

Gracie Fields. is well known to all listeners and record-lovers. Once a mill hand in Lancashire, Gracie Fields is now one of the most popular of the world's theatre artists. Her voice, natural wit and power of mimicry have been the instruments responsible for her meteoric rise to fame. In her mill days this ability enabled her to supplement her small wage by performing small parts on the stage. She was discovered and has since never looked back; but at times she goes back to Lancashire and is treated as royalty. Recently she accepted a phenomenal £2000 a week Broadway engagement, which she broke after a fortnight in New York and returned to England, despite threatening managers and the fat offers of movie magnates. Her screen debut was made in "Sally of Our Alley," for which "Sally" and "Fall in and Follow the Band" were specially written, while her Fred Fanaskapan is a household word the English-speaking world over.

Hogmanay. I notice that a Hogmanay party is to be broadcast from 4YA on New Year's Eve. From that, most people would gather that Hogmanay is another word for New Year's Eve. Which is exactly what it is, the name being fairly common in Scotland and in some parts of the north of England, where it is applied not only to the festive eve but also to the cake which is distributed at that time of the year to children. It is customary for the youth of the village to go from door to door on December 31, singing:

*Hogmanay, trubolay,
Gie's o' your white bread and nane o'
your grey,*

and begging for small gifts or alms. These usually take the form of an oat-cake.

Spring-time in the Forest. What promises to be an interesting programme is scheduled for 4YA on Monday, when a cycle, "the Music of the Seasons," will be broadcast. The natural atmosphere for such a title as "Spring-time in the Forest" (one of the numbers in the cycle) is one of delicate romance. You know, swaying ferns, sighing zephyrs and you, type of thing. Not so with me. I love the forest, and thither hie my way on every available weekend to drink smoky tea and sleep on an uncomfortable bed of fern with mosquitoes and sandflies zooming round. The spring-time is definitely out of it when it comes to camping out, but nevertheless there is the outdoor summons, and away we go. One chooses a place to camp where there is plenty of firewood and a fairly substantial roof of leaves. Fern and beech are good; they are so clean underneath. The evening prayer is that it doesn't rain or get too cold in the night. Of course, it does, and one hasn't brought the tent or it is so cold that every few hours one has to get up and pile up the fire, and probably on returning to the somewhat solid fern see someone has rolled over into your place. But that is only my version of spring-time in the forest. Probably you see it differently.

Nelle Scanlan is scheduled to give a series of four lectureries from 2YA in January. She is a writer of wide experience, who during the past ten years has travelled over a great part of the world. She was born in Picton and educated at the Convent of Mercy. For a number of years she wrote short stories and sketches under the name of "Nicholas M. Stack," and her first novel, sent to England during the war, was sunk in a torpedoed vessel. During the war Miss Scanlan went into daily journalism, going from reporter to sub-editor, and in 1921 she made her first venture abroad, as New Zealand correspondent at the Limitations of Arms Conference in Washington. Since then (with the exception of

Here and There

Selections from this week's Programmes

By "TRIPLE GRID"

a short period in New Zealand five years ago) she has travelled the world, writing for English and British overseas, American and Canadian newspapers. In the past five years she has visited over 23 countries. Her first two novels had an English setting. "Pencarrow," which has just gone into its third edition, is the first of a New Zealand Saga. The second volume, "Tides of Youth," which will appear about April, is nearly completed and brings the Young Pencarrows to the end of the war. The third book will carry the Pencarrow story up to the present day. Miss Scanlan is visiting New Zealand for the summer, and will return to England next year.

The Year Reviewed. A lecturer will take this for his subject at 3YA on Thursday—not an unusual title for this time of the year. I suppose there is something that can be said about 1932, but precious little. It has been one of those uneventful years that are recorded in history only as a gap in the usual stirring times. The year opened promisingly. There was Japan and China flying at one another's



High Spots in the Programmes

"THE DUMB WIFE"—1YA, Monday.

"A PANTOMIME OF PANTOMIMES"—2YA, Monday.

"MUSIC OF THE SEASONS"—4YA, Monday.

WELLINGTON TRAMWAYS BAND—2YA, Thursday.

HOGMANAY PARTY—4YA, Saturday.

AUCKLAND MUNICIPAL BAND—1YA, Sunday.

The Talks

"THE DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN TURKEY"—4YA, Monday.

"CAMPING"—3YA, Thursday.

"THE YEAR REVIEWED"—3YA, Thursday.

"LOOKING BACKWARD"—2YA, Sunday.

throats, and all the world sending little notes telling them to be quiet, which they eventually were. There was the sensational murder of the French Premier, an invasion of New Zealand by English talkies. The Olympic Games (good old N.Z.) the development of the ten new radio valves to puzzle servicemen, the death of Phar Lap, the opening of the Empire broadcasting station, further reductions in salaries, the Ottawa Conference (I wonder why those two are associated?), better programmes from the Y.A. stations, de Groot opening the greatest bridge in the world, the dock, the riots in New Zealand's main towns, and England making the gold standard a thing of the past. The year has ended with butter and cheese well to leg, with wool, well, anywhere but in the right place. Welcome, 1933.

Aileen Johns, dramatic soprano, will give a song recital from 2YA on January 5, in conjunction with Mr. Dennis Johns, who will present selections from the works of modern poets. Madame Johns, who is well known throughout New Zealand as a concert artist and teacher, received her early training with the late Madame Emily Briggs; and at the early age of 20, after a successful season at the Wellington Competitions, obtained her first engagement with the Wanganui Male Choir. Later she studied with the Scottish baritone, Fraser Gange; and some four years ago left New Zealand with her husband for London and Milan. A great future in Wagnerian opera was predicted for her by Maestro Tanara, Milan's foremost operatic coach; but the Napier earthquake altered her plans, necessitating a return to New Zealand. Taking up her residence in Auckland at the end of last year, Madame Johns has already established herself in the forefront of the musical life of the Queen City. Listeners-in will have an opportunity of hearing her from 2YA in: Arie, "Vissi d'arte" from "La Tosca," Puccini; "Old Mother Hubbard," Hutchinson; "The Cuckoo," Lehmann; "Standchen," Strauss; "Devotion," Strauss; and "Two Frogs," Howell.

Dennis Johns, who will give a joint recital with Madame Aileen Johns, received his training in London with Professor Cairns James, of the Royal College of Music and Guildhall School of Music. Owing to his fine work as a dramatic and concert artist, he has received engagements with the leading musical societies of Auckland. He is a recitalist who grips his audience with his magnetic personality and charm of manner. Press criticisms of his performances speak of his great powers of characterisation and all-round ability to portray comedy as well as tragedy, coupled with excellent and cultured diction and a rich, resonant, and melodious voice. Mr. Johns is presenting the following selection of numbers by modern writers from 2YA on January 5: "He Fell Among Thieves," Newbolt; "The Old Grey Squirrel," Noyes; "Be Fit," Kipling; "Song of the Market-place," Buckham; "Will She Be Waiting?" Up?" Hayes; "My Family," Anon.

Dame Sybil Thorndike. A last-minute announcement comes to hand that on Thursday 2YA will broadcast a reception tendered to Dame Sybil Thorndike, the eminent English actress, who is making her first tour of New Zealand. Her N.Z. plays include Bernard Shaw's "Saint Joan," which the author wrote especially for Miss Thorndike. Her performance of "Saint Joan," although it poignantly touches the deeper notes of the maid's tragedy, is also shot through with lively shafts of humour and folk comedy. Her "Joan" is a vividly living girl, as well as an inspired saint. Miss Thorndike's international reputation is, from the point of view of the man in the street, perhaps most closely associated with tragic and classical work, her remarkable successes in the impersonation of the