children know him now as "Uncle Reg." On Saturday, February 28, he will sing a group of Welsh songs from 1YA in honour of St. David's Day, which falls on the Sunday. Mr. Morgan, as his name implies, is a Welshman, and so his songs will be sung in their true national style.

## Our Mailbag

### American Recordings.

I HAVE listened to the international programmes since they started, and have thoroughly enjoyed them. Take the Ormandy Orchestra and the quartet: I consider these fine combinations, and in my opinion we have nothing in New Zealand to surpass them. As for the comedy items, anyone must know that old proverb: "A little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest men." In conclusion I would say, let 2YA keep up its good work in transmitting the international recordings. They will always have their unseen audience who appreciate the very best in talent.—Not an American (Wellington).

### Something to Growl About.

I HAVE read with rising interest the comments re the subject of international recordings. I am a regular listener of 2YA's Wednesday night programmes, and I have obtained much enjoyment from the special recordings. I must say I prefer those remarkable items recorded by American radio artists to some of our own local singing. Some people never know when they are well off. If they were tortured every Thursday night like we are by 3YA, they would have something to grumble about. If "English Mother" and like, heard these American programmes direct from America with prolonged howls, squeals and static, they would think it was wonderful, and would tell their friends what marvellous long-distance receiving sets they possessed, but as they have the privilege of hearing these interesting recordings from 2YA they are not satisfied.—Squealing Soprano (Christchurch).

## 1YA Musical and Dramatic Committee

### "New Zealand Night" Discussed

THE 1YA Musical and Dramatic Committee was held on February 10 at the 1YA studio.

There were present: Mr. A. B. Chapell (in the chair), Dickens Fellowship; Miss G. Bertram, New Zealand League of Penwomen; Mr. J. F. Montague, Auckland Comedy Players; Mr. Karl Atkinson, Auckland Piano Students' Association; Mr. F. M. Price, Aeolian Orchestra; Mr. E. Blair, Workers' Educational Association; Mr. C. B. Plummer, Auckland Choral Society; Mr. L. C. Barnes, Mr. H. C. Trim.

In discussing the earthquake which had occurred in the Hawke's Bay district, the chairman asked that it be placed on record the committee's silent vote expressing sorrow at the Hawke's Bay catastrophe and their sympathy with the sufferers, the committee standing in silence for one minute.

The matter of the retirement from the committee of Mr. T. T. Garland and Mr. John Tait was brought before the meeting, and it was decided to place on record the committee's appreciation of the service rendered to the committee by these two gentlemen and the committee's regret at their retirement.

Regarding the proposed "New Zealand Night," it was hoped to have the rendering of Alfred Hill's "Hinemoa" by the 1YA Broadcasting Choir included, if the music is available. The matter of the proposed inter-university debate was still in abeyance until arrangements could be made with the Post and Telegraph Department concerning a land-line.

It was decided to hold the next meeting of the committee on March 6, 1931, at 8 p.m. The meeting then terminated.

## Spelling Bee

THE winner of the Primary Schools Spelling Bee, held at 1YA on Friday, February 13, was Master Douglas Rogers, Te Papapa School, and the second prize was won by Miss Avice Bowers, Normal School, Mt. Eden.

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