

Auckland Notes

By "Neutron"

THOSE who go down to the sea in ships certainly do see wonders in the great waters. Frank Bullen, in his "Cachalot," voyaging came on some strange sights, but nothing to compare with "Old Wire Whiskers" sea battle experience graphically told from IYA on Saturday. It all seemed almost incredible, and yet as he told it one felt the speaker was merely describing details of an extraordinary sea horror he had actually seen. He was, he said, skipper of a schooner that had been up to the Gilberts and was coming south. They were becalmed for three days, and when 100 miles from land, saw a crocodile basking on top of the water, and then scutter away when a hungry shark made a dash for it. On the third day of the calm they could see occasionally, the tops of coconut palms to the north, plumes on the crest of one of the world's greatest submarine mountains—for a mile from its coral shore the sea depth was 5200 fathoms. Here in the gloomy depths of ocean cavern the giant octopi breed, but, as the calm continued and the skipper went off to his bunk for a quiet "caulk," he wasn't thinking of the octopus family, great or small.

HOWEVER, the speaker went on, he was sharply roused by the native bo'sun's shout: "Come quick, Arik! Plenty devil-fish!" The skipper dashed out, to see about a square mile of boiling water. Everywhere in this patch giant feelers were thrusting into the air, some to a height of 10 feet, then the huge bodies of the giant octopi came above the surface. It was that rarest of sea sights, an octopus school. They swarmed around till the small vessel was in the very centre of them, and the fascinated crew noted that the arms at their base were as thick as a man's body. One huge arm clawed at the vessel's deck, but quickly withdrew as if it did not like the feel of the dry wood. Then—"Good God, sir, look astern," the mate called. A school of ferocious sperm whales—there must have been 200 of 60 to 80 feet each in length—plunged at the host of devil-fish, tearing at them and devouring them with incredible ferocity.

THE whales were not the only things after food that hot and windless day. "Old Wire Whiskers" went on. Shoals of sharks and "killers" attacked the big sperms and occasionally fell foul of an enraged octopus. The watchers of that grim sea drama saw a 10 or 12-foot shark held high aloft in the tentacles of a monster of the great depths. A big bull whale, cut off from the rest of the whales, put up a splendid fight against a host of "killers," but the odds were too heavy for him. The octopi knew no fear, but gradually realised they were beaten and slowly sank to the cavernous gloom where only the sperm whales could follow. The "killers" disappeared, and the skipper put out a boat to inspect the battlefield. They found a dead sperm choked by a giant octopus, dead, too, half in and half out of the whale's mouth, with feelers still gripping behind the whale's head. "I think better we go," a native sailor said when a huge "killer" with a nasty look in his

eye sidled alongside the small boat. As they rowed back they saw there were thousands, perhaps millions, of sea-birds feasting on the remains of octopi and the bodies of dead whales. "That was the end of the greatest battle I have ever seen in all my voyaging of the Seven Seas," the speaker concluded. It was first-hand, personal-experience material, very well told, that gripped from the first moment—one of the best for a long time.

A PLANNED offensive for Eastern markets for our produce was again the theme of Mr. Edwards Cortis's lecture from IYA on Monday. Taxation in Britain was too high for land to remain unproductive, he said, and the Old Country was being forced into land development schemes. We in New Zealand had to face the fact that shortly Britain's farm production would be doubled. The speaker urged the formation of export leagues, and offered a definite programme for these. Undoubtedly it would be a fine thing, if, as a result of these talks, and the logic of circumstances, schemes were evolved for pushing our products in the East, where our annual sales total is £500,000, against Australia's £21,000,000. You might call these talks a "Wake Up, New Zealand" series.

I ENJOYED Captain R. H. Neil's talk on "The Arabs" from IYA, but not so well as the first, in which there was a little more of the personal note. So many books have been written around or have dealt with the birth of Islam, that it must be very difficult to tell anything fresh. Mahomet was, of course, one of the really significant figures of history, and there is so much of extraordinary interest about the man and his movements and the notable figures he gathered round him, that it is almost impossible to compress the great men and the great events of a stirring period into fifteen minutes.

MR. G. A. THOMAS came to the rescue on Monday with a talk on British inns and taverns. The recorded programme that illustrated these would have been dull and insipid without the lecturer's interesting and often quite plausible introductions. If we are to have such a preponderance of records from IYA, they go down more easily when pleasantly brought forward as illustrations of some topic of which each is a part. And in addition to sugar-coating the pill, it is an aid to imagination, too, trying to figure out how exactly some do fit in.

MANY of the gardening talks from IYA are not very interesting. They are often too vague and too cataloguey. However, Mr. Worley's talk on Health in the Garden was one out of the box. One of his tips, that birds dislike bright blue in the garden, gave a neighbour his first strawberries of the season. He'd about given up hope, and as a last resort to stop the birds getting everything and laughing at him, tried some rows of blue streamers. He's now laughing and the birds have gone off to plague someone who hasn't a wireless set.

PRIVATE STATION PROGRAMMES

2ZW Programmes

Tuesday, December 6.—7-8.30 a.m.—Daily breakfast session. 10: Devotional service. 10.15: Session for womenfolk. 11.45: Pianoforte recordings. 12.2 p.m.: Lunch session. 5-6: Children's session, conducted by Aunt Joan and assisted by Aladdin, Ali Baba, the Geni and Prince Charming. 7: After-dinner music. 7.30: Talk to motorists. 8: Weather forecast and station announcements. 8.5: Novelty programme by the Vacuum Oil Co. 10-10.55: Dance programme.

Wednesday.—7-8.30 a.m.—Daily breakfast session. 10: Devotional service. 10.15: Session for womenfolk. 11.45: Pianoforte recordings. 12.2 p.m.: Lunch session. 5-6: Children's session, conducted by Uncle Toby and Aunt Joan. 7: After-dinner music. 8: Weather forecast and station announcements. 8.5: Tabloid review by the Merrymakers. 8.30: All-British concert programme. 10-10.55: Dance programme, including a relay of Frank Crowther's orchestra from the Majestic Lounge.

Thursday.—7-8.30 a.m.: Daily breakfast session. 10: Devotional service. 10.15: Session for womenfolk, including a musical programme. 11.45: Pianoforte recordings. 12.2 p.m.: Lunch session. 7: After-dinner music. 8: Weather forecast and station announcements. 8.5: Special quality programme. 10-10.55: Dance programme.

Friday.—7-8.30 a.m.—Daily breakfast session. Silent remainder of day.

Saturday.—7-8.30 a.m.—Daily breakfast session. 10: Devotional service. 10.15: Session for womenfolk. 11.45: Pianoforte recordings. 12.2 p.m.: Lunch session. 10.15: Session for womenfolk. 11.45: Weather forecast and station announcements, together with sporting review. 8.15: Popular concert programme. 10-11.55: Dance programme, including a relay of Mr. Frank Crowther's Orchestra from the Majestic Lounge.

Sunday.—11-12.15 p.m.: Devotional service by the Padre. 8.30: Session of eventide music. 7: Relay of evensong from St. Paul's Pro-Cathedral, Mulgrave Street, Wellington. 8.15: Quality musical programme. 9.55: Epilogue.

Monday.—7-8.30 a.m.: Daily breakfast session. 10: Devotional service. 10.15: Session for womenfolk. 11.45: Pianoforte recordings. 12.2 p.m.: Lunch session. 7: After-dinner music. 7.30: Talk by Mr. S. W. M. Stilling. 8: Weather forecast and station announcements, followed by a brief talk by Mr. A. W. Hawley. 8.15: British concert programme. 10-10.55: Dance programme.

2ZW Notes

A RECORDED version of Handel's "Messiah" will be broadcast from

2ZW on Sunday, December 18, at approximately 8.15 p.m. This work was recorded in the Central Hall, Westminster, and was unanimously agreed upon as being the finest rendering ever heard. It was a performance that gave the masterpiece a new force—vivid and spirited. The conductor was Sir Thomas Beecham, and the soloists were Dora Hubert Bisdell, tenor, and Harold Williams baritone. The choruses were sung by the B.B.C. Choir with organ and orchestral accompaniments.

1ZR Programmes

Friday, December 9.—10.30 a.m.: Devotional service, Uncle Scrim. 11.15: Mr. Muelli. 2 p.m.: Close down. 5: Dinner music. 6: Children's session, Uncle Cam and Fairy Princess. 7: Sports session, Mr. Bill Hindman. 7.45: Relay community singing. 9-10: Popular programme.

Saturday.—10.30 a.m.: Devotional service, Rev. C. Strand. 10.45: Music. 1.30 p.m.: Close down. 5: Dinner music. 6: Children session, Polly Flinders and Jack the Giant-Killer. 7: Sponsored programme. 8: Popular programme. 9: Sponsored programme. 10-11: Dance session.

Sunday.—9 a.m.: Uncle Tom's children's service. 9.45: Uncle Scrim conducting studio church service, with 1ZR Broadcasting Choir. 10.30: Close down. 6 p.m.: Miss Baker's Church of England children's service. 7: Relay Dallimore mission service. 8.30-9.30: Studio standard classics.

Monday.—10.30 a.m.: Devotional service, Mr. Garner. 11.15: "Maorilandier." 2 p.m.: Close down. 5: Dinner music. 6: Children's session, Hoppy. 7: Sponsored programme. 8.10: Karangahape Road B.P. Society programme.

Tuesday.—10.30 a.m.: Devotional service, Uncle Scrim. 11.15: Mr. Norman Kerr. 2 p.m.: Close down. 5: Dinner music. 6: Children session, Aunts Ruth and Nina. 7: Music. 8-10: Popular programme.

Wednesday.—10.30 a.m.: Devotional service, Uncle Scrim. 11.15: Mrs. Cassidy. 2 p.m.: Close down. 5: Dinner music. 6: Children's session, Uncle Tom. 7: Sponsored programme. 8: Sponsored programme. 8.30: Popular programme. 9: Quigley Ltd. programme. 9.30-10: Popular programme.

Thursday.—10.30 a.m.: Devotional service, Uncle Scrim. 11.15: Madam Milne. 2 p.m.: Close down. 5: Dinner music. 6: Children's session, Wendy. 7: Sponsored programme. 8: Sponsored programme. 10: Dance session. 11: Close down.

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