

surely her lucky year, for in addition to her musical honours she won the Hockham golf championship, the Natimuk championship, and was runner-up at Warracknabeel and Rupanup. At Dame Nellie Melba's final performance in Melbourne in "La Boheme," Miss Harding was selected as a member of the sextette, her next engagement being to take a leading role in Fritz Hart's opera, "The Woman Who Laughed at Faery," and his production of the Mozart opera, "Cosi Fan Tutte." After doing brilliantly at the Melbourne Conservatorium, Miss Harding took leading parts with the Melbourne Philharmonic Society in "The Messiah." On many occasions her rich mezzo voice has been heard from 3LO and 2FC. For some time she was on the permanent staff of 3LO. On another occasion she successfully carried out for the education authorities a series of lecture recitals in the schools. Miss Harding eventually joined the J. C. Williamson Gilbert and Sullivan Comic Opera Company which toured Australia and New Zealand about three years ago. When the Australian Broadcasting Commission took over national broadcasting, Miss Harding was one of the artists selected for the opening night, a distinction which she also enjoyed recently when IYA was officially opened. She loves her beautiful garden at her home, is often seen in it, and she plays tennis and golf. But more important still, listeners—she has a beautiful baby girl, Helen Day, aged six months.

Miss Valerie Corliss Studied Under Tobias Matthay.

ONE of the most gifted and best qualified pianoforte performers New Zealand has produced is Miss Valerie Corliss, of Wellington, whose playing, teaching and lecturing earned her the degree of A.R.A.M. in 1929, on top of her previous qualification for the L.R.A.M. examination (both performer's and teacher's) and



R.A.M. Leaving Certificate for teaching and performing. Miss Corliss is also the official New Zealand representative of the Tobias Matthay School, London, of which Mr. Frank Hutchens is the Sydney representative.

On her first visit to England Miss Corliss studied at the Royal Academy of Music, and on her second visit she studied with Tobias Matthay himself at the latter's school. She played at his Festival Concerts, and also gave a recital with Miss Eileen Driscoll, at the Wigmore Hall, London. While in London on her third visit, Miss Corliss taught at both

her own studio and at the Matthay School, and during the two years spent there she met many celebrated musicians, hearing a great deal of wonderful music in both public and private performances given by great artists. For a year she also contributed regular articles to the "Evening Post," Wellington.

Returning in 1932, Miss Corliss organised the British Music Society's New Zealand branch in Wellington under the authority of Sir Arthur Somerville. As a pianist, teacher and lecturer, Miss Corliss has become well known throughout New Zealand, not only by her more general lecture-recitals, but also by her lectures to teachers in four New Zealand centres with the English teacher, lecturer and examiner, Frederick Moore. During the last two years Miss Corliss has conducted courses of lectures on music for the Wellington branch of the W.E.A.

For a hobby, Miss Corliss turns to writing, having supplied articles for several New Zealand newspapers and periodicals on such topics as travel, meetings with celebrities, and aspects of London life, in addition to articles on musical subjects for such occasions as conferences. Another of her interests is literature, with which she combines psychology and philosophy. Miss Corliss has a big library of verse and works of modern poets, and has interested herself in verse and play-reading.

Studied Under Famous Master at Fontainebleau in 1929.

MRS. B. R. NEES, formerly Miss Koa Oliver, under which name she has given pianoforte recitals in Dunedin, Invercargill and elsewhere, gained her L.A.B. at the age of fifteen years. She later took the F.T.C.L. degree, and went abroad three times, on each occasion furthering her musical studies. She obtained the Performers' L.R.A.M. in London, and before leaving was engaged by the B.B.C. to broadcast from the London studio.

During her travels, Mrs. Nees has visited England, America, Canada, France, Italy, Switzerland, China, Japan, Java, and Australia. In 1929 she spent the summer at Fontainebleau, near Paris, staying in a wing of the famous palace, where she studied under the world-renowned teacher, M. Isador Philipp. She also studied ensemble work with Braze-laie and Batalla, receiving the Diploma of Execution of the Fontainebleau Conservatoire of France. While she was there, she met many interesting persons of the artistic world. Her favourite composer is Bach.

Mrs. Nees is fond of yachting, and spends a good deal of her time on her husband's launch, Islay. She is also fond of motoring, and is an accomplished driver. Prominent in musical circles in Dunedin, she is a member of the committee of the Society of Women Musicians of Otago, and also of the Ladies' Auxiliary Committee of the Dunedin Symphony Orchestra.

The Dark-eyed Cinderella of Auckland's IYA

KNOWN to all listeners as "Cinderella," among the numerous artists who broadcast from IYA none is more deservedly popular than Miss Ruby Palmer, the little dark-eyed girl who has been in charge of the children's sessions at this station for seven years. Miss Palmer's main duties at the station con-

sist of organising the daily children's sessions, but her broadcasting activities are not confined to entertaining the children. For instance she has a very large "fan" mail to answer, children to meet, to arrange for and superintend broadcasts by other "uncles" and "aunts," and in her spare time she visits those unfortunate children who are ill. Many adult listeners enjoy her witty and vivacious artistry and her apt and bright sayings which go over the air. She is one of those rare persons—a natural broadcaster with an infectious laugh. No doubt this enables her to carry out her difficult work so successfully. To talk interestingly to a large number of all classes varying in age from three to 14 years is no light task. Among the most popular stories she dispenses for the children are those concerning animals. Miss Palmer creates a wonderful influence on the child mind by teaching them to be kind to the lesser creatures of the earth. Certainly no praise is too great for "Cinderella's" efforts. She has a marvellous collection of glass slippers of all sizes and shapes, presented to her by children in various parts of the Dominion.

Young Radio Speaker From Big Christchurch Store.

MISS V. CHAFFEY, who has been for more than 12 months on the air every week from 3YA, talking on "Fashions," is an Australian girl. She is a very clever artist, and employed by the D.I.C., Christchurch, as their advertising artist and fashion illustrator, and included in her duties is the designing of the background for the D.I.C. windows—windows which every passer-by admires. Miss Chaffey is tall and dark, with most expressive brown eyes, and she was a fortunate girl in that, at the age of 15, she journeyed to London with her father, and entered the Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts, gaining a scholarship there. This entitled her to three years' tuition,



—Steffano Webb photo.

and when she finished she was employed by the well-known publishers, Hodder and Stoughton, of London, and designed book jackets. Two years' experience with this firm fitted her thoroughly for free-lance work, including magazine illustrating for many well-known London newspapers and magazines. During her seven years abroad, Miss Chaffey travelled extensively, and visited many interesting places in England, Belgium, France and Holland. The responsible position she holds fits Miss Chaffey for the task of giving listeners news of the very latest in the world of fashion.