

Auckland Notes

By "Neutron"

THE Szigeti relay, as heard through 1YA, was an outstanding success. In fact the transmission seemed to bring us not only the artistry of a master, but the very atmosphere of the concert hall. It isn't often that tense silence can be effectively broadcast, but it was so in this case. We in the north heard Szigeti's magic and the hushed silence of the big audience, then the tumult of applause. The relay really took listeners into the heart of a musical triumph and it can be said that reception was perfect at this end. Surely all listeners will appreciate the Board's enterprise in this matter—and it should be added that no visiting artiste ever had a more wonderful advertisement. It is a very safe bet that Szigeti's northern tour will benefit as a result of the Wellington relay. It is to be hoped that the policy as disclosed by the Bradman and Szigeti relays will be steadily developed.

THURSDAY evening's Orphans' Club concert was a better balanced programme than has been usual of late with 1YA. With a sound backbone of numbers by the Orphans Orchestra—which is in accord with listeners' preferences—there was good vocalising and some capital elocution. Personally I thoroughly enjoyed Mr. J. W. Bailey's musical monologue, "The Difference." Quite often spoken things that might do well enough from the platform, when the speaker is visible, fail to "get over," on the air. The radio success or otherwise of such an item depends quite largely on the speaker's choice and in this instance the choice was a happy one. There was humour, a surprise ending and at the last a flash of pathos. The whole programme was enjoyable: so too was the evening with the Savoy Quartette on Wednesday.

ON Tuesday Professor R. M. Algie took 1YA listeners to Finland, land of a thousand lakes, which, said the speaker, should really be the land of fifty thousand lakes. One and a half times the area of New Zealand, with four times our population, listeners gathered that it is a paradise for the ladies and architects. Finland was the first country in Europe to give women the vote, and every bride is allowed to bring in her trousseau free of all duty. (Now our tariff is being revised, how about all our bachelor M.P.'s phoning Mr. Downie Stewart on the subject—or is the suggestion a breach of privilege?) Then the architecture of Helsingfors, the capital, it was suggested, would give four acres and a beating to our Dominion towns. The Finns make even their gasworks look beautiful, while their railway station is a model for all Europe. The professor, who in everyday life discourses on law at Auckland Varsity, when not climbing mountains, painted an interesting word picture of his visit to a progressive country and a friendly people.

"SKIPPER," who blows the postman's birthday whistle each Thursday from 1YA and does other things to entertain the kiddies, had a kindly brain-wave a little while back. He discovered that the children in the Auckland

Hospital's isolation ward were really isolated. Cut right off from friends and relatives, they had no wireless to help pass the long lonely time. "Skipper" set out to remedy this through an appeal to his young friends to provide the funds to instal radio in the isolation ward. Last week he announced that he had received £79, and told of one little girl of Herne Bay who planned and carried through a penny concert at her school and so secured £1 for the fund. "Skipper" was justly entitled to sing a paean of triumph, which ended:—

"And almost any day

There'll be music for sick children
Coming through from 1YA."

The idea and the result entitle the originator and the children and grown-ups who helped to warm congratulations.

GERMAN conditions were made appallingly clear by Mr. N. R. Kingston-Smith in 1YA's W.E.A. session on Wednesday. Very few of us have realised what this has meant to New Zealand. Britain is of course our best customer, but most would expect that, normally, the U.S.A. would rank second in trade with us. However, Germany held that position before 1914—which seems a millenium ago. Now with German wages cut, not 10, but 40 and 50 per cent., and German imports restricted to 27 per cent. of the 1929 figures, our trade with Germany is exceedingly small. And the currency smash-up of 1923 is something that suggests New Zealand can still be described as the Fortunate Isles. Fancy the considerable life savings of a family being turned into nearly enough to buy a suit of clothes and the annual pension of a civil servant being almost sufficient to buy a box of matches. And then when things looked up everybody borrowed from abroad, till States, municipalities and individuals were up to the eyebrows in debt with, after the present collapse, nothing to pay with. It wasn't a cheerful picture as the lecturer presented it, but it had the ring of truth—and its always best to know the worst.

CAPTAIN FALCON continuing his exposition of India's North-west Frontier problems, revealed himself as the world's champion egg-eater: he might be described as hard-boiled on that subject. On a tour of inspection—I believe it was done in a day—as the honoured guest of various Pathan villages, he ate, among a variety of other fodder, 36 hard-boiled eggs. In the evening his batman announced, as a treat—more hard-boiled eggs. Just for the moment the gallant Captain felt he would rather face a hungry tiger than the insidious egg. However, he's in form again now and the Government should secure his services at once, as well as those of more Indian Army officers. Such a move would restore prosperity to our harassed poultrymen far more effectively and at much less cost than a dozen wheat cargoes from "Aussie."

OF all 1YA's talks this week I enjoyed most Miss L. M. Cranwell's "Food Plants of the Maori." She knew

The Szigeti Broadcast

Completely Successful Relay

THE enterprise of the Broadcasting Board in arranging for a Dominion-wide relay of the concert by Josef Szigeti on Tuesday, October 4, was more than justified. The broadcast was a triumph for all concerned in it, and provided music of a rare high standard for listeners throughout the Dominion.

Technically the broadcast was perfect—and reception from every part of the Dominion appears to have left nothing whatever to be desired, judging from the voluminous mail and telegrams received by the board and ourselves.

Apart from one or two disgruntled critics, who, without reason or good taste, endeavoured to find fault with the board for arranging the broadcast, the general opinion is that a landmark was definitely made in the Dominion's broadcasting history by the Szigeti concert.

Incidentally, the broadcast affords further evidence, if any is necessary, that broadcasting is the greatest factor in the entertainment world of to-day, for obviously it would have been im-

possible for many thousands of music-lovers to hear this greatest of living violinists had it not been for the board's enterprise in arranging to broadcast his concert.

No other artist who has ever visited New Zealand has had such a great audience as Szigeti, for it is estimated that over 300,000 listeners heard the portion of his concert which was broadcast, and all must have enjoyed the wonderful musical treat which was afforded them.

On top of this evidence of the board's determination to give listeners the best entertainment available comes news that arrangements have been made for a broadcast by the chorus of the Grand Opera Company which is at present touring the Dominion. If this policy of arranging broadcasts by all visiting celebrities can be maintained by the board, the time should not be far distant when the number of licenses in the Dominion will be doubled and ample finance thus be assured to carry out the complete, comprehensive broadcasting system recommended by the Coverage Commission.

Szigeti.

(Broadcast Recital, Tuesday, October 4, 1932.)

*An ecstasy is wrought from trembling strings . . .
Slowly at first as though the artist dreams,
And mellow, like the wine outpoured for kings
In stately far-off times . . .
Until meseems*

*The music changes into beating wings,
Swift wings in flight above the breathless streams
Where now its golden boon the kowhai flings,
And trout leap silver in the white moonbeams.*

*The tone comes wistful now . . . a daffodil
Lit frailly by the light ere sunrise breaks
The darkling line above a bush-sweet hill . . .
O, suddenly the air with passion shakes!
Keen, keen with pain as white as snow-sharp flakes,
O soul have peace! O wounded heart, be still!*

—"Karakia."

her subject and made it interesting. Also she dropped a hint that might lead to the establishment of a new industry. Fern root dried and pounded, she said, was a most valuable food and was regarded as a specific against sea-sickness. How about our scientific researchers following up the trail? There's a fortune in it for anyone who will make our national emblem, the silver fern, the sheet-anchor for distressed ocean voyagers. The importation of kumara, yam, taro, paper mulberry, gourds, etc., by the Maori migrants around 600 years ago, the ceremonial cultivation

of these with the final turning to the East, even the pollination of the gourd flowers by the Maoris, was well told by the speaker. Her picture of olden Maori life and agriculture was something all New Zealanders should be able to see. The fact that the Maori with little flesh food, no grain, and no milk, preserved his fine physique is an interesting dietic fact, while the statement that coast native women eating seaweed and fish were free from goitre while the inland women were subject to it, is one more proof of the need of iodine in the food ration.