

NEWS OF BROADCASTERS, ON AND OFF THE RECORD

of their many dozens of magazines. "It was an experience," she said. "But I couldn't breathe in London. I felt as if millions of people had breathed the air before I had and my lungs felt smutty and horrible." After a year as a shepherd in the Welsh mountains she became deck-hand on a 35-ton ketch cruising in English, European and Irish waters. Back home again, Val is enthusiastic about Nelson and the things she describes in her shopping session. "I get



VAL GRIFFITH

so carried away," she says, "that I usually end up by selling myself the things I'm talking about. This shopping reporter's job will make me bankrupt, but I love it."

★

SUMNER, Christchurch, may seem an inappropriate place for a world-wanderer to settle down in, but it suits Allan Sleeman very well, because it's not only places and events he's interested in, but people most of all. That explains his keenness on his job as radio features producer at 3ZB, Christchurch. All sorts of interesting people have found themselves in front of his microphone, including Randolph Churchill and Lord Kilbracken, great-grandson of John Robert Godley, founder of Canterbury.

As a producer Allan Sleeman is a stickler for realism. If a man's supposed to be climbing Everest, he's got to sound like it, both through the use of sound effects and the conviction he projects himself. That's why Allan will rehearse a tiny "cut" over and over until it's perfect, and he often takes his casts outdoors for greater realism. At 21 Allan Sleeman had already travelled as a journalist with the Duke and Duchess of York on their New Zealand tour. Then he left for Australia, where he did a series of stories on Sydney's underworld. That gave him the itch to crack Chicago, then at the height of its gangster-ridden days, and he spent three years in the United States, Canada and Mexico. The lively



Allan Sleeman

N.Z. COMPOSER

John Ritchie

MUSIC is a family affair with the Ritchies of Christchurch, and many of John Ritchie's songs are sung by his wife, Anita Ritchie. John is first assistant to Dr. Vernon Griffiths in the Music Department of Canterbury University College. He is a former Fleet Air Arm pilot who received his musical education at King Edward Technical College,



interest he took in people and places reflected itself in the tales he wrote, and found a ready market for, wherever he went. It's often been the accidental encounter which has sparked off a particular course of action in his life—for instance, the wanderings in Canada, which came about through sharing a shipboard cabin with Big Bill Reilly, a "sour-dough" or Alaskan veteran, and chief dog driver of the first Byrd Antarctic Expedition.

For radio in New Zealand Allan Sleeman participated in the well-remembered

Dunedin, at Otago University, and Trinity College, London. Besides being Senior Lecturer at Canterbury College, he is conductor of the Christchurch Liederkranzchen, the Addington Workshops (W.E.A.) Choir and the Gloucester Singers. One of his main interests is the performing of new music, and several works by Vaughan Williams, Gerald Finzi, Alec Rowley and Eric Thiman have received their first New Zealand performances under his baton.

In 1948 he won the Philip Neill prize for composition, and two years later he was commissioned by the Canterbury Centennial Association to compose a Centennial Cantata. This work, called *Then Laugheth the Year*, was subsequently performed at the Centennial Festival of Country Choirs with notable success. In 1951 Station 3YA broadcast from the Civic Theatre in Christchurch the first performance of his setting for J. R. Hervey's *Centennial Ode*, a work dedicated to the Canterbury Pilgrims. The setting was specially written for the Royal Christchurch Musical Society.

In the current programme of *Music by New Zealand Composers*, listeners will be able to hear two of John Ritchie's songs, "Prayer for Poverty" and "Under the Greenwood Tree." They are sung by Anita Ritchie, accompanied by R. Dixon. The broadcast times are 7.0 p.m. and 7.50 p.m., from 3YC and 2YC respectively, on Monday, September 20.

Challenge of the Cities programme, in which he contested for news honours with Jack Maybury, Selwyn Toogood and others. His *3ZB Round Table* was a happily-inspired programme and for four years, once a week, Al took the chair at these sessions of radio controversy which, as all radio people know, are notoriously difficult to handle. He writes his own scripts as well as narrating and producing his programmes for both National and Commercial Divisions of the NZBS. And he has an attentive listening audience in his own home, too—a wife, two sons and a cat.



"MUSIC for Middlebrows" is the aim of the team responsible for "I Love a Melody" (above), which is to be heard on link from the main national stations every Saturday evening, beginning on September 25. This programme has already proved highly popular with Auckland listeners. It is directed by Oswald Cheesman at the piano and compered by Rex Sayers (standing), with Mary Negus, soprano (left) and a string ensemble comprised of (from left): Felix Millar, Ralph Tobeck, Victor Mandel, June Taylor and Eric Craig (absent).

See page 31.

The WORLD'S BIGGEST SONG HITS

OPEN YOUR PIANO and
PLAY THESE SONGS

PRICE 2/6 per copy.

"IF YOU LOVE ME"
(Really Love Me, I Won't Care)

"THREE COINS IN
THE FOUNTAIN"

"HERE" "HERE" "HERE"

"OH MY PAPA"
(The Song that has Swept the World)

"GOD'S LITTLE CANDLES"

"I REALLY DON'T
WANT TO KNOW"

"RIVER OF NO RETURN"

"BELL BOTTOM BLUES"

"HEART OF MY HEART" "EBBTIDE"

"QUEEN OF EVERYONE'S HEART"

"SWEDISH RHAPSODY" "BUTTERFLIES"

"TILL WE TWO ARE ONE"

BE UP-TO-DATE — BUY

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.

INDIGESTION



First
dose
relieves

De Witt's Antacid Powder in the house is the ever-ready answer to commonplace digestive disorders caused by excess stomach acid. A single teaspoonful of this reliable family medicine in half a glass of water is an effective dose.

The De Witt's formula uses ingredients which rapidly neutralise acid excess, promptly disperse digestive pain and discomfort and ensure prolonged relief. Price 3/- and, double size, 5/- (inc. tax).

Always keep some handy!

Away from home—carry a few

De Witt's
ANTACID TABLETS

Automatic-opening tin 1/9,
economy refill bottle 3/6 inc. tax.

Products of E. C. De WITT & Co. (N.Z.) Ltd.,
9, HERBERT STREET, WELLINGTON, N.Z.



De Witt's
ANTACID
POWDER & TABLETS