

Auckland Notes

By "Neutron"

THE Christmas carol concert relayed by 1YA from the Town Hall on Saturday was a very fine performance, the more so as at the last minute Mr. George Buckley, Auckland City's bandmaster, had, through Mr. Hudson's indisposition, to conduct both band and choir. At 4.35 a.m. on Christmas morning, I don't like carols a little bit, but in the evening, and capably sung by a big, well-trained choir, they were entirely enjoyable. The band too was in fine fettle, Hal McLennan's flute solos were deservedly encored, and I enjoyed the organ solos by the city's three honorary organists far more than usual with this type of music over the air. The fly in the ointment was the announcing. There was hardly any of it, and on my little set at least, that little was inaudible. However, unless I need the attention of an aurist I did hear Gounod's great "Ave Maria" called "ave Marie," the first word being pronounced as the characteristic Cockney says the verb "have." However, apart from this, the concert was thoroughly enjoyable.

MR. E. W. WRIGHT, speaking from 1YA on Saturday evening in the pre-concert session, had something to say about dahlias that gardeners would do well to take very generally this hot, dry weather. "The dry spell has set in early," Mr. Wright said, "and it looks as if we were in for a long, hot summer." That being so, the chief thing now is water; no half-measures, but a thorough soaking that will last a week. If the plants miss this the wood hardens and there will be a stunted plant and few flowers. To conserve the moisture in the soil and stop the ground from baking, he added that mulching was essential. In a small way, the lawn cuttings could be used; if not straw or hay. However, those with bigger gardens, he suggested, should use spent hops, and later if these were dug in they would make good manure. Now, that seems sound advice for almost any plants this weather. Mulch first and water after, and the plants in any garden should stand up to any amount of a typical Auckland roaster summer, which seems to be well on the cards. At any rate I'm taking Mr Wright's tip for tomatoes and a few other things. The gardening, and the farming talk too, certainly contain helpful ideas.

TALKING of helpful ideas, home science talks prepared by Otago University have been of definite value to the womenfolk, but a recent one given to Auckland listeners by 1YA only made my mouth water. It was a scorching day and the title, "Summer Beverages," was distinctly alluring. However, the opening remarks shattered all dreams of something cooling into fragments. "Most of you have raspberries in your gardens," the speaker commenced, and went on to elaborate various sorts of raspberry drinks. Auckland listeners don't have any raspberries in their gardens, and very, very rarely see any of them in the shops. And those recipes that didn't have raspberries needed ice, which is rather bothersome to get in the small home. So, after all, it will have to be home brew—and the spent hops can go on the garden. As stated, the home science talks are usually very good. This was merely one that wasn't suited to Auckland conditions.

THIS has been quite a band week, which should surely please listeners. The Municipal Band was heard at Saturday night's carol concert from 1YA, and again on Sunday in a fine concert also relayed by 1YA from Albert Park. Then in lighter but pleasing vein, the Auckland Watersiders' Silver Band came across from the 1YA studio on Wednesday in an entertaining programme. This should quieten those who are keen to have the programme follow the questionnaire.

THE second evening with station "O, I say! Auckland," presented by 1YA on Monday, while lacking the novelty of the original presentation, served its purpose as farcical entertainment that got a laugh. Mr. Len Barnes is so good as a harried announcer that one is tempted to think he must have had considerable experience in being harried. (Not married, please, Mr. Printer.) Then there was the Hang Chow Chinese Orchestra and some trial turns for which one would be tempted to hang Europeans. It was quite a cheerful evening, finished off with the Winter Garden Orchestra for those who like modern dance music.

ON Monday evening coming events cast their shadows before. In the farce hour at a Radio Studio presented by 1YA, was an attempt to broadcast an overseas short-wave programme. It was all whistle and howl and surge. Later in the evening 1YA tuned in to the new Empire short-wave station at Daventry and in two separate shots it was merely like a heavy surf on an ocean beach. The imitation was much ahead of the original. For the third try 1YA went to 2YA and got some dance music, rather distorted. The second evening was only slightly

better. 1YA is not good at these short-wave attempts: I have often heard private sets do far better direct under identical conditions, but still, it does seem as if the technicians in England have still several big problems to solve before Empire short-wave climbs out of the mere novelty class into that of real entertainment. Here's wishing them good luck and a big improvement in their transmissions.

1ZR continued its sporting service on Saturday evening when it put over a bright account of the broadcasting at Western Springs. Broadsideing has not been drawing as once it did, but this is largely on account of John Citizen's need for economy. Undoubtedly quite a large section would, however, still enjoy these broadcasts.

REVIEWING some of the ground he had already traversed, in his "Export Trading Problems" talk from 1YA on Tuesday, Mr. Edward Cortis said the major and vital problem of this country was not to secure more production—at a loss—but to find new and profitable outlets for our produce. The present outlook was black. The Dominion's one and only outlet, the great British market, was completely saturated. He suggested a Dominion-wide organisation with a capital of £500,000, interest on which in the establishment years might even be guaranteed by the Government. This organisation would seek out and build up new markets in the East and in South America, launching a campaign for the supremacy of New Zealand exports there, with high-class, graded products all under one standard trade mark. Something of this sort is certainly urgently needed—the logic of circumstances is all with Mr. Cortis. It is interesting to learn that dairy companies are taking a wide interest in his talks.

DURING Tuesday evening the manager of the Young Australia Band now touring the Dominion spoke very briefly from 1YA. He announced that he carried greetings from the Governor-General and Prime Minister of the Commonwealth to Lord Bledisloe and Mr. Forbes, and the knee-high drummer of eight years, smallest member of the party, called: "Hello, New Zealand." Unfortunately they had sported with the tail of a cyclone on the way across the Tasman, so that the full band was still too weather-bound to face the mike. However, a youthful violinist, with remarkable tone and execution, presented "On Wings of Song," and a boy soprano of the party also sang.

Radio Round the World

THE names of the six announcers of the B.B.C., formerly kept secret by the authorities, were revealed by an English newspaper recently. They are all distinguished university men, five having graduated from Oxford, and the sixth, the chief announcer, from Cambridge.

THE Electrical and Radio Development Association in New South Wales has decided to hold an exhibition in the Sydney Town Hall during the ten days between March 22 and April 7, 1933. Considerable space has been already booked, and it is thought that the Postmaster-General's Department will take the whole of the basement.

THE governors of the B.B.C. have agreed to permit regular political broadcasts. The decision means that one of the strictest bans is to be lifted, and politicians of standing will be allowed to broadcast their political views. The B.B.C. intends to exercise particular care in presenting a "balance" in broadcasts on controversial subjects.

THIRTY-ONE years ago, on the twelfth day of December to be precise, the first wireless signals were received across the breadth of the Atlantic Ocean. Over a year later, on December 22, 1902, the first wireless communication was transmitted across the Atlantic, by Senator Marconi to King Edward at Buckingham Palace, and read:—"On occasion of first wireless telegraphic communication across Atlantic Ocean may I be permitted to present, by means of this wireless message transmitted from Canada to England, my respectful homage to his Majesty the King."

AT the end of November, 1922, 18,000 licenses had been taken out in Great Britain. By the end of November, 1932, the number had risen to nearly 5,000,000. The first B.B.C. office consisted of half a dozen rooms and a single studio, which could not contain an orchestra of twelve without the doors were left open. In 1932 headquarters contains 22 studios, one of which can accommodate a symphony orchestra and an audience of nearly six hundred. Such graphic contrasts depict better than words the success of the first ten years of British broadcasting.



Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Bailey.

Well-known Auckland entertainers, who will give several elocutionary items from 1YA on Wednesday, January 4.

—S. P. Andrew photo.