

burst. In turn, Brazil has had the monopoly in sugar, cocoa, cotton and rubber, and has derived immense sums from diamond and gold-fields. It was the latter which attracted so many New Zealanders from the Otago School of Mines, and Kia Ora was as familiar in some areas as the Portuguese equivalent for "to-morrow." This immense country is the only one of Latin America which does not have Spanish as the official language, and, unlike other Portuguese colonies, it has not suffered so greatly from miscegenation. It has the largest forests in the world, and yet the great plateau has open country in grass that may one day supply Europe with more, beef than all other countries combined. Some consider that the next booms will be in beef and timber, which will be called upon to assist the coffee trade in the payment of foreign loans. More than half the population of South America is already in Brazil, and yet there is enough room for another 200,000,000 based upon present-day methods of production. Many areas of hundreds of square miles have never been trodden by civilised man, and the pressure of population in Japan may find an easement in Brazil, where the Japanese are flocking in thousands.

UNLESS Miss G. A. Havelaar (3YA) included the islands of the Malay Archipelago in the term India, when speaking of the strong tea with which Hollanders are so fond of regaling visitors—if they don't take gin—I think she may be wrong in calling it Indian tea. Of course, the Dutch refer to the Archipelago as the Indies and have as much right to the name as we have in calling Hindustan India. I have imbibed bucketsful of Java tea in the Netherlands, and nothing can be more vile, unless it is China tea that has already been once through the pot, before being packed for the foreign market, chiefly American. Until the Hollander cultivated the tea bush in Java, the infusion was not a very popular beverage in Holland, and even to-day comes behind coffee in the order of favouritism. Miss Havelaar's description of Holland and its people promises to be most interesting, and I shall be eager to hear her talk on Haarlem.

THE stories told by Mr. G. A. Thomas (1YA), when speaking of pugilism were interesting. It would be news to most of the "fancy" to learn that the closed fist was not

employed in fisticuffs until comparatively recent times, and it would appear that the palm slapping of our comedy wrestlers has the warranty of tradition. Mr. Thomas's comments upon the rules governing a fisticuffs bout by two doughty venches, implies that he is a true and chivalrous sport, as were those who drew up the regulations. With a half-crown held in each hand, and the dropping of one involving disqualification, hair-pulling and scratching were effectually prevented, possibly without the ladies knowing why the half-dollars were introduced.

CAN anyone imagine a more joyful life than one such as that of Jules Massenet, who was a lover of flowers, fair women and melody? These characteristics are reflected in his music, the operas especially, which are not quite as ordinary as the critic of the "Saturday Review" once wrote—"sugar and water with sexual suggestiveness."—the Spanish epic of the eleventh century, "Le Cid," he found something to his taste, and he not unnaturally embodied in the score a good deal of Spanish verve and rhythm, and in the ballet especially, he was notably successful in the fresh and melodious way in which he gave us something of the Southern atmosphere. He took some half-a-dozen national dances of the country for the purpose of this ballet and made them the basis of one of the happiest and most effective portions of his score. The inclusion of the ballet music from "Le Cid" in this Friday's programme at 2YA is an attractive feature. The orchestra is playing four of the numbers, viz.: "Castillane," "Andalouse," "Aubade" and "Aragonaise." The vivid music of Massenet's masterpiece was first heard in Paris in November, 1885, and had for its original representation two such famous voices in the cast as those of Jean de Reszke and Pol Plancon, the greatest tenor and bass of their day.

THE CID, whose prowess has been told in story as well as in opera, was a gallant warrior in the old days when Spain was shaking off the yoke of the Moors. His standing is better appreciated when it is understood that he occupies in Spanish romance, the same position that Arthur does in English story, Charlemagne in French, and Theodorick in German romance. His real name was Rodrigue Diaz de Rivar, and it is said that he was born in Burgos, in 1080, and died in 1099. The facts of his career have been wrapped up by his admiring countrymen in such a haze of glorifying myths that it is scarcely possible to detect them. The opera story reveals his love of a lady, Chimene, who fancies she is in love with him, but when Rodrigue's father quarrels with the father of the lady, there is a pretty how d'ye do." The Cid's father is an old man, and when Gormas, Chimene's parent, insults him, the son takes up his father's cause and slays his opponent. The lady's love turns to hate and she endeavours to influence the king against her erstwhile lover. A new war breaks out, however, and the Cid has to lead the army. The lady's mood again changes. She discovers that she really loves the Cid, but when he returns victorious there is a revulsion of feeling once more

and she demands his execution. The king replies that she herself must pronounce the sentence, but this she will not do. Rodrigue thereupon offers to take his own life, but then Chimene refuses to accept the sacrifice, so that there is no other course left to her but to marry him, and this she does. Such is the opera plot of "Le Cid," a tale of duels, wars, hate, love and the continual conflict of two feelings in the heart of the heroine.

Electricity Speaks for Itself

THE electrical industry has added many new words to common usage. Someone with a humorous bent has compiled a list of terminology to show how easily and briefly the electrician might express himself. Here is what the nucleus of his vocabulary might be to fit the need, personal or otherwise:—
If she comes to call—Receiver.
If she wants an escort—Conductor.
If she wants to be an angel—Transformer.
If she proves your fears are wrong—Compensator.
If you think she is picking your pockets—Detector.
If she is slow of comprehension—Accelerator.
If she goes up in the air—Condenser.
If she wants chocolates—Feeder.
If she is a poor cook—Discharger.
If she eats too much—Reducer.
If she is wrong—Rectifier.
If her hands are cold—Heater.
If she fumes and sputters—Insulator.
If she talks too long—Interrupter.
If she is narrow in her views—Amplifier.
If her way of thinking is not yours—Corrector.
—“Answers” (Eng.).

Topical Notes

DISAPPOINTMENT has been expressed in some circles that the extension of hours for 1YA, 3YA, and 4YA did not include transmissions on Saturday mornings. It is stated that many parents would appreciate a Saturday morning session when the children are at home from school, especially if the mornings happened to be wet.

FROM information supplied to the General Secretary, Post and Telegraphs, it is learned that Mr. M. B. Esson, New Zealand representative to the International Wireless Conference at Madrid, anticipates negotiations will occupy delegates' attention for approximately two months. On the broadcasting side the question of frequency allocations will be investigated in an endeavour to secure for New Zealand suitable frequencies clear of interference from Australian stations.

Manawatu Listeners' Association

Secretary's Report

THE following report has been received from Mr. A. R. Cliffe, hon. secretary of the Palmerston North branch of the Manawatu and District Radio Listeners' Association:—

Since the association was formed on August 2 much ground has been covered, and the intense interest shown by listeners has been very gratifying to those responsible for the association's formation.

The association's primary object is to keep 2ZO on the air, and to assist it financially to keep up the high standard of programmes hitherto transmitted. This popular station, which is owned and operated by Mr. J. V. Kyle, of Palmerston North, was, prior to the association's formation, about to close down owing to financial difficulties. However, assistance was forthcoming and the station has been kept on the air. Secondly, the association will function for the benefit of all listeners generally, and endeavour, by linking up with other Listeners' Leagues already functioning, to keep those "B" stations already established and giving satisfaction from going off the air. Thirdly, to function for the betterment of programmes and to assist listeners in all possible ways by placing before the proper authorities all reported cases of interference.

The association has branches now formed in Pahiatua, Foxton, Feilding, Palmerston North, Rongotea, and Levin, and it is hoped to form further branches at Wanganui, Woodville, and Marton shortly. The membership has grown beyond expectations, and augurs well for the future of the association. The Palmerston North branch committee are acting as the provisional executive, and when all branches are formed their delegates will meet in Palmerston North, when the association will be definitely formed and a central executive established.

The branch association referred to recently in the "Radio Record" is the Foxton branch, and annual subscription to this branch is 1/6. Yearly subscription to the Palmerston North branch, however, is 5/-.

Long Distance Reception

2YA Heard in Alaska

FROM Fairbanks, Alaska, practically half a circuit of the globe, 2YA has received the following letter from Dr. J. A. Sutherland, reporting reception of 2YA's programme on the evening of August 10:—

"Just a line from the Antipodes to let you know that we thoroughly enjoy the concert you are now broadcasting. The Philharmonic selection, the solo by Chaliapin, and the quartet were thoroughly enjoyed, and came through clearly. May you continue to have such acceptable programmes."—Yours sincerely, (Sgd.) J. A. Sutherland."

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