

Radio in Australia

Proposal for a National Board

IT is reported from Canberra that the Commonwealth Government has decided to place broadcasting under the control of a national board with wide powers similar to those in Great Britain, where radio is controlled by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

The existing contract with the Australian Broadcasting Company expires in June next, and in line with the above report a renewal is not contemplated.

Private advice reports that the board will consist of five members, but their personnel has not yet been decided. Legislation will, of course, require to be introduced to give effect to the proposal of Cabinet. It is understood that the provision of a national orchestra is a part of the scheme.

Wrestling Broadcasts Resumed

THE broadcasting of wrestling matches has been resumed by IYA. The Wrestling Association recently withdrew permission while it wrestled with the "gate" question and tried out the effect on the attendances of non-broadcasting. The sequel has been that as the result of the attendances decreasing considerably, it has been deemed advisable to resume the broadcasting of ringside descriptions.



Radio Parts

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8-31

Six Talks on

"The Life and Work of Bernard Shaw"

By the

Rev. William A. Constable, M.A.

Synopsis No. 5.—His Later Philosophy.

(To be broadcast from 1YA, Tuesday, Nov. 17, at 7.30 p.m.)

SHAW develops and applies the philosophy which he first expressed in "Man and Superman" in several of his later plays.

The main theme is carried on in "Back to Methuselah," a sequence of five plays on creative evolution, starting with a very original but beautiful scene in "the Garden of Eden" and ending in the year 31920—"as far as human thought can reach." In the play of the present day it is discovered that for the further evolution of man and society it is necessary that man's life shall be extended to at least 300 years. This happens, and in the concluding play we see a number of "ancients" who have completely outgrown physical passion and live a life of pure thought.

Shaw is thus rather scornful of those who make mere happiness their ideal. But in a passage in "Fanny's First Play" he shows the difference between external pleasure and a deep inner joy.

His philosophy also finds expression in the dialogue between the Roman captain and Lavinia, the Christian convert in "Ardrocles and the Lion."

Captain: "What is God?"

Lavinia: "When we know that, captain, we shall be gods ourselves," and again—"Religion is such a great thing that when I meet really religious people we are friends at once, no matter what name we give to the Divine Will that made us and moves us."

Shaw's somewhat unconventional religious faith is found in a crude form in that melodrama of the American backblocks, "The Showing Up of Blanco Posnet." The hero gives up his chance of escape by giving the horse (which he has stolen) to save the life of a child. He is captured and brought to a rough trial. But he finds that in obeying this urge of God, he is "playing the great game." He has lost the feeling of the "rotteness of life" and now he's "for the great game every time." In his crude way he realises that he has a part to play in co-operating with the Divine Purpose. "He didn't make us for nothing; for He wouldn't have made us at all if He could have done His work without us... He made me because He had a job for me. He let me run loose till the job was ready, and then I had to come and do it, hanging or no hanging. And I tell you it didn't feel rotten: it felt bully, just bully. Anyhow, I got the rotten feel off me for a minute of my life, and I'll go through fire to get it off me again."

Thus Bernard Shaw is no mere cynical pessimist. Behind all his impish humour and his love of "pulling people's legs" there is a fundamental seriousness of purpose, which he has finely expressed in his own words. "I am of opinion that my life belongs to the whole community, and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatsoever I can. I want to be thoroughly worn out when I die, for the harder I work the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no brief candle for me. It is a sort of splendid torch, which I have got a hold of for a moment; and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations."

Point for discussion by groups: How far is the preaching of a message a fault in art? Examples may be taken not only from Shaw, but also from Isaiah, John Bunyan and Robert Browning.

Community Singing

Enjoyed in Norfolk Island

MISS E. FIRMSTON, of Norfolk Island, writes as follows regarding the broadcast of the big sing held in the Wellington Town Hall on the evening of Tuesday, October 13:—

"I am writing from far away Norfolk Island, to say how much we listeners in have appreciated and enjoyed the

broadcast of Community Singing on Tuesday last, October 13.

"I have heard nothing but praise from those New Zealanders who are now settlers here, and fortunate enough to have wireless sets with which to enjoy such a beautiful programme, recalling old times and friends in New Zealand.

"Please let me congratulate you once again, and with hopes that we may again have the good fortune to pick up your programme as you announced would be repeated at the end of the month.

"Your Australian 'Coo-ee' was heard clearly and well, and sounded splendid. Hope it was clearly heard in Aussie."

Veterans' Concert

Unique Programme For 3YA

A CONCERT by artists who were leading performers in Christchurch during the 'nineties, up to the time of the Boer War, is to be given from 3YA on Friday evening, December 4.

The programme will be contributed by:—

Mrs. F. Wilding (mother of the late

Anthony Wilding of tennis fame), well remembered as a fine pianiste.

Mrs. W. F. Tait (soprano).

Mrs. E. W. Pigeon (mezzo-soprano).

Mr. W. J. Trewhern (tenor).

Mrs. H. Bowker (nee Emily Lake, soprano).

Peter Hockley (baritone).

H. H. Loughnan (Christchurch's leading 'cellist in the 'nineties).

Dr. T. L. Crooke (pianist, well-known in musical circles for the past forty years).

Mrs. John Russell (pianiste).

The concert will be in the form of a musical evening, Mr. E. R. Webb being the host. Two nonagenarians, Mr. Geo. Harper and Sir Arthur Dobson, will be present, and another old resident of Christchurch, Mr. Selwyn Bruce, will entertain with reminiscences.

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