

be genuine. In fact I was reminded in part of "The Two Black Crows," without their humour. There was a wealth of information in the dialogue; all of it was, quite naturally, news to me, but I should imagine even farmers must have picked up many points. For instance, that when a farmer is in doubt he need not play trumps, but can send along a sample of the good old farm to the Department of Benevolence (that is to say, Agriculture) and be told, from analysis, whether or not to invest in lime. The true function of lime in neutralising over acidity in soils and in making clay ground more friable; the need for solubility of fertilisers to enable plant life to absorb the nourishment they find lacking in the ordinary soil; the difference in solubility between Nauru phosphate and "super," and the consequent preference for the latter.

The true function of sulphate of ammonia in giving nitrogen to plant life and the need for care and knowledge when best to apply this grass-forcer—all the technical data, in fact, was excellent and given in simple language, which must have been understood even by those with no knowledge of chemistry whatsoever. But "phosphate" is not pronounced "pharsphate," excepting in American back-chat.

Silage!

MR. W. J. McCULLOCH'S talk on ensilage to "the man on the land" was enjoyable. Unlike some of his departmental conferees, this speaker possesses a good radio voice, and if he could overcome his tendency to gabble sentences more rapidly than can be absorbed by his hearers, would improve in effectiveness. Perhaps I am a trifle pedantic, but expressions such as "ensilage can be double useful" rather jarred. Maybe they are due to nervousness. The subject matter was good, and the points well and clearly made. Without attempting a history of ensilage, he pointed out that it had been made successfully in New Zealand for several decades, although its present popularity is of recent growth, coincident with the remarkable increase in top-dressing contributing so wonderfully to our output of produce in recent years. The angle impressed upon farm listeners was the simplicity of ensilage-making, together with its advantages as a saver during a bad season. Ensilage is as important to the farmer as reserves are to the business man, and the extent to which ensilage-making has now become popular is in itself a measure of the improvement effected in farming practice in recent years. Both sheep and dairy farmers profit by ensilage. This address was of outstanding value, and should contribute to farming recovery from current depression.

Disarmament Conference

WHETHER or no one agrees with the principles of disarmament, one could not but be impressed by Dr. Gibbs' talk on the subject from 2YA on Friday. His delivery was very impressive, albeit a trifle slow. Incidentally I should have recommended a little more distance

from the microphone to neutralise the hiss of his sibilants. These are small points, however, which in no way offset the value of the Doctor's talk. We were reminded of the overwhelming catastrophe that another world war would bring about, and, in the Doctor's opinion, should the all-important Conference of Nations next February fail, then such a war becomes inevitable. Great Britain, as usual, is expected to lead the way, and, if she does so, it is claimed that the rest of the world will follow suit. I wonder! Past experience does not endorse this optimism, and one cannot but fear the boldness of such a policy unless we have more definite guarantees from the other nations than we have had up to now. That we must back up our British statesmen in their stupendous efforts to secure world peace is unquestioned; but I, for one, trust that we shall



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be equally insistent that the British Empire be not allowed to play a lone hand in the matter. A world war, even if we are fully prepared, will mean chaos of an unprecedented nature; but world war with Great Britain unprepared and disarmed would lead to our total effacement. Our Empire statesmen have before them a task of such magnitude as has never before confronted the statesmen of any country.

"My People"

SHORTAGE of space compels me to make but brief reference to a most entertaining talk from 3YA on Thursday by Te Ari Pitama entitled "My People." It would be a pity not to give details of

1YA Musical and Dramatic Committee

Monthly Meeting

ON Friday, May 8, the 1YA Musical and Dramatic Advisory Committee met at the studio in France Street.

There were present: Mr. A. B. Chappeil (in the chair), Dickens Fellowship; Misses G. Bertram, New Zealand League of Penwomen, and J. Parker Auckland Piano Students' Association. Messrs. L. B. Lambert, Bohemian Orchestra; V. Trask, Athenian Club; F. M. Price, Aeolian Orchestra; B. H. Colman, Royal Auckland Choir; E. B. Elern, Leys Institute; O. Jensen, Society of Musicians; E. D. Robins, University Students' Association; C. Tucker, Auckland Radio Dealers' Association; Earl Atkinson, H. C. Trim, L. C. Barnes.

Before commencing the business of the evening the chairman spoke in feeling terms of the loss Auckland had sustained in the passing of Mr. Harry Hemus, and a motion of sympathy was carried with his widow and relatives, the members standing.

A welcome was given to Mr. Karl Atkinson, who attended the meeting on behalf of the administrative staff of the company. Considerable discussion took place with reference to the company's subsidy to the local musical societies, and it was reported that three of the societies had accepted the subsidy. Further consideration of this matter is being held in abeyance until definite advice is received from the fourth society.

It was reported by the station director that special features in forthcoming programmes would include the production of the radio adaptation of Stevenson's "Treasure Island" on June 3; a concert by the Society of Musicians on June 4; a mystery play entitled "The White Owl," written by Dr. George de Clive Lowe, on June 12; a rendition of Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise" by the 1YA Broadcasting Choir and Orchestral Octet on June 28. It was also reported that special speakers would be engaged for the international programmes.

An interesting discussion took place regarding the broadcasting of such sports, on relay, as Rugby, wrestling and boxing. Although this may appear somewhat outside the scope of this particular committee, it is not, as it deals with entertainments to the public. It was decided to ask the company to negotiate with these bodies in order that the fullest co-operation may be obtained.

It was also announced that interesting talks to farmers would shortly be arranged, and that a committee would be appointed to go further into this matter.

An interesting suggestion was that illustrated talks should be given on the instruments of the orchestra and bands, and also on the grand organ, together with talks on the technical side of transmission and receiving. A definite plan is being brought forward at the next meeting of the committee.

a lecture which was as enthralling in subject matter as it was masterly in delivery. Accordingly I purpose devoting more space to this item in next week's "Radio Record." A photograph of this gifted young Maori orator appears in these columns.



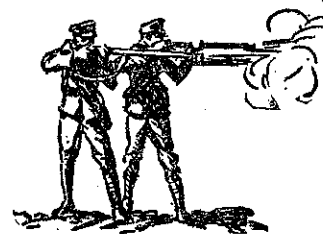
MARGHERITA ZELANDA

The eminent coloratura soprano who will be heard from 1YA during the Radio Exhibition, and subsequently from other New Zealand stations.

2YA Church Service Committee

THE 2YA Church Service Committee met on Tuesday, May 5, there being present: Revs. O. V. Rooke (chairman), R. J. Howie (Presbyterian), E. N. Goring (Baptist), Pastor W. G. Carpenter (Church of Christ), and Mr. J. Ball (station director). The business transacted was of a routine nature.

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