

National University

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districts with our limited staff, and the claim to our services of those removed from the cultural opportunities of favour of trying to develop this new town life, were strong arguments in favour of trying to develop this new medium. During the past four years, therefore, the W.E.A. has done what it could to co-operate with the Radio Broadcasting Company in providing its share of the talks which have been a feature of the programmes from all the YA stations.

In Auckland during the past two years the talks have been supplemented with notes issued by the speaker, and the formation of listening groups has been invited. While nothing resulted in 1930 except a small individual demand for the notes, the result during the present winter has been much more encouraging.

Beside a moderately brisk demand for the notes, and a small but interesting correspondence with individual listeners, two listening groups formed themselves—at Manurewa and at Ohakune Junction. The leaders of these groups have acted as correspondents with the speaker, and so good were the questions and criticisms received from one of these in connection with the talks on Russia that the speaker was able to make use of them in personally conducted Auckland groups which have been studying this subject.

On the basis of this experience, and with additional help from the Broadcasting Company, the present series of talks by Mr. Constable will form the beginning of a fuller and more varied programme of talks to be arranged by the W.E.A. An outline of the first two talks appears herewith, and similar outlines will appear each week in advance of the talk itself. In subsequent outlines the speaker will indicate questions for the use of listening groups in their discussion. Books relating to the subject-matter will be mentioned, and as the scheme develops it may be possible (though nothing can at present be promised) to arrange for groups or individuals at a small fee to have the right of borrowing such books from a central library.

Meanwhile those who have any intention of forming a group for the discussion of the series on Bernard Shaw are invited to write immediately to the Director, Workers' Educational Association, Old Grammar School, Auckland, giving the name and address of the person who is prepared to act as leader (i.e., chairman) and correspondent for the group. Correspondence addressed to Mr. Constable, c/o the W.E.A., whether from groups or from individuals who wish to put questions of criticisms, will be welcomed. The extent to which such correspondence can be satisfactorily answered will of course depend on its volume.

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S-O-S

**TRAVEL IN COMFORT BY
CAR**

**WELLINGTON — PALMERSTON
NEW PLYMOUTH**

Six Talks on

"The Life and Work of Bernard Shaw"

By the

Rev. William A. Constable, M.A.

(To be broadcast from 1YA, Tuesday, October 13, at 7.30 p.m., and each Tuesday following.)

Synopsis of No. 1.—Early Life.

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW was born in Dublin on July 26, 1856. His father, an Irish Protestant, was an amiable man, whose worst faults were inefficiency and an ardent devotion to "respectability"; but he had a sense of humour, and of the comic force of anti-climax, which we see in his son.

His mother was a woman of exceptional vitality, unconventional, indifferent to public opinion, and passionately fond of music. The music of Handel, Mozart, Beethoven, Gounod and other composers was the chief educational influence of our dramatist's boyhood. Later, his mother took up music professionally to provide for the family, and went to London.

At the age of fourteen, young Shaw went into a land agent's office in Dublin, at a salary of £18 a year. He proved himself so efficient that he was made cashier, and held the post for six years, though he disliked the work. During these years the love of art, fostered by visits to the National Gallery of Ireland, was the second great educational influence of his life.

At the age of twenty he joined his mother in London, tried and failed to earn a living in many ways, and would have starved but for the help of his mother—though, as teetotaler and non-smoker and vegetarian, his method of living was always frugal.

Between 1879 and 1883 he wrote five novels, five pages of manuscript each day with unfailing regularity—completing one novel each year—but with unfailing result—refusal by the publisher. These were "Immaturity," "The Irrational Knot," "Love Among the Artists," "Cashel Byron's Profession" and "An Unsocial Socialist." They were published later, first in serial form. "Cashel Byron's Profession" won the praise of W. E. Henley and R. L. Stevenson. These novels were good practice in the art of writing, and we can see the incipient dramatist in them. His own verdict on them is: "My novels are very green things, very carefully written."

(Lives of Shaw, and studies of his work as critic, socialist and dramatist, are plentiful. The best life is by Prof. A. Henderson. Studies of his work have been done by Holbrook Jackson, G. K. Chesterton, Collis, E. Shanks and many others. An excellent brief treatment of his plays will be found in Prof. Morgan's "Tendencies of Modern English Drama.")

3YA Musical and Dramatic Committee

AT the last meeting of the 3YA Musical and Dramatic Committee there were present: Dr. F. C. A'Court (Competitions' Society and Harmonic Society), Messrs. S. Williamson (Musicians' Society), R. J. Loughnan (Male Voice Choir), W. H. Dixon (Royal Musical Society), Geo. Manning (W.E.A.), Scholefield (Vice-President of W.E.A.), visitor; K. Atkinson, J. MacKenzie, and C. S. Booth.

An apology for absence was received from Miss N. Enright. The Station Manager submitted his report on programmes given and proposed.

The question of the future control of broadcasting was discussed and resolutions (already published) were passed commending the company on its ser-

vice and disapproving of the Government taking over.

A suggestion was put forth that the societies should consider the interchange of New Zealand artists and the importation of overseas talent, with the co-operation of the Broadcasting Company.

Yet Another Static Eliminator

TWO Russians have claimed that they have invented a static eliminator. It is curious how this claim crops up every year or so with monotonous regularity, the only variation being in the nationality of the would-be inventors. In the opinion of many experts, complete elimination of atmospheric is an impossibility.

Notes and News from the North

(By "Call Up.")

BY the time this appears in print the community singing season in Auckland will have concluded, the last midday sing from the Town Hall being held on October 7. While the sings have been just as popular as ever this year, the season has not been such a success from a financial point of view as it was last year, because, no doubt, of the present depression. Although the midday sings are over, there will be another evening community sing from the 1YA studio by the station choir on October 21.

THOSE who heard and enjoyed the broadcasts of the band from the Jubilee Institute for the Blind last year will be pleased to hear that this excellent combination of players has been booked to play from the Auckland station on October 23 and November 20. These blind players are deservedly popular for, in spite of their handicap, they have attained a very high standard of playing.

THE speakers from 1YA for the next two international programmes will be Mr. J. W. Shaw, M.A., of the Auckland Training College, who will talk on "Humour Among the Nations," and Dr. E. B. Gunson, president of the Society of Arts, whose talk will be entitled "The International Outlook on Art."

THE prevalence of influenza in Auckland at present has caused a considerable amount of trouble to those arranging programmes at 1YA, as many artists have been unable to attend at their appointed times, and substitutes have had to be found at short notice. One evening a studio programme had to be put on in place of a municipal concert owing to so many performers for the latter being ill. At the last rehearsal by the 1YA Choir there were out of forty members fifteen absentees.

WHEN in November clever young people are sitting for matriculation and degree examinations, father and mother will also have their chance of demonstrating that they have not yet forgotten all they learnt at school, for 1YA is to hold a spelling bee for adults on November 18. Last year these spelling bees proved popular both with 1YA and 2YA, and it is to be hoped that plenty of aspirants for spelling honours will come forth on this occasion. Conditions of the contest will be announced later. Mr. A. B. Chappell, M.A., will be the adjudicator.

TWO outstanding artists who are to appear from 1YA at the end of this month are Eva Stern and Rex Harrison. Miss Stern has recently come to New Zealand from New York, where she played for the National Broadcasting Company. She will give two short piano recitals from 1YA on October 28. Mr. Harrison needs no introduction to Auckland listeners, the great success he achieved here when touring the New Zealand stations last year being still well remembered. The Australian singer will be heard from 1YA on October 30.