

PERCY SCHOLES
He started an avalanche

organist's job. His first full-time work, as the Leeds University junior librarian, was soon given up so that he could study for the Oxford degree of Bachelor of Music.

What was the foundation of his career and his success? Undoubtedly it was his conviction, reached long before broadcasting had brought orchestral music into every home, that music appreciation could be taught to a wide public. The concert-going public of his early days was small and music was mostly home-made. Scholes established the Home Music Study Union. Its headquarters were in Leeds, but soon, with the aid of a new periodical, *The Music Student*, edited by himself, study circles were established in many parts of Britain. During the First World War Scholes taught music appreciation to the troops, but he quickly realised that his task would have been made easier if he had been able to give them a book on the subject for individual study.

The result was his *Listener's Guide to Music*. It took him just 15 minutes, he says, to persuade the Oxford University Press of the possibilities of such a volume. And he wrote it during one week's holiday. *The Listener's Guide* still sells after four decades, and is now in its 10th edition. It was the start of an avalanche of books on music that has come from the pen and fertile brain of Percy Scholes.

Scholes has been music critic of the London *Evening Standard* and of the BBC, but especially—and for many years—of the *Observer* and the *Radio Times*. His lecturing activities have embraced Extension Lectures for the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, London and Manchester, and he has also lectured in the United States and Canada. Academic honours, including four doctorates, have been showered upon him. Not the least important part of his work has been the getting together, through many years, of a remarkable library of books, press cuttings and photographs—all concerned in one way or another with music.

N.Z. LISTENER, AUGUST 16, 1957.

He has also found time to take a lively interest in societies crusading for vegetarianism and against cruel sports.

But the published volumes of Percy Scholes are the chief monument to a life of amazing industry. They include a series of books for children on the lives and works of the great musicians, the three volumes of the *Listener's History of Music*, the *Columbia History of Music*—five volumes with an accompanying series of gramophone records—the best-selling *Concise Oxford Dictionary of Music*, a biography of Dr Burney, one of his rival Sir John Hawkins, and the million-word *Oxford Companion to Music*. In honour of his 80th birthday, his publishers, the Oxford University Press, presented Dr Scholes with a specially bound copy of his *Companion to Music*.

Percy Scholes lived for many years at Oxford, but bronchitis, an enemy he has fought since his youth, has now forced him to leave England, and since June he has lived in Switzerland. But he is truly at home wherever he can listen to music and put pen to paper so as to encourage others to listen.

★

WHEN the Wellington South Salvation Army Band broadcasts from 2YA this Sunday (August 18) listeners will hear it for the first time under its new Bandmaster, Thomas Hill. Recognised as one of New Zealand's outstanding soloists, Bandmaster Hill was formerly solo trombone player of the Christchurch City Salvation Army Band. He has broadcast on many occasions and twice has been guest soloist at the Annual Congress of the Salvation Army. At Wellington South he succeeds Harrison Millard, who has resigned because of ill-health after more than 15 years as Bandmaster.



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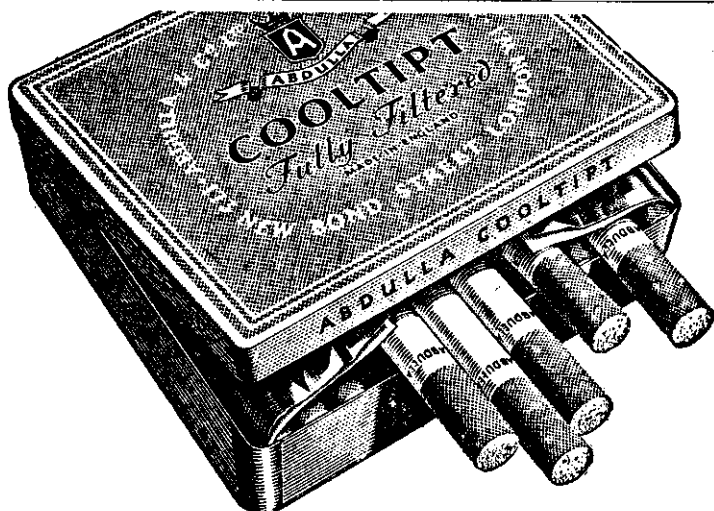
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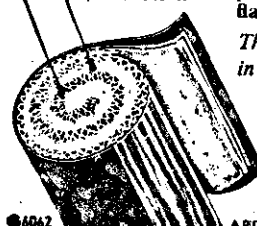


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