

# STATIC

by  
"SPARK"

THE talk given from 2YA by Mr. E. D. Andrews, ex tennis champion of New Zealand and Cambridge Blue, was full of interest. Mr. Andrews remarked that it was nearly six years since he left New Zealand for Cambridge, where he gathered many lasting memories. Since his departure he has travelled in many lands, and come in contact with a number of well-known personalities. Tennis has taken him and his racket on many interesting excursions, from playing on the covered courts at Bremen, where during the winter men were required to sweep the snow from the glass roof to allow light to penetrate, to India, under the auspices of the India Office, when the anti-British tension was somewhat relieved by four British tennis stars appearing in Bombay and elsewhere, engaging Hindus, Mohammedans, Parsees, and members of other factions in friendly play. Study of export markets has taken Mr. Andrews on other voyages, and his observations upon long-established and contemporary customs in the East were very interesting to hear. Regarding the Singapore Naval Base, which he was privileged to inspect, Mr. Andrews remarked that he thought the base a very necessary one, and all those who are capable of realising that our being is dependent upon Britain's power at sea will heartily agree with his opinion.

THE talks by Mr. Charles E. Wheeler from 2YA about his recent wanderings in London, beside being instructive, are most entertaining. The information that he gave regarding the marketing of our produce was especially acceptable. While waiting on Crevé station for the Scotch express, Mr. Wheeler was somewhat surprised to learn that the bulk wagons, similar to the petrol wagons we are familiar with on our railways, were milk containers bound for London dairies, and this gave him cause to wonder from what distance London drew upon for its milk. In my days of residence there a good deal of it came from France, and I wouldn't be surprised if it still does. It was gratifying to learn that shops stocking colonial produce are no longer stigmatised as "cheap shops" and it was good news to hear that New Zealand's goods and name hold definitely a warm place in the hearts of a large number of housekeepers. According to Mr. Wheeler, the various boards are doing a great work, and this assertion coming from an unofficial observer carries conviction. The butter authorities have a huge task before them to convert the Danish butter consumer over to Empire butter. Personally, I could never eat Danish butter and preferred the very indifferent Irish. My experience was that the best households used Danish for cooking only, but the boards have a job in weaning the British public from a depraved taste.

Mr. Wheeler's description of the market in Petticoat Lane on a Sunday morning was a delight to listen to, and would recall to many the strident bantering of the vendors. At one time one of the second-hand clothes dealers in the Lane was an entertainment, although his jibes and quips became tame after a while. I have often heard him endeavour to elude a bargain when selling an old frock coat, and his

## Sporting Events

Monday, January 30—

11.30 a.m.: 1YA Relayed description of Takapuna Jockey Club's Meeting.

1YA: During the evening relayed description of Auckland Centre's swimming championship.

Wednesday, February 1—

11 a.m.: 3YA Relayed description of Sanders Cup Race.

9.2 a.m.: 1YA Talk by Mr. Sam. J. Gudsell, "Personal Notes on Outstanding Olympic Celebrities of Los Angeles."

Thursday, February 2—

11 a.m. (approx.): 3YA Relayed description of Sanders Cup Race.

Friday, February 3—

11 a.m. (approx.): 3YA Relayed description of Sanders Cup Race.

11 a.m.: 4YA Relay description of Plunket Shield Match, Otago v. Canterbury (hourly descriptions of 15 minutes each).

7.30 p.m.: 1YA Sports talk by Gordon Hutter.

Saturday, February 4—

11 a.m.: Relayed description of Plunket Shield Match, Canterbury v. Otago (hourly descriptions of fifteen minutes each).

12.15 p.m.: 3YA. Relay of N.Z. Metropolitan Trotting Club's meeting.

10 p.m.: All YA Stations—Sports summary.

peroration with "It's come off a Lord—the Lord knows who," and when a prospective purchaser of a reefer jacket hesitated, he was further induced to buy with "Here you are, the best navy blue reefer jacket—navy blue, indigo blue, sky blue, blued until it could blooming well be blued no longer—come of a 'drabbed sea-keptin'." Mr. Wheeler expressed some surprise in observing the works of watches for sale without cases. Might I be allowed to say that there was indeed no cause for wonder. Obviously the cases had not been stolen in time to have the works fitted in. Many of the stallholders blatantly assert that their goods are cheap because they cost them nothing but the labour in thieving.

AFTER listening to 2YA's gardening expert I have reluctantly come to the conclusion that my fancied knowledge of horticulture had better be forgotten. Prior to the inception of the series I believed I knew quite a lot about the dirt and its whiskers, but my fancied knowledge is gradually disintegrating. Last week a correspondent asked the speaker the reason why a walnut tree refused to bear nuts, and there immediately arose in my memory the rhyme that has been stored away for more years than I care to recall, about "A woman, a dog, and a walnut tree, the more you flag them the better they be." However, the expert said nothing about punishment, but recommended root-pruning. Specialisation knocks the romance out of everything nowadays!

AN engaging orchestral item on 2YA's programme last Friday night was the tone poem entitled "Phaeton," by Saint-Saëns. It was odd to give the name phaeton to the elegant light carriage in which ladies used to take the air in the park. The original chariot, a car of fire, was a different vehicle. The youth Phaeton, being allowed by his father the Sun to drive the fiery chariot, lost control of the steeds and the flaming car was in danger of setting the earth on fire when Jupiter hurled a thunderbolt, saving the earth, but destroying Phaeton. This is the legend which Saint-Saëns illustrates in his tone poem, written sixty years ago. We have here a fine example of vivid tone-painting, for the music tells its own story even if the listener is unacquainted with the old Greek myth it illustrates, as it suggests a daring and terrific ride of some sort, ending in catastrophe. This number has not been heard very often in New Zealand, and for this and some other numbers infrequently heard and which appeal with their freshness, listeners are grateful to Mr. de Mauny and his orchestra.

THE Melody Four were at one time the most popular quartet of male harmonisers in the Dominion, and I always made a point of hearing every broadcast. Since they added their own accompanist and changed the cognomen to Melody Five, they seldom broadcast an accompanied item I really enjoy. Last week I listened to them once more, and though I liked the blend of the new voice, I do not think the accompanist is as sympathetic as he might be.

IN his illuminating talk from 3YA on the "Hosiery Industry," Mr. F. C. Fairbrother mentioned some facts that are of more than passing interest. The inventor of the original knitting machine for stocking-making was not connected with the trade, but was a

clerk in holy orders by the name of Lee. The first pair of stockings machine-made in England were woven by Queen Elizabeth, who agreed to the enactment of a law disallowing the use of machines for hosiery-making, because of the number of hand-knitters that would be thrown out of employment. Science, however, will not be denied, and the machine manufacture of hosiery has to-day attained gigantic proportions. Last year the output of full-fashioned silk hose only in the United States reached the amazing figure of fifty-nine and a half million dozen. To this number Germany added forty million dozen and Great Britain twenty-six million dozen, while nearly every civilised country added its quota to the staggering number. One might ask where do they all go, especially when considering that much less than one-half of the human race uses them. In my bachelor days I was generous to the sock manufacturers, for as soon as a hole appeared they went the way of the old safety-razor blade—dumped anywhere. Probably some repose in the harbour which Mr. Will Yates uses for his old blades. But no lady would do such a thing, nor does a lady discard a pair of stockings merely because a small hole has developed in one of them.

ACCORDING to Mr. Fairbrother, "Rayon" was a poor material when first introduced to the market, and was suitable for draperies only. It had positively no wearing qualities, and an attempt at washing meant its dissolution and disappearance. But like cotton, which when first employed could only be woven as a web for linen warps, scientific improvements have made both cotton and rayon into materials that have excellent wearing qualities. Without a doubt rayon is gradually but surely displacing natural silk. Each year sees an improvement in texture and strength, and a reduction of costs of manufacture, and although the material is widely used even to-day, its employment for other purposes increases daily. It has been claimed that short skirts gave an impetus to rayon production. This may be questioned, for it may be that artificial silken hose, cheap but strong, and of good appearance, made the vogue of the abbreviated skirt possible.

FREDERICK SMETANIA was, like all natives of Bohemia, an intense patriot, and a lover of the natural beauties of his country. He wrote a series of six symphonic poems in praise of Bohemia, entitled "My Country." One of these refers to the river "Ultava," or Moldau, Bohemia's most important waterway. The music pictures the course of the river, described in the composer's own words in the preface to