

PERSONALITIES

of the week

FUTURE MRS. BLACK

FROM the cables we learn that Campbell Black proposed to the famous actress and impersonator, Miss Florence Desmond, on the eve of his flight from London. All the world now knows that she has accepted him by telephone call to Melbourne. As the lady who gives, literally speaking, facsimiles of famous film stars, Florence Desmond has given pleasure to thousands of New Zealand listeners



with her recordings. Her horoscope as read by Naylor forecasts an even more brilliant future for her, apart from her profession. She will acquire and own property, Naylor says. Well, she has got Campbell Black for a start! The astrologer predicts that the Florence Desmond of to-day affords comparatively little indication of the Florence Desmond of to-morrow. Her heyday comes between 1939 and 1947. In 1942 the sun reaches the conjunction of Jupiter in her horoscope—this means money, fame, popularity and property! There is real originality in this artist and Naylor regrets that she confines her work so much to various forms of mimicry. One day, he said, she would delight England by being just Florence Desmond. And, from the latest English papers comes word that Naylor's prophesy has already come true. Miss Desmond, who has been appearing in "Why Not To-night?" at the Vaudeville has been given a leading part in C. B. Cochran's latest revue, "Streamline." And in this she appears as—just Florence Desmond!

SQUIRE "QUARTET"

"WHICH Squire is which?" is a question that many listeners ask. Firstly, there is Miss Rita Squire, soprano, born in London, sings on records, known to variety, concert, and opera house audiences throughout England. Secondly, we have William Barclay Squire, librarian at the Royal College of Music, London, author and critic, also expert on musical research, for 15 years secretary of the Purcell Society. Thirdly comes W. H. Squire, "Britain's King of Cellists," and composer of popular songs, such as "My Prayer," "In an Old-fashioned Town," "Mountain Lovers," "When You Come Home, Dear." Fourthly (and lastly, as the preacher has it), the versatile musician, arranger, and founder of that im-



mensely popular radio institution, the J. H. Squire Celeste Octet, and mine host of the Celeste Octet Hotel, near Canterbury.

PRAISED IN LONDON

THE New Zealand musical world has seldom been graced by a more talented couple than Mr. and Mrs. Andersen Tyrer. Mr. Tyrer has been described as the "most brilliant pianist on the British platform to-day," and his wife, who is known professionally as Madame Nanette de Lornay, is a violiniste of outstanding skill. The London "Star" said of her: "Nanette de Lornay has a strong musical tone and a well-developed technique. She has an impulsive temperament, and there is an attractive picturesqueness in all she does." Madame was heard in Wellington at the Broadcasting Board's celebrity concert in September, and her playing of Wieniawski's Concerto in D Minor earned for her the loudest applause.

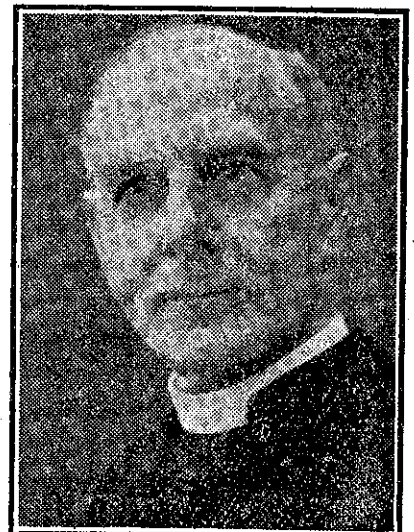
SCOTT'S FATHER

THE victors in the Melbourne Centenary Air Race, Messrs. Charles Scott and Campbell Black, now so well known to New Zealand listeners, had, before their new found and wider fame came upon them, connections of whom we have some experience from an unsuspected angle. Scott's father is none other than Charles Kennedy

Scott, the famous London choral conductor, whose work on the records with the Philharmonic Choir and the London Bach Cantata Club has given much pleasure to listeners in this country. Among listeners who enjoy part singing one of Mr. Scott's recordings has as great a popularity as any in existence. The one referred to is Bach's "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring," with its lovely oboe obbligato by Leon Goossens. Mr. Scott is on the staff of Trinity College and his work in connection with the famous Oriana Madrigal Society (which he himself founded in 1904) has resulted in the finest a capella music, ancient and modern. Mr. Scott is a talented composer, and as much a pioneer and explorer in his time as his son, and has the same tenacity of purpose.

OF ST. MICHAEL'S

THE Reverend Canon Charles Perry, of St. Michael's Church, Christchurch, has the distinction of having been one of the youngest special preachers ever to preach in the Melbourne Cathedral. Canon Perry was educated at Melbourne and at St. John's College, Oxford, where he took his M.A. degree. In 1916 he came to New Zealand, succeeding Canon Burton at St. Michael's, one of Canterbury's oldest churches, and the stronghold of the High Church movement in the south. Canon Perry has done a great deal of work among the young men of Christ-



church, and, with Mr. S. R. Cuming, a master at the Boys' High School, has formed the Society of St. Osmund for the younger members of his church. Mrs. Perry is a daughter of George Gordon McRae, whose Australian writings are well-known. A son, Mr. C.