

NEWS OF BROADCASTERS, ON AND OFF THE RECORD.

By *Swarf*

SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT

[*T is not certain whether "Comin' Thro' the Rye" is a genuine Scottish song or merely a London imitation, according to Percy Scholes. A song opening with similar lines, which may have been adapted from a Scottish original, appears in a pantomime, "Harlequin Mariner" (1795). The tune gives the impression of being an adaptation from a genuine Scottish strathspey. The poem of Burns is only in part the same as that sung, and is probably an adaptation of an older Scottish original. There is a considerable resemblance between the tunes of "Comin' Thro' the Rye" and "Auld Lang Syne."*]

informality and the characteristic lilt of his tenor voice are unmistakable pointers to the country of his origin.

Information about Ferruccio Tagliavini has been published in these columns on March 12.

[*SAW the burly Burl Ives when he visited New Zealand two years ago," writes "Emma" (Greymouth), "and I was amazed that such a light voice should come out of such a heavy frame. But I enjoyed his songs. Can you tell me what he is doing now?"*]

According to the latest BBC Bulletin Ives visited Scotland recently. With the Scottish Junior

WHIRL WITH BURL Singers and their conductor Agnes

Duncan, he went to a ward in a Glasgow children's hospital and entertained the small patients to a programme of song. That programme "A Whirl With Burl" was recorded by the BBC in the hospital, Eastpark Home, at Maryhill, and was presented in the General Overseas Service on March 14. The producer, Archie Lee, said that when the programme was

recorded the patients gathered round the microphone close to Burl Ives, who sat informally on a table and spoke and sang to them. "The patients," said Lee, "knew quite a number of Burl's songs, and indeed surprised him by suddenly bursting into a song he had almost forgotten, although he himself had composed it about ten years ago."

"GLAHE FAN" (Herne Bay, Auckland): Will Glahe has made a large number of recordings, many of which are not yet available outside the Continent. His **MUSETTE ORCHESTRA** Musette Orchestra's recording of "Beer Barrel Polka" first appeared in the catalogues before World War II and it is still included. The combination is recording currently and some long-playing discs have been issued.

Yes, Glahe is said to be highly esteemed on the Continent.

"OPERA AND OTHERWISE" (Onehunga, Auckland): When Caruso died in 1921, operatic tenors all over the world started trying on his musical crown for size. The latest aspirant seems to have been Mario Lanza, who announced, after his film *The Great Caruso*, that he thought he had surpassed Enrico.

Not many of the **CARUSO'S CROWN** critics shared his enthusiasm. But according to some of the earlier critics, the man whose voice had come nearest to Caruso's was Giovanni Martinelli. Son of a cabinetmaker, Martinelli was born in 1885 at Montagnana, near Venice. He became well known at first as a clarinet player. At the age of 20 he was called up for military service, which consisted of playing in the Regimental Band. Sometimes the band members held little concerts among themselves, and one day, when Martinelli had just finished singing, the bandmaster inquired who the singer was. He arranged for Martinelli to sing at the homes of some influential people. An anonymous patron paid for tuition, and he made his debut at Milan in 1910 in Rossini's *Stabat Mater*. Two weeks later he sang in Verdi's *Ernani*, but nervousness overcame him; he forgot his words, got tangled up with his sword, and made a poor showing as an



LJUBA WELITSCH, famous opera singer. This photograph, which has just come to hand, was asked for by Ailsa Bayes (Mount Eden, Auckland)

actor. However, the audience liked him. He became a firm favourite at Covent Garden, and later was with the New York Metropolitan Opera for 36 years. When he left the Met, he took up teaching in New York.

I am inquiring about the boy singer, Joe Petersen.

A BBC programme, *Sleigh Ride*, described as a journey into melody for the festive season, and which takes listeners round the world in company with Pearl Carr, Denis Martin and Robert Farnon and his Orchestra, is now going the rounds of the main National and Commercial stations.

Pearl Carr, a Devonshire girl, was one of "Mr. Cochran's Young Ladies."

JOURNEY TO MUSIC

She sang to the Forces in the Far East and then toured with Cyril Stapleton's Orchestra. She has been a leading member of several singing combinations, notably *The Keynotes*, and in several seasons of *Bedtime With Braden* and *Take It From Here*. Once she deputised at a few hours' notice for Joy Nichols and showed that she can be funny as well as tuneful.

Denis Martin has made a name for himself in musical shows ranging from Coward's *Pacific 1860* and Novello's *King's Rhapsody* to intimate revue.

Robert Farnon was born into a musical family in Canada; his father was a violinist and singer and his mother was a concert pianist. Young Robert began his musical education at seven, and by the time he was 11 he was playing professionally in a juvenile orchestra. At 17 he settled down to a serious study of harmony, counterpoint and theory. The CBC gave him a job of writing incidental music for documentaries, and for five years he was arranger and conductor for the CBC. He wrote his first symphony when he was 21 and now he has an impressive number of major works to his credit. Farnon joined the Canadian Army in 1943 and became musical director of the Canadian Army Show, conducted the Canadian Band of the A.E.F. and composed most of the music for it. He has been prominent in British broadcasting since the war.

"M. S.A.D." (Wellington): Your letter is unsigned.



BBC photograph

TOM STOBART, the photographer who accompanied the 1953 British Everest Expedition, broadcasting in the BBC French Service programme "La Chronique des Spectacles."

The **WORLD'S BIGGEST** **SONG HITS**

"GOD'S LITTLE CANDLES"
(Jimmy Boyd's Biggest Song Hit)

"EBBTIDE" **"EBBTIDE"**
(Words and Music)

"YOU, YOU, YOU"

"PRETEND" **"PRETEND"**
"PRETEND"

"BUTTERFLIES"

"A DEAR JOHN LETTER"
(The Latest Craze)

"EH CUMPARI"

"ISTANBUL" **"ISTANBUL"**

"MISTER TAPTOE"

"ST. GEORGE and the DRAGONET"

"HI-LILI, HI-LO" **"CORONATION RAG"**

"DOGGIE IN THE WINDOW"

"BRITANNIA RAG" — **"RUBY"** **"RUBY"**

"A BROKEN ENGAGEMENT"

JUST ARRIVED—

F & D's ALBUM OF RAGS

Containing 6 Rags selected by
WINIFRED ATWELL.

Price 3/6

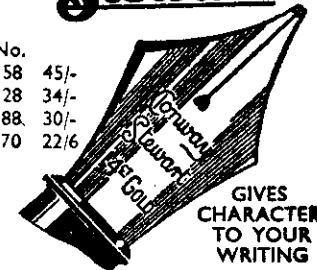
ALL MUSIC SELLERS

Or direct from the publishers,
J. ALBERT AND SON PTY., LTD.,
2-4 Willis Street, Wellington.

The ALL-BRITISH

**Conway
Stewart**

No.
58 45/-
28 34/-
388 30/-
70 22/6



GIVES
CHARACTER
TO YOUR
WRITING

**THE POPULAR PEN
WITH THE
MARVELLOUS NIB**

CONWAY STEWART & CO. LTD. LONDON

HASTINGS HIGH SCHOOL GOLDEN JUBILEE

1904



1954

10th, 11th, 12th APRIL

Limited number of tickets still available.
Total cost, £2. No tickets sold at door.
Write or wire immediately.