

Serials continue to be popular, and during the year dramatizations were presented of famous novels such as "David Copperfield," "The Moonstone," "The Women in White," "Dombey and Son," "The Gentleman Rider," "The Chammings," "The Mystery of Darrington Hall."

The writing and production of dramatic and other special features are being increasingly carried out by the Productions Branch of the Service. In all these productions local actors and actresses are employed. Special encouragement has been given to New Zealand writers, and a number of their plays have been purchased during the year.

The winning entries of the radio play-writing competition held in connection with the Centennial celebrations will be broadcast.

A special feature of the work of the Productions Branch has been the National Service programmes. Specially written and produced by the Service, these programmes commemorate special events, or provide information relative to war news or otherwise further the war effort. Prominent among such programmes have been "London," "The Channel—Moat of England," "Gibraltar," "Malta," "The Glory That is Greece," and "The Romance of Paper."

Our historic collection of recordings of speeches and events made possible the programme "One Year of War," which was broadcast on the first anniversary of the outbreak of hostilities. This programme, which was widely appreciated, was compiled by the Service from this collection.

LIGHT MUSIC AND VARIETY.

A liberal amount of light entertainment, both musical and spoken, was broadcast from each station. This was built up from the best available local talent and the wide selection of gramophone recordings in the libraries of the Service.

There were studio broadcasts by New Zealand military, brass, pipe, and novelty bands. Dance bands provided weekly studio broadcasts or relays from cabarets of modern and old-time dance music. There were concerts by Maori parties and relays of community singing, while variety entertainment by combinations of local artists was broadcast from the studio under such titles as "Hometown Variety," "Memories of Musical Comedy," "Rainbow Rhythm," "Among My Souvenirs," "We Present," "Every Friday Night at Eight."

There were regular broadcasts of recorded presentations of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas and other music of a light operatic or musical comedy nature.

There were also broadcast a considerable number of continuity and variety shows recorded in New Zealand and abroad.

More than twenty programmes produced and recorded by the B.B.C. were broadcast, of a type and standard that would not ordinarily be available to the Service, covering a wide range of light entertainment such as the musical comedy "Who's Hooper," the variety programme "Hail Variety," and the concert party "The Fol de Rols." One of these programmes, "Flying High," was by artists who were members of the Royal Flying Corps in the Great War.

A notable feature of the year's light entertainment was the relays from the public concerts given in aid of patriotic funds by Noel Coward. To appear with Mr. Coward the Service made available the N.B.S. String Orchestra, augmented by the Studio Orchestras, with Andersen Tyrer (Conductor), Heddle Nash (English tenor), and Mary Pratt (New Zealand contralto).

OUTSIDE BROADCASTS.

Many relays of New Zealand events of national interest were carried out by the various national stations. Among these were a number of civic farewells to Viscount and Lady Galway, the swearing-in at Parliament Buildings, Wellington, of His Excellency Sir Cyril Newall as Governor-General of New Zealand, the closing ceremony of the Centennial Exhibition at Wellington, an open-air civic reception at Auckland to the Commanding Officer, officers, and men of the visiting squadron of the American Fleet, the march through Wellington and the civic reception of members of the ship's company of H.M.S. "Achilles," the installation at Christchurch Anglican Cathedral of Bishop West Watson as Archbishop of New Zealand, the arrival of the American Clipper on the inaugural mail and passenger flight to New Zealand from America, and the first meeting of the Lower Hutt City Council when the deed proclaiming Lower Hutt as a city was read by the Minister of Internal Affairs.

PARLIAMENTARY BROADCASTS.

Broadcasts of the proceedings of the House of Representatives were continued during the year. In order to avoid placing undue restrictions on speakers in broadcast debates and yet to guard against the possibility of information which should not be broadcast being put over the air during a debate, a procedure was agreed upon whereby a debate may be put off the air if a speaker should desire to discuss matter which is not available for broadcasting.

RELIGIOUS BROADCASTS.

Morning and evening services were broadcast each Sunday from various churches by the national stations, and short devotional services were broadcast from the studios each morning during the week. In response to a growing desire on the part of the people for greater opportunity for national prayer, a short evening prayer service was broadcast each Wednesday of the week from the studios in one or other of the four main centres. The broadcasts each Sunday morning of the programme "With the Boys Overseas" concluded with an appropriate prayer by the leaders of the various churches.