

bordering the Persian Gulf, via Zanzibar, I think that is so. Nevertheless it may be doubted if every inhabitant of the island is totally unconnected with slave traffic, and in that island of the unblessed I have seen a large number that I believe could be guilty of anything that was unlawful.

AN entertaining talk was that given by Mr. L. R. Denny, from 3YA, on Tangier, that old world spot passed by multitudes of Britishers but visited by comparatively few. Here, within a few miles of Gibraltar, where so many of our race have been, remain the remnants of that race that kept scholarship alive in south-western Europe when the rest of the continent steeped itself in superstition and ignorance. Here, too, remain the descendants of the Jews whom Torquemada banished from Spain, and consequently sent his country into voluntary liquidation. Mr. Denny deplored the importunities of the professional beggars, but the experienced traveller is not worried greatly by them. The beggar has an uncanny sense of distinguishing the traveller he can worry from the one he cannot. When Tangier and similar places are "radioed" as our own country, I doubt if there will be as many broadcasts for charity as we hear locally. Mussolini cleaned out the persistent beggar in Italy (more or less), and we might have to emulate his rule in the land of the Nordic if we are not to sink to the level of the despised Oriental.

I HEARD the representative of the Department of Health give a very timely talk on the destruction of flies and their breeding grounds the other morning. He mentioned that one authority called the fly nuisance one of the minor horrors of the war. Neither the Health Department or our Military Department seems to me to be quite up-to-date, but it is to be hoped that the soldier in the next war carries in his kit a few flower-pots of "Shoo-Fly" plants. If we can only keep the enemy from obtaining seeds our soldiers might have a horticultural time of it during the next time, instead of the other kind. If the farmer, who the speaker insisted should use every means to destroy the pest, would decorate his smelly places with Shoo and drive the fly into the urban districts, then the popularity of the "mystery trains" would grow amazingly.

ONE of the most interesting talks that I have heard for some time



Sir J. M. Barrie's Famous Comedy,

"What Every Woman Knows"

Will be produced by

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On
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

was that given in a delightful manner during the 2YA educational session by Mr. H. Ninnis, on "Bird Life in the Antarctic." Without doubt Mr. Ninnis has material and a style that holds attention, and it is to be hoped that he may be induced to speak at an hour when more listeners are at home. As we occasionally see about our coasts some of the birds mentioned, the subject had an added charm, but the real charm was in the manner of the telling of the story of our feathered friends.

RUNNING south from New Zealand one soon meets the birds that range hundreds of miles from their nesting places. With the exception of the Emperor penguin, which is known to winter in Antarctica, the bird life is seasonal. The albatross, the biggest flying bird, is early met. Of this species, the Royal, the Wanderer and the "Ancient Mariner" are the best known. The flight of this bird is a never-ending joy to observe, as they literally sail through the air, turning, banking, soaring to great heights, and skimming the wave crests with no noticeable wing movement. The only bird that approaches the albatross for gracefulness in flight is the very good eating bird, the "Cape Hen," which I have not seen often about the New Zealand coasts. Another graceful flyer is the "mollymawk," akin to the albatross, but much more numerous. Our own gulls are much in evidence for some distance south. Fulmers and bosun birds are often seen, and the former inhabits the ocean as far south as the Antarctic continent. The diving petrel can be watched with interest for hours, dropping like a stone from immense heights, to enter the water with the smallest of splashes, in his diving for fish. The petrels are gourmands, and Mr. Ninnis's description of their feeding until they were too full for action and fell helpless on the snow, was both amusing and instructive.

THE birds that have captured everyone's love, however, are the penguins, and of these Mr. Ninnis was most entertaining in his observations. Captain Frank Hurley aroused the whole world's interest in these "Charlie Chaplins" of the feathered tribe, and it is little Adelle that everyone loves. He is undoubtedly the most sea, forests, sunlight and shadow,

popular of all birds, whether we meet him at home or in the pictures. He is a born humorist, with his quaint little toddle, curious alert look, and intense interest in everything out of the ordinary. In a stern, harsh land, he adds a touch of real fun, and none could have recounted better his quaint habits than Mr. Ninnis.

THE selection of Macdowell's "Woodland Sketches" for a place on the programme at 2YA this Friday seems to me to be a happy one. Originally written for the piano, in orchestral form they lose none of their charm, and Mr. de Mauny's concert orchestra will doubtless give them a tender rendering as befits their fragile beauty. Macdowell's music throughout is so healthy, so thoroughly sane, that the tragedy of his last years seem like a specially cruel injustice. Early in 1905 his forty-fifth year, his mind gave way, and he died three years later. Toward the last he was as a little child. He sat quietly, day after day, in a chair by the window, smiling patiently at those about him, turning the pages of a book of fairy tales, which seemed to give him definite pleasure, and greeting with a fugitive gleam of recognition certain of his more intimate friends. At 9 p.m. on January 23, 1908, America's greatest composer passed away in the presence of the heroic woman who for almost a quarter of a century had been his devoted wife, companion, councillor, helpmate and friend.

DESCENDED from Quaker stock of Scottish and Irish origin, he counted himself a genuine American, but despite his real enthusiasm for his own country, he spent a good many years in Europe, and for a time proposed to make Germany his permanent home. The prestige of his success in Europe made him at once the outstanding personality in American music, and he used his position with tact and energy to win for fellow composers something more than local recognition. How well he succeeded in a few short years is best known to the Americans, who hold his memory in affectionate honour. In the best sense his music is popular everywhere. Romantic, picturesque, it is eloquent of the freshness of out-of-doors, breezy and wholesome. The

elves, fairies, and goblins; the moods of nature and man's kinship with her spirit—all these he brings to us easily and naturally. Macdowell loved the hills and streams of his native New England, and the reaches about his home spoke to him in a language that he well understood. What they whispered to him he has translated for us in the beautiful "Woodland Sketches."

AN indication of the type which supplies us with much of our film entertainment was given by Mr. C. A. L. Treadwell when he spoke from 2YA upon the trial for murder of Madeline Smith. This notorious person was discovered in New York by the movie interests, and an endeavour was made to induce Smith to appear on the "fillums," but she had had quite sufficient publicity to last her a lifetime, half a century before. The picture people, frustrated by the firm refusal of Smith to accept, became nasty and tried to have her deported as an undesirable alien. Taken by and large they are a great blessing, are the American film producers. The rumour that Smith lived for some time in Feilding gained considerable currency, and in a way it's a pity she didn't. Wanganui was famous at one time because Tom Long, the hangman, lived near there. It's quite a shameful thing to think that Feilding's claim to fame rests upon a mere rumour.

Radio News

IN America it is explained that the reason for the "microphone crooner" receiving more money than the "straight singer" is because the former receives more abuse.

PRIOR to the late crusade against "pirates" it was estimated that there were 400,000 of these in the London area. The regular and systematic broadcasting of the names of the districts in which the inspector's vans were to operate, together with a large measure of Press publicity, resulted in long queues lining up at the branch post offices for licenses.

THE income of the National Broadcasting Co. of America last year was 26 million dollars, and expenditure amounted to 23 millions. The income of the Colombia system was 11.6 millions and expenditure 10.8 millions. Artists' fees for the year, over the whole of America's 607 controlled stations, represented a disbursement of £5,000,000 sterling.

IN Germany until recently, for a law to become effective it has had to be published. This regulation has now been modified in order that broadcasting of the text of a new law shall be deemed sufficient. As a safeguard, a recording is taken of the transmission when a new law is being broadcast from any station.

IN a letter to the new Australian Broadcasting Commission, the Governors of the B.B.C. state: "Most cordially we wish you every success. We will watch your progress with the greatest interest. As you know, the experience of the B.B.C. is at your service whenever you care to call upon it."

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