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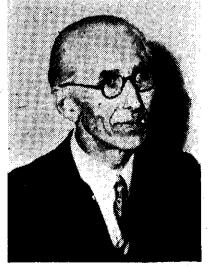
T 8.25 p.m. on Sunday. Febru- The prizes are 100 guineas for a threeary 14, listeners to 1YA will hear a studio recital by Joyce Billing, New Zealand pianist, who has been making a career of music in Australia for



JOYCE BILLING Piano and 'cello

the last 10 years. She has been staff accompanist for the Australian Broadcasting Commission in Sydney, and a regular broadcaster in chamber music groups. Her own group, the Grainger Trie, for which she plans the programmes (often including her own arrangements), has been broadcasting for the last five years. Joyce Billing also plays the cello and is a member of the Rockdale Municipal Orchestra in Sydney, In November last she went on a concert tour with five other artists from Sydney and performed in many New South Wales country towns. In March she will make another tour of March sne ..... New South Wales.

N memory of Fred Mortimer, famous British brass band conductor, who died last year, the BBC's Light Programme has offered two prizes for original compositions for brass bands.



N.P.S. photograph DENIS WRIGHT One of the judges .

movement suite and 50 guineas for a ceremonial march, and entries will be welcomed by the

COMPETITION FOR BBC from musi-COMPOSERS cians in any part of the world.

There will be three judges-Dr. Gordon Jacob (composer), Dr. Denis Wright and Eric Ball, each of whom has written works for brass bands. Dr. Wright was in New Zealand in 1951. These three men will read the submitted scores in manuscript, and the climax of the competition will be when the finalists' works, three in each section, are played in a broadcast in the Light Programme. When the chosen works are judged at this public performance there will be four judges: Sir Arthur Bliss, Maurice Johnstone (head of the BBC music programmes, sound), Frank Wright (wellknown brass band judge) and J. A. Greenwood (veteran band conductor). The closing date of the competition is March 31, 1954, Details are obtainable from Frank Wade, Music Division, BBC, Yalding House, 156 Great Port-land Street, London, W.1.

DETER HICKSON (Lower Hutt): Noel Mewton-Wood, the brilliant Australian-born pianist and composer. was found dead at his home in the West London suburb of Nottinghill Gate on the night of December 5, 1953. His death was believed to have been due to poisoning. The police said (according to

a cable) that NOEL MEWTON-WOOD there was no suspicion of foul play. Noel Mewton-Wood was born

in Melbourne in 1923. His mechanical curiosity could have led him into engineering, but music won from the first. Typical of his versatility was an incident at a Young People's Concert when he played a Mozart Concerto with the Melbourner Symphony Orchestra. In hetween whiles he, the star performer aged 12, could be found behind the scenes rapturously examining the electrical workings of the Town Hall grand organ. A public fund was organised to send the boy abroad, and in 1937 he went to London, and then to Lake Como to take lessons from Artur Schnabel. He returned to London to study composition with Frank Bridge.

Mewton-Wood's big moment came when he played under Sir Thomas Beecham with the London Philharmonic Orchestra at the age of 16. During the war he played to servicemen all over England, and gave classical concerts in Britain's public houses. He broadcast for the BBC and toured the United Kingdom with Richard Tauber, Joan Hammond, Ida Haendel and artists. After the war he returned to Australia for a short concert tour with the ABC.

TALBOT (Wellington) asks for B. TALBUI (Weilings...)
some facts about Gene Krupa.
Mr. K

Before the American Mr. Krupa formed his own orchestra in 1938 he

had established him-UP THE BLOOD self as "that ace PRESSURE! drummer man. Through his record-

ings, movies, broadcasts and personal appearances it has been estimated that he has "raised the blood pressure of more young Americans" than any other modern instrumentalist. He was born in

N.Z. LISTENER, FEBRUARY 12, 1954.