

Around The Nationals

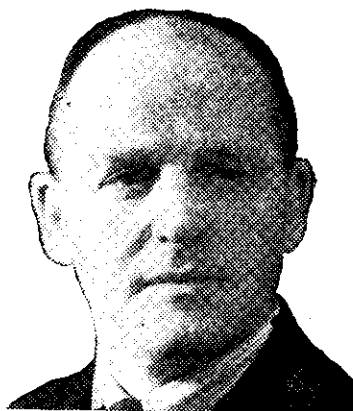
SINCE Laurence Montgomery "boosted" the clarinet in the interview he gave *The Listener* before playing Debussy's *Rhapsody for Saxophone* from 1YA on August 15, listeners have no doubt taken more interest in this partly neglected instrument. An excellent opportunity to listen more carefully to it will be given by an item to be broadcast by 2YA at 7.56 p.m. on Tuesday, September 9. Fredrick Thurston and Ralph Clarke, two members of the BBC Symphony Orchestra, will play Alan Frank's *Suite*. Frank, himself a clarinetist as well as a composer, wrote this suite for and dedicated it to the two musicians who play it in this item. Evidently clarinetists are all versatile. Mr. Montgomery plays the saxophone expertly (although not very willingly), and graduated to his favourite instrument from drum and fife bands and playing the flute. Alan Frank plays, composes, and publishes music, and also writes about it as a musical journalist. Like William Walton, he is self taught. His wife is that promising young British composer, Phyllis Tate.

IN his autobiography Gillie Potter describes himself as a "comedian," who was born at an early age and educated at Borstal and Dartmoor, although the governors of these institutions deny all knowledge of him. Before the microphone he often appears in the capacity of a publicity agent for Hogs-norton, of which he claims to be a prominent citizen. In actual fact, he lives in a perfectly sane and respectable place and even gets his picture in the society papers wearing an old school blazer, complete with tie and straw hat in approved old school colours. He says, in spite of this evidence, that his principal hobby is taking his hat off to the Directors of the BBC, but proof that this is not an entirely disinterested gesture of respect may be found in 3YA's item at 8.46 p.m. on Saturday, September 13. "Heard at Hogs-norton" is the title of it, and it pretends to be: "The Truth About the BBC."

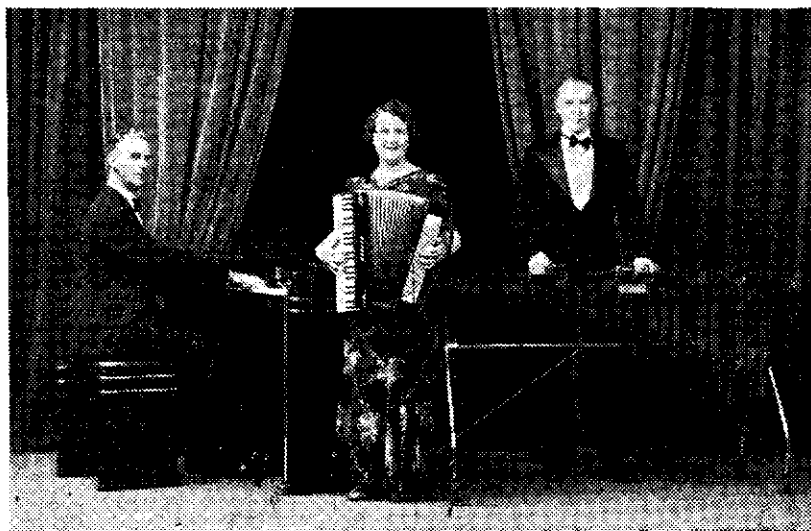
A SAMPLE of the good work made possible by the creation of the NBS String Orchestra will be heard from 2YA at 8.21 p.m. on Monday, September 8. Frank Hoffee is to broadcast with Dorothy Davies—viola and piano playing a Brahms sonata. Frank Hoffee originally played the violin, but was converted to the viola and encouraged to keep it up by Harold Baxter, whom Mr. Hoffee praises highly for his work with the 1YA Orchestra. Mr. Hoffee had been touring New Zealand as a violinist with musical shows, taking the viola along as a spare time relaxation. Now he concentrates on it, and prefers it as a means of musical expression. Like many other fine musicians, he has been attracted to Wellington by the String Orchestra, plays mainly for it, and now, we notice, is a member of the new Chamber Music Club 41, which is itself more evidence of the magnetic effect which broadcasting is giving to music in the capital city.



CHRISTINA ORMISTON, soprano, will sing five gipsy songs by Dvorak from the 2YA studio on Monday, September 8



ERNEST ROGERS, tenor, will sing a bracket of songs from 3YA's studio in the concert programme on Friday, September 12



THE MURIEL CADDIE NOVELETES TRIO will be heard in three light compositions from the 4YA studio at 8.20 p.m. on Wednesday September 10



JERRY had a narrow squeak when the 12B studios were threatened by fire recently. After being "evacuated," Dudley Wrathall returned and rescued Jerry, who had been left in the danger zone



NICHOLAS MATTHEY, Russian-born gipsy violinist, is one of the artists frequently featured in "Pageant of Music," from all the ZB stations at 9.15 every Sunday night. He studied in Bucharest, and was a protégé of Queen Marie of Rumania. He is also heard leading a gipsy orchestra

WICKHAM STEED, famous newspaperman regularly from the BBC interpreting the news known, a former editor of the

