

PERSONALITIES

of the week

ONE OF THE DIGGERS

ONE of the cleverest female impersonators who ever trod a New Zealand stage was Stan Lawson, who, for some years now has been teaching dancing in Dunedin with occasional excursions into the amateur operatic field. Mr. Lawson was a member of the original Diggers' concert party that provided entertainment for men on the Western Front in the muddy days of the war. The company toured



New Zealand and Australia after the Armistice, and was later reformed under the title of "Pat Hanna's Diggers." It was in New Zealand about four years ago—just before the talkies conspired to drive vaudeville out of this country.

MONKEYING ABOUT

STANLEY LUPINO'S first appearance on the stage gave him ample opportunity to monkey about, for it was in the skin of that animal that he made his bow to the British public. That was at the Britannia Theatre, at Hoxton in "King Klondyke" in 1900. His next big part was in the skin of something more feline—the Cat in "Dick Whittington" pantomime at the Lyceum Theatre, London, in 1910. Since then he has played in all sorts of plays—light ones, of course—and he contributed materially to the successful seasons of such shows as "Phil Phi," "Oh! Julie!," "Who's My Father?" and "Love Lies." He made his debut in the talking picture world in 1931 and has appeared on New Zealand screens in "Love Lies" and "Sleepless Nights."

ARRANGING CONCERT

ZILLAH CASTLE, Wellington's clever violinist, winner of a scholarship to the Royal College of Music, London, has testimonials and accounts of her work from some of London's finest professors of music to her credit. Arthur Bent and Haydn Inwards number among some of those with whom she studied. She had many interesting experiences under the conductorship of London's most famous conductors and composers and came in contact with many first performances of the younger school of composers whose names will figure in the near future in line with Elgar, Holst and Delius. A memorial concert to these three composers is being organised by Miss Castle and Madame de Mauny for next month as a tribute to the memory of England's trio of great artists.

PROUD OF HIS BAND

ONE of the proudest men in New Zealand just now is Mr. R. J. Est-

all, the conductor of the Woolston Band the band which so worthily upheld New Zealand's musical reputation at the Melbourne Centenary celebrations. Mr. Estall's first taste of music was in Wellington, where he joined a boys' band in his schooldays. When he moved to Christchurch he joined the Woolston band as a player of the euphonium, and played under such eminent bandmasters as the late Mr. E. C. Derry and Lieutenant W. V. Siddall. In 1914 Mr. Estall was appointed conductor of the Woolston Band, and he has held that position ever since. Since he came into office the Woolston Band has won more than £2000 in prize money, and has competed in 15 contests, securing seven championships.

LAWYER TO SINGER

*Ole Man River, dat Old Man River,
He don't say nothin' . . .*

Everyone has heard Paul Robeson's voice in that now famous song from "Show Boat." And it was that song



that first brought Robeson fame as a singer. Born in America 36 years ago, Robeson studied law and took his degree at Columbia University. But he had an excellent voice and he was given his first chance to display it when he was given a part in "Simon the Cyrenian" in New York in 1921. His first appearance in England was in the following year, when he played in "The Voodoo," which starred Mrs. Patrick Campbell. Two years later he caused a sensation in London when he appeared in the leading parts in Eugene O'Neill's plays, "All God's Chillun Got Wings," and "Emperor Jones." The latter has since been made into a talkie with Robeson in the leading part. It has been shown in one or two New Zealand towns this year. His singing of "Ole Man River" in the London production of "Show Boat" in 1928 established him as a vocalist, however, and he has since made hundreds of records. His favourite recreations are tennis, bridge and jazz music.

COMING-OF-AGE

TWO months ago Mr. H. Temple White completed 21 years of musical service to the city of Wellington. Way back in 1913 Mr. White, who is as well known in the Capital City as the Prime Minister himself,

took up the position of organist and choirmaster at Wesley Church in Taranaki Street. In the following year the Wellington Harmonic Society was formed, and Mr. White was appointed its first conductor. At the close of the war he was appointed to the position of conductor of the Wellington Commercial Travellers' Choir of male voices, and he remained in this position for 12 years. One of Mr. White's most important positions was that of musical director of the Royal Choral Union, a position he held for nearly nine years.

WHAT NAME, PLEASE?

THE names given below are those of men and women who are featured in the coming programmes from the New Zealand national stations or of radio performers who have been featured in the news during the week. On these pages are paragraphs relating to the activities of the persons mentioned in this column.

R. J. ESTALL, conducting the Woolston Band from 3YA at 8.0 p.m. on Monday, November 26.

WALTER GLYNNE, in recorded numbers from 2YA on Wednesday, November 28.

H. TEMPLE WHITE, conducting the Apollo Singers in a relay by 2YA at 8.0 p.m. on Tuesday, November 27.

PAUL ROBESON, in recorded numbers from 1YA at 8.48 p.m. on Saturday, December 1.

ZILLAH CASTLE, in numbers at the Grand Scots Concert, to be relayed by 2YA at 8.0 p.m. on Saturday, December 1.

MAX KESTER, in recorded numbers from 3YA on Monday, November 26.

DE GROOT, in recorded numbers from 4YA on Wednesday, November 28.

MARION TALLEY, in recorded numbers from 1YA on Friday, November 30.

STAN LAWSON, in a little nonsense from 4YA at 8.30 p.m. on Saturday, December 1.

STANLEY LUPINO, in a recording from 4YA at 9.41 p.m. on Saturday, December 1.