

it is written, which is indicated by the title, an Italian word expressing great breadth and flowing melody, is one in which Handel was particularly distinguished. There are more passages in Handel's works in the "largo" style than in any other.

Miss Edith Buckmaster, contralto, will sing "Ombra Mai Fu" at 2YA on Friday, May 31.

A Nature Picture.

CECILE CHAMINADE was a composer at the early age of eight. She gave her first concert when 13, and at once became a favourite pianist, appearing throughout Europe in recitals of her own works. One of her most brilliant works is "Autumn." The piece is in the nature of a ballad and contains a superb climax, almost orchestral in character. In it she has treated the delightful theme with great skill and fine musicianship. It is almost like a hymn in celebration of the festival of harvest, and the rich colours and fine sonority typify the generous beauty of autumn.

Mrs. J. E. Russell will play Chamina's "Autumn" at 3YA on Thursday, May 30.

Old Omar Sings.

LIZA LEHMANN'S song cycle, "In a Persian Garden," is a sympathetic and colourful setting of verses from Fitzgerald's translation of the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, Persian poet. It is interesting to know that, while this famous poem was written over eight hundred years ago (Omar died in 1123), it is full of modern philosophical thought and poetic imagination.

The Grand Opera Quartet at 3YA will sing the quartet "They Say the Lion and the Lizard Keep," from Lehmann's "In a Persian Garden," on Sunday, May 26.

Inanimate Nymphs.

HANDEL composed his "Acis and Galatea" for the Duke of Chandos in 1721. It was produced to the public in 1731 at a benefit concert for the singer Rochetti. An advertisement of the performance states that the stage would be decorated with rocks, groves and fountains, among which would be disposed a chorus of nymphs and shepherds, but the actors would be seated on their rocks "with no action." As was the custom in those days, Handel had left in his oratorios the organ parts ad libitum, giving only an indication of the bass. Mozart was such an admirer of Handel that he filled in some gaps in most of the works, and amplified the orchestration of "The Messiah," "Acis and Galatea," and several others.

The Woolston Band, under the conductorship of Mr. R. J. Estall, will play selections from "Acis and Galatea" at 3YA on Monday, May 27.

Communing with Nature.

SO dearly did he love the hills and streams of his native New England that the district round about his home spoke to Edward McDowell in a language which he alone understood. What they whispered to him he translated in his beautiful suite of "Woodland Sketches." Such music as is offered in these exquisite pieces seems the ideal expression of the mood and picture he would create for us. In "To a Wild Rose" we have the fragile beauty of the dainty flower truly reflected, and "To a Water Lily" the

fairy loveliness of the blossom is portrayed.

Mrs. J. E. Russell's Ladies' Glee Club party will render McDowell's "To a Wild Rose" as a three-part song at 3YA on Thursday, May 30.

Jenny Lind's Pianist.

SIR JUIUS BENEDICT exercised as great an influence on English musical development as any foreigner settled there since Handel's time. He was a native of Stuttgart, where he was born in 1804. He conducted various orchestras and theatres in his birthplace, Vienna, Naples, and Paris. He went to England in 1834, and proved several of his operas, which were immediate successes. He toured the United States with Jenny Lind, directing the concerts, and on his return was conductor at the various festivals throughout England. In 1871 he was knighted, and received many foreign orders on his 70th birthday. He died in London in June, 1885.

The Grand Opera Duo will sing a duet, "The Moon Hath Raised Her Lamp Above," from Benedict's "Lily of Killarney," at 3YA on Sunday, May 26.

England's Parson-Poet.

THE words of "Cherry Ripe" are Robert Herrick's, who was vicar of Dean Prior in Devon. There he was buried in the churchyard in 1674. He was expelled from his living during the Protectorate, but lived to be reinstated under the Act of Uniformity. His poems contain many hits at his parishioners, whose manners, he says, "were rookish as their ways"; but they are full of the wild flowers—dandelions and primroses—which abound in the orchards and hedgerows of Dean. Charles Edward Horn, who wrote the music, was the son of a German musician who settled in London in 1782. He produced a number of operas, but none of them have lived. "Cherry Ripe" first appeared, set by Horn, in 1825.

Miss Dorothy Allen, contralto, will sing "Cherry Ripe" at 4YA on Wednesday, May 29.

The Fragrance of the Pine.

THE greatest of the Scandinavian composers, Edward Grieg, is distinctly a national composer, and his music seems to almost carry the fragrance of his native pine woods into the concert hall. His many short piano pieces and his beautiful songs show this composer to great advantage. He has written no more successful work than "To Spring." It seems a veritable hymn to Spring, has the fascinating melodic quality and beautiful harmonies inseparable from Grieg's music.

The 4YA Broadcasting Trio will play Grieg's "To Spring" on Friday, May 31.

Storing Wet Batteries

A WELLINGTON listener has requested "Switch" to advise him what to do with his wet "A" and "B" batteries, as he is about to go away for a couple of months. The best plan is to store them at a battery station, with instructions to re-charge them every three or four weeks. There is always a certain amount of leakage in all batteries, and as damage results from their running down too low, it is a wise practice to get them re-charged periodically when not in use.

Air Route to India The Wireless Organisation

THE wireless organisation for the air mail service to India, which opened on Saturday (March 30), has been completed so that the aircraft engaged will be in touch with aerodrome ground stations throughout the 4700 air miles of the journey.

All the aircraft are equipped with Marconi wireless apparatus of the latest type, and an inter-communicating chain of ground stations has been arranged.

The first section of the route is the London-Basle flight, on which the present wireless organisation for continental aviation was employed. This consists of the powerful Marconi aerodrome station at Croydon, French stations at Le Bourget and other intermediate places on the route, and the Marconi stations at Basle. The machines operating this section of the route are fitted with Marconi sets of 150 watts power, of the well-known type AD6, adapted for communication over distances of 200 to 300 miles either by telephony or telegraphy.

From Basle the night train to Genoa makes the connection with the second section of the air route, from Genoa to Alexandria, which is to be operated by three "Calcutta" flying boats fitted with the more powerful Marconi type AD8 sets. These sets are also adaptable for telephony or telephony, enabling the pilots to keep in touch with Italian and British Air Ministry wireless stations until arrival at Alexandria. In addition, Imperial Airways, who are conducting the London-Karachi service, have stationed a depot ship at a point in the Greek Archipelago. This has been fitted with a Marconi valve transmitter of ½ kilowatt power (type U) and suitable receiving equipment (Marconi type RG 19 receiver), and will be capable of

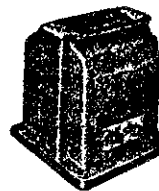
communicating with Malta, Alexandria (Aboukir), and other stations concerned with the service.

At Alexandria a change is made to aeroplanes again, to continue the service over the third and final section of the route, through Basrah and over the Persian Gulf to Karachi. Part of this section has already been in operation for some time, employing De Havilland aircraft fitted with Marconi AD6 apparatus and communicating with Royal Air Force stations; and a ½ kilowatt station at Rutbah Wells, which was supplied by the Marconi Company to the Iraq Posts and Telegraphs Department. During the flight from Basrah to Karachi, the machines will be in touch with two Marconi stations in Persia, at Chabar and Bunda Abbas. Persian operators for these stations have been trained at the Marconi Company's Works at Chelmsford.

The terminal wireless station at Karachi is one of the most powerful aerodrome stations installed at any air port.

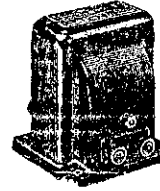
Many features of the Marconi apparatus for this service have been specially designed to meet the conditions existing on this new Empire route. The constant-speed windmill generator, which provides power for the wireless installation, will also supply current for the internal and external lighting of the aircraft. In the unlikely event of a forced landing being necessary, the same generator can be used to supply emergency power to the transmitter either by the use of the battery normally used for lighting or, if it is required to work for long periods, by means of a special coupling arrangement to the small petrol engine used for starting the main engines of the aircraft. Thus, even if a machine were forced to land in the solitudes of the desert country, which is to be found along the route, wireless communication could be established with the nearest ground station and any required assistance could be obtained.

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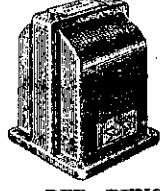
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