

# PEOPLE IN THE PROGRAMMES



Alan Blakey photograph.  
**PATRICK TOWSEY** is an Auckland pianist who will be heard from 1YA on Saturday, August 31

## "Our Garden Expert"

ON Monday evenings at 7.35 not only Canterbury radio knobs are twiddled round to 3YA for the gardening talk, but many an enthusiastic grubber of the soil in other parts of New Zealand tunes in to hear the latest communiqué from the bollweevil front and discover just what type of manure the aspidistra craves at this time of the year. Joking apart, the Christchurch station's garden session has many fans, and for this success, praise must go to "our garden expert" himself—namely T. D. Lennie.

T. D. Lennie is one of the best-qualified men on the subject of horticulture it would be possible to find. In his 67 years, he has worked under every kind of condition, and he has known the practical problems that face every garden-lover. Starting in his father's seed and nursery business in 1886, he began a life-long business in the horticulture trade, and one which has brought with it its own honours and distinctions. His services as a judge are now widely requested. In his home town, Invercargill, Mr. Lennie founded the Southland Nurserymen's Association in 1909, and was the association's secretary till 1920. In 1924-5, Mr. Lennie was president of the New Zealand Association, and he is still active in its interests. His hobby is bowling.



Alan Blakey photograph.  
**DOROTHY SIMONSEN** is scheduled to present mezzo-soprano solos from 1YA Auckland on Wednesday, August 28

## Contralto from Christchurch

WELL-KNOWN in Christchurch's musical life is Mrs. Nelson Kerr, who will present items from 3YA at 9.22 p.m. and 9.43 p.m. on Friday, August 23. As Miss Ethel Johnson, she began her studies under the late Sydney Williamson, and was later a pupil of W. H. Dixon until his return to England.

By the time she was 18, she had graduated to contralto soloist with the Christchurch Glee and Madrigal Society, and she played later in "H.M.S. Pina-



Green and Hahn photograph.  
**MRS NELSON KERR**

fore" and "Les Cloches de Corneville." She has also featured as a successful soloist for the Royal Music Society in "The Messiah," "Cavalleria," and "Israel in Egypt." She has appeared in the Ashburton Choral Society's presentation of German's "Merrie England," and "The Bohemian Girl." For the Christchurch Harmonic Society, she has played parts in "Maritana" and "The Messiah."

## She Talks to Women

LISTENERS to 2YA have already heard two of Phyllis Anchor's talks, "Speaking Personally"; and on Thursday, August 22, the first of this series will be presented from 1YA Auckland at 11 a.m.

Phyllis Anchor, who is Mrs. J. McMaster in private life, left this country in 1935, after having conducted the luncheon and children's sessions at 1ZH Hamilton for three years. For a time she was in business in Sydney but all the time she was waiting for a chance to break into Australian broadcasting circles. Being interested in drama, Miss Anchor joined the Little Theatre Club in Pitt Street, where two of her own one-act plays were produced with a good measure of success. It was at the Little Theatre that she met the head announcer of 2GB Sydney, Charles Cousins, who engaged her to edit a new paper he was starting called "Radio Reporter's News Magazine." Also, she wrote three talks each week for his children's sessions. George Edwards was at that time producing plays for 2GB and Miss Anchor played a number of parts in a serial, "Famous Australian Murder Trials."

Marriage, in 1937, took Miss Anchor temporarily from the radio world, and for several months she toured through New South Wales, arriving eventually in Queensland. There, in Brisbane, substantial success came in the shape of a

year's contract to write and produce a session for women called "Musical Bubbles." That was with 4QR. Ten days before the contract expired, came another offer to assume entire control of the women's and children's sessions at 4BU Bundaberg, which Miss Anchor accepted. The declaration of war found her there; then, when her husband left for Palestine with the A.I.F. in January of this year, Miss Anchor came back to New Zealand to be near her parents "for the duration." Among her successes in Australia was an original radio play, "Shakespeare to the Rescue," presented from 4BH Brisbane.

## Dominion's Oldest Band

BAND music figures prominently in the 1YA programmes for the coming week. On Sunday evening, August 18, there is to be a programme by British bands, opening at 8.30 and continuing until 10.0 and on the following Thursday evening there will be a studio performance by New Zealand's oldest band, the Auckland Artillery Band, which this year is celebrating its 75th anniversary. Old as it is, this band still shows no signs of diminished vigour and under the leadership of Wynne Smith it carried off the hymn championship at the last



Spencer Digby photograph.  
**TUI McLEOD**, young Wellington pianist who has already broadcast on several occasions. Miss McLeod has done much in a short time: beginning the piano at eight years old, she has gained three medals and two exhibitions, L.T.C.L. and L.R.S.M. She won the gold medal and scholarship for Final Grade in the Associated Board, with Lloyd Powell examining. She is versatile to a degree, too, and has gained A.T.C.L. in 'cello. And she sings. She will be heard as a pianist, playing Chopin compositions, in the first half of the concert programme from 2YA Wellington on Tuesday evening, August 20

contest in Wellington. Its standing in hymn-playing, indeed, is to-day as high as that which it attained in the quickstep contests of a decade or more ago when, under the leadership of Captain T. P. Laffey, it carried off the quickstep championship on many occasions.

On Thursday next the band will be under the baton of its new leader, H. Christensen, who has been deputy-leader for the past four years. For him this is but another step up in a long association



Alan Blakey photograph.  
**NETTA SIMICH**, who will broadcast piano numbers at 8.9 p.m. on Saturday, August 17, from 1YA Auckland. Her bracket of solos includes compositions by Bridge and Swinstead

with bands throughout New Zealand. For example, he first joined the old Ashburton Temperance Band in 1911 and after serving abroad from 1914-1919 he joined the Woolston Band, under R. J. Estall, as a euphonium player. Since 1922 he has been connected with the Auckland Artillery Band.

Two items on the band's programme on Thursday will be of more than usual interest to listeners. One will be the playing of the hymn by Dykes, "Fierce Raged the Tempest." This will be of interest first because of the reputation the band has in hymn-playing, secondly, because the arrangement is a new one by Mr. Christensen himself. Again, the programme will include an unpublished coraet duet, "The Trumpet Serenaders," by Mr. Christensen. This work was to have been presented in public some time ago, but the music was lost at the last minute and had to be re-written subsequently from the original score. It will therefore be heard for the first time from the 1YA studio next Thursday.

The studio concert will begin at 9.15 and will continue until 10.0 p.m., with a recorded interlude at 9.30.



Alan Blakey photograph.  
**JAMES LEIGHTON**, baritone, who will present songs by Rutland Boughton, Armstrong Gibbs, Martin Shaw and Stanford at 8.34 p.m. on Wednesday, August 21, from 1YA Auckland