

Obituary

Mr. Arthur Towsey

ON Tuesday, June 9, the death of Mr. Arthur Towsey, father of Mr. Cyril Towsey, studio pianist at IYA, was announced. The deceased gentleman had attained the age of 85. By his demise, New Zealand loses a man whose service to music in this Dominion cannot be computed. For 66 years his name has been a household word, and for three generations his long, distinguished and altogether honourable career has made history.

Mr. Towsey was born at Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, England, in June, 1846. At the age of seven he commenced the study of pianoforte with Mr. E. H. Thorne, organist of the Parish Church, Henley; two years later he went to the College of Sir F. A. Gore Ouseley, Tenbury, as a probationer. He gained a scholarship for singing, which entitled him to free education so long as his boy's voice lasted.

During this period he studied the pianoforte and organ under Sir John Stainer and Mr. Langdown Colborne, and had the privilege of receiving lessons in harmony from Sir Gore Ouseley. On leaving college, Mr. Towsey studied with Mr. H. Deacon, of London, and held an appointment as organist. In 1865 he was selected organist and choirmaster of St. Paul's Cathedral, Dunedin, and remained in that capacity, and also as a teacher of various branches of music, until 1878, when he went to England on leave for two years.

Whilst in England he pursued his musical studies, under Mr. Berthold Tours for harmony, Mr. W. Shakespeare for singing, Signor Tito Mattel for pianoforte, besides attending lectures at Trinity College given by Dr. Lennox Browne and Dr. Llewellyn Thomas, and studying Laryngoscopy with Herr Emil Behnke.

During his stay in England he deputised for Mr. Fred Archer at the Alexandra Place, giving daily organ recitals, and frequently took the week day services at St. Paul's Cathedral for Sir John Stainer.

HE returned to Dunedin in 1880, but resigned his appointment three years later. In 1883 he accepted a similar appointment in Christchurch, where he remained for four years, during which time he conducted, with marked success, the Liedertafel Musical Society, and Amateur Comic Opera Company. In 1888 he visited Melbourne, and gave organ recitals at the Exhibition Buildings.

In January, 1889, he was reappointed organist at the Cathedral, Dunedin, also musical director and conductor of the New Zealand and South Sea Islands Exhibition. In 1891 he removed to Auckland, at the invitation of the Orchestral Union, also accepting the appointment of organist and choirmaster of St. Matthew's.

In 1892 he initiated the Auckland Liedertafel (now known as the Royal Auckland Choir), and was elected its first conductor. During the time he occupied the position the foundation was well laid of this splendid society, his genial, yet commanding manner winning for him the respect, confidence and friendship of all the members; he also instilled his enthusiasm into the



Excerpts from
the Opera

"MARITANA"

will be presented by Mrs.
Wilfred Andrews (contralto),
Mrs. Amy Woodward (soprano) and Mr. Eric
Harrison, with orchestral accompaniment,
from 2YA. June 22.

Health Talks

A SERIES of six weekly talks has been arranged by the Department of Health for broadcasting from 3YA. The schedule is as follows:—
June 24, 3.30 p.m.—"Scarlet Fever," by Dr. T. Fletcher Telford, Medical Officer of Health.

July 1, 7.40 p.m.—"Some Common Skin Diseases in School Children," by Dr. R. B. Philipps, School Medical Officer.

July 8, 3.30 p.m.—"Ventilation," by Colonel F. W. W. Dawson, Medical Officer of Health.

July 15, 7.40 p.m.—"Household Sanitation," by Dr. T. Fletcher Telford, M.O.H.

July 22, 3.30 p.m.—"Care of Sanitary Fittings," by Mr. M. Kershaw, Senior Inspector of Health.

July 29, 7.40 p.m.—"The Care of Food in the Home," by Dr. T. Fletcher Telford, Medical Officer of Health.

members, and thus created the secret of the society's success.

Mr. Towsey was for some years located in Wanganui and Taumarunui, finally settling in the Waikato. He acted as judge at musical competitions in various parts of New Zealand. Upon his leaving Wanganui, he was tendered a farewell concert in His Majesty's Theatre.

Mr. Towsey's interests were by no means confined to music. He was widely and well read, was devoted to bowling and photography, and had a genius for friendship which was much prized by those lucky enough to share it. Mr. Towsey had a fair showing of original musical compositions to his credit, and as New Zealand's "Father of Music" was beloved by countless pupils scattered all over the Dominion.

Coast Radio Society

A GENERAL meeting of the Grey Radio Society was held in the Station Studio, Cobden, on Friday, June 5, for the purpose of establishing the station on a firm basis.

It was decided to alter the name of the society to the West Coast Radio Society, so that it would embrace Hokitika, Westport, and any other place where good reception could be obtained at any time.

An executive consisting of representatives from the different district clubs (Runanga, Greymouth, Brunner, Hokitika, etc.) was formed, and it was arranged that regular meetings be held.

The meeting recommended that the executive appoint a committee to organise programmes and also that arrangements be made with the schools in the locality to provide the programmes of the children's sessions. It was also recommended that members canvass the district for subscriptions and donations. Mr. Spiers, the organiser and builder of the station, submitted the cost of constructing the station, and it was decided that ways and means be provided for purchasing the entire station.

The following officers were elected for the remainder of the term:—President, Mr. McDowell; secretary-treasurer, Mr. J. Pearson; operator, Mr. Spiers.

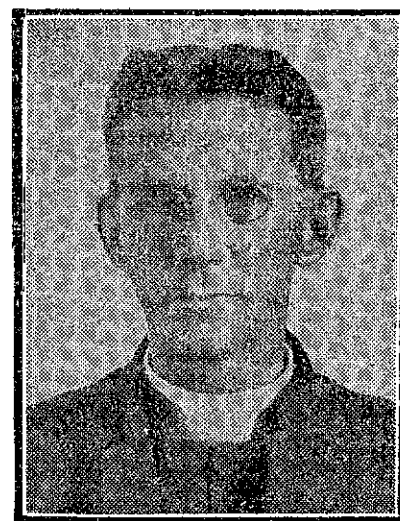
At the conclusion of the meeting the president broadcast a speech by short-wave, on behalf of the New Zealand Amateur Radio Transmitters, of which organisation the society's short-waver, ZLSCW, is the official South Island station. At the conclusion of this broadcast members were shown the intricacies of the transmitter, which is the work of Mr. Spiers.

A Letter from Uncle Leo

Mission Work in England

IN a personal letter to Mr. A. R. Harris, the Rev. Lionel Fletcher, of Beresford Street Congregational Church, and well known to IYA listeners as "Uncle Leo," writes from Bedford, England, under date April 28:—

"I have never ever seen such a campaign as the London Youth Evangelistic Campaign; and neither has any other living man. From the start on November 1 we have never been able to accommodate the crowds of young people who have come. No building would hold them, and often I have been speaking by means of loudspeakers in three buildings at once. My experience before the microphone at IYA has stood me in great stead, and



REV. L. B. FLETCHER,

Formerly Uncle Leo, of IYA, but now engaged upon mission work in England. He hopes to return to New Zealand shortly.

—S. P. Andrew, photo.

when I spoke in the Royal Albert Hall on two nights of our great Thanksgiving Service to 16,000 people, I was told that my voice came through clearer than anyone else's. That was simply because I stood in front of the microphone and did not turn my head to either side.

"More than 350,000 attended our meetings and 11,000 professed conversion.

"I am making a short tour of the provinces, and here again I am talking to overflowing crowds. There is certainly a more serious atmosphere in England than eight years ago.

I spoke over the air several times in Canada and America, but there the churches pay the companies to have the right to broadcast, and no good would have been done by me interviewing the companies, but the churches who had the right to broadcast used me when they had the opportunity.

"When I return I can relate my impressions. Meanwhile let me assure you that New Zealand is not behind in broadcasting. I have yet to hear anything better than much that we get there, and I have not yet heard better children's hours than some of ours are. I leave on May 29, and hope to reach Auckland on July 13.—L. B. Fletcher.

Mullard
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life — more power —
greater volume.