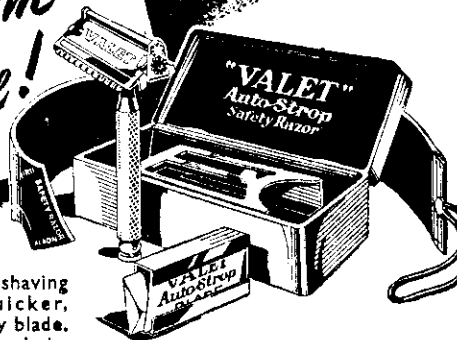


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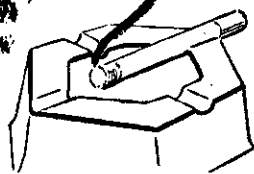
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A CHILD PRODIGY

Rudolph Kolisch Has Family Link
With New Zealand

WHEN the Kolisch Quartet is heard from 2YC this Thursday, February 26, there will be at least one listener who will tune in with more than just an interest in good music. Richard Hoffman, representative of free Austria in New Zealand until the Anschluss, is the uncle of Rudolf Kolisch, founder and leader of the quartet, and has followed his nephew's brilliant musical career since his earliest years.

Literally since his earliest years, for Kolisch was in every way the traditional child-prodigy. At a very tender age, Mr. Hoffman relates, he showed an aptitude amounting to genius for the violin, and at the age of seven he was leading one of the finest quartets in Vienna—and that meant something in those distant days. But long before that the child had shown evidence of astonishing precocity. Mr. Hoffman tells of one incident which occurred when his nephew was but five and a-half years old. During the afternoon and early evening they had been at a performance of *The Mastersingers* ("In Vienna the opera—particularly the Wagnerian cycles—begins about two in the afternoon, and you get home quite early"), and the two families were about to have supper when someone was heard at the piano playing the overture to the opera they had just

seen. It was the young Rudolph playing it over faithfully from memory.

"And it was the more astonishing," says Mr. Hoffman, "because he had not paid any serious attention to the piano before."

When still a child, Kolisch suffered an injury which, but for his own determination to succeed, might well have wrecked his career as a violinist. His home was one of the first in Vienna to be fitted with an electric lift, and one day—"he was always an awkward chap," his uncle explains—he jammed the third finger of his left hand in the lift gate and had to have the top joint amputated. For a violinist this was a disaster of the first magnitude, but as it happened when he was yet a lad he was able to adapt his fingering to the disability and with the necks of his violins (including a precious Stradivarius) also adjusted to assist the shortened finger, the accident has had no serious effect on his career.

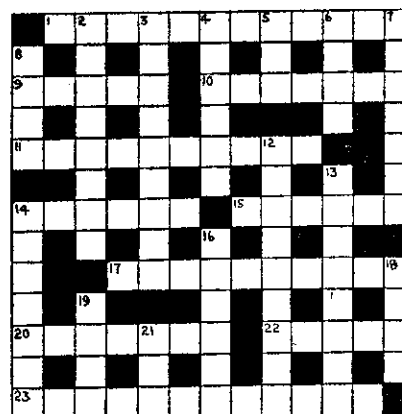
Now In United States

Like so many European artists, Kolisch has found sanctuary as well as scope for his genius in the United States and it is now many years since his uncle saw him, but Mr. Hoffman follows his career with pride. As well as founding his own quartet, Kolisch has been associated in composition work over the years with another Viennese, Erich Korngold. They worked together first in their native Vienna

(Continued on next page)

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

(No. 89)



Clues Across

- Take Rose to supper—this is ridiculous!
- Russell specialised in this flower.
- This theft makes Lena cry.
- It is not regular to find coal around the casino.
- Rotten.
- Fasten hat to cat.
- Increase the wealth or power of.
- This food may easily give you a slight illness.
- The part of the target next to the bull's eye.
- Burdens.

Clues Down

- I try a cap (anag.).
- Pushing in may be exhausting.
- No alms (anag.).
- To do this is proverbially human.
- Frank.
- Fashionable.
- There is a lot in this voice.
- Into a tent (anag.).
- A Gilbert and Sullivan opera.
- I am part to the Archbishop.
- Half of 15 across mixed with 5 down forms a hole.
- Real nobleman.
- White metal.
- Tree.

(Answer to No. 88)

