

leading Shakespearean and Greek classical roles having associated her, in the popular mind, with the more serious drama. As a matter of fact, she is quite as good a comedienne as a tragedienne. Artists of the class of Duse and Bernhardt have, of course, been specialists in one particular range of work, but Miss Thorndike is recognised throughout the English theatre-going world as an extremely versatile artist.

Our Mailbag

Amateur or Professional?

WHEN Mr. Merritt was giving some of his interesting experiences in League Cricket from 3YA on Monday evening, he stated that if a professional or an amateur made an outstanding score or took a generous number of wickets, the hat would be taken round for that player's benefit. Now the point is, can the player claim to be an amateur after he has received money for taking part in his Saturday afternoon's sport? Certainly not. He is as much a professional as any other man who receives wages from the League.—J.P. (Dunedin).

Questionnaire Thought Ambiguous.

THE discontent of many listeners can be traced to the fact that results from the questionnaire have not been put into effect. A point worthy of notice was that no mention was made of dance music in connection with the "order of preference" items, so a large number voted for bands, meaning naturally, dance music and not brass bands playing mournful overtures, etc. A large number voted for "light orchestral items," trying to express a desire for exactly the same thing, i.e., more bright dance music. In return, we have an increase in the not very popular light operas, Gilbert and Sullivan, and similar distinctly overdone items. Briefly, all the present discontent could be allayed if the board would admit that it made an error in the composition of its first questionnaire—quite a human thing to do—and break down the present mournful programmes with thirty per cent. of dance tunes. This would also do away with any danger of a shortage of records for broadcasting purposes, as dance tunes are coming out literally by the thousands. Do you know of anyone strong enough to whisper to the board that pianos, carillons, and grand opera singers are extremely poor entertainment?

You made a rather unfortunate choice in selecting the 2YA programme of December 7 as a sample of how the board is trying to cater for us. Although it read all right, its place was taken by some society giving long-winded speeches, stressing obvious points with which we are already too familiar. Admittedly we do get a brief session of dance music occasionally, but this is put on late in the evening, when most folk are in bed. No, Sir, there is far too much mournful music. Whether it is classical or not matters not a whit. What does matter is—Is it bright and digestible? If it isn't, then it is not fit fare for broadcasting.—"Entertainment Lover" (Auckland).

An Unbiased Critic.

IF J.H.P. thinks that I have any ulterior motive (I presume he thinks

The Christmas Menu



What to listen to

CHRISTMAS EVE

Saturday, December 24

1YA—

8-10 p.m.: Miscellaneous programme. 10 p.m.: Sports summary. 10.10-11.10 p.m.: Dance music. 11.10-12 midnight: Christmas carols and old-time songs by 1YA Broadcasting Choir.

2YA—

8.10 p.m.: Miscellaneous programme. 10 p.m.: Sports summary. 10.10 p.m.: Dance programme. 11 p.m.: Relay from Adelphi Cabaret. 11.30 p.m.: Selected Christmas recordings. 11.50-1.10 a.m.: Relay midnight Mass from St. Gerard's Redemptorist Church. 1.10 a.m. (approx) Close down.

3YA—

8-10 p.m.: Miscellaneous programme. 10 p.m.: Sports summary. 10.10 p.m.: Dance music. 11.10 p.m.: Christmas recordings, including "Scrooge," by Bransby Williams. 11.45 p.m.: Relay of peal of bells from Christchurch Cathedral. 11.55 p.m.: Rebroadcast from Wellington of midnight Mass from St. Gerard's Redemptorist Church.

4YA—

8-10 p.m.: Relay of programme from 3YA, Christchurch. 10 p.m.: Sports summary. 10.10 p.m.: Dance music. 11.30-12 p.m.: Recorded Christmas music.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday, December 25

1YA—

11 a.m.: Relay of service from St. Matthew's Church. 2 p.m.: Selected recordings. 6 p.m.: Children's Song Service. 7 p.m.: Relay of service from Baptist Tabernacle. 8.30 (approx.): Miscellaneous studio programme.

2YA—

10 a.m.: Christmas service from studio. 2 p.m.: Selected recordings. 6 p.m.: Children's Song Service. 7 p.m.: Relay of service from St. Thomas's Anglican Church. 8.15 p.m. (approx.): Radio "Travelogue," by Mr. L. E. Strachan. "Christmas Time in Merry England."

3YA—

10 a.m.: Christmas service from the Studio. 2 p.m.: Selected recordings. 5.30 p.m.: Children's Song Service. 7 p.m.: Relay of service from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. 8.15 p.m.: Relay of programme from 4YA, Dunedin.

4YA—

10 a.m.: Christmas service from the Studio. 2 p.m.: Selected recordings. 5.30 p.m.: Children's Song Service. 6.30 p.m.: Relay of Evening Service from St. Andrew's Street Church of Christ. 8.15 p.m.: Miscellaneous Studio Programme.

BOXING DAY

Monday, December 26

2 a.m.—All YA Stations—Rebroadcast of the Inter-Empire Programme from the Daventry Short-wave Station of the B.B.C. (approximately one hour).

I am connected with the trade, I can soon put his mind at rest. I have absolutely none, nor am I even a member of a "B" station club. As regards the vexed question of Government control, I can only refer him to the "Radio Record" of November 13, 1931, page 3, and leave him to puzzle it out for himself. Well-knowing the Government's genius for meddling in private affairs,

it would indeed be surprising if it did not have a large say in radio matters.

Personally, I do not care who runs the service, provided it is well run and adequate. I am only concerned about 1YA's evening programmes, which, at present, are no compliment to the board. I say nothing about the other sessions, because, on the whole, they are good.—W.M.B. (Auckland).

Talking to the World

Development of Radio Telephone

"THE ultimate aim is to build circuits so that anyone in New Zealand can talk to anyone else in the world by radio telephone," said Mr. J. O. Fairbairn, Christchurch district telegraph engineer, in talking of the extension of the service to Lisbon from December 5.

The radio-telephone service has been in use for over a year, but there has not been a great deal of work done from Christchurch. The work that had been done was quite satisfactory. Unless everything was quite right the calls were not put through.

Within a very short time it is hoped to be able to establish contact with any part of the world. To that end the department has been going along steadily building up the New Zealand circuit by replacing iron wire with copper wire.

At the present time only minor wires remain to be replaced in Canterbury. The work has been going on for 10 years in the Dominion.

The biggest wire replacement job done in Canterbury was that between Christchurch and Timaru, a work which was finished last year. The distance is 100 miles, and from eight to 10 wires had to be replaced, making a total of practically 1000 miles. He pointed out that the radio telephone service was always up against atmospherics.

Mr. J. G. Young, acting chief postmaster, Christchurch, points out that the minimum charge for a call to Lisbon will be £8/5/- for three minutes and £2/15/- for each additional minute. The report charge is £1/10/-.

Radio Round the World

THE radio crooner, of which Rudy Vallee, is America's most popular example, has been described by a writer as "Marconi's Gift to the Morons."

LECTURERS intending to broadcast from Austrian stations are required to practice before the microphone, no matter how distinguished they may be in platform speaking.

THE literary department of the German Broadcasting Organisation has decided to concentrate upon the classics adapted for wireless, as the average radio play has not proved popular with listeners.

It is announced by the Westinghouse Electric Company that it is prepared to undertake cooking meals by radio. The company's engineers assert that the home-cook is doomed, and the future up-to-date house will have a radio cooker installed.

FROM time to time during the winter months the Denmark stations propose to rebroadcast items originating at the Greenland station's studio at Julianabaab. European listeners are advised to keep a look-out for these transmissions, as it is stated that music provided by Eskimos is highly interesting.