

PERSONALITIES

POLISH PIANIST

KAROL SZRETER, the brilliant Polish pianist, who died at an early age a few years ago, was born in Lodz, on September 29, 1898. He took his first lessons at the age of seven, his first teacher being Wachtel. He made his debut in Warsaw at the age of eleven. From 1912 to 1914 he studied at the St. Petersburg Conservatory, under Professor Dubassoff, and from 1914 to 1918 under Professor Petrie. He made his Berlin debut in 1915, and he enjoyed considerable success in touring Germany, Holland, the Scandinavian countries, Italy, Poland, and Czechoslovakia. His brilliant technique and noble tone, is happily faithfully preserved to us in his all too few recordings.

TOTI SPEAKING

"I DO not think," says Toti dal Monte, "it is necessary to study too deeply in regard to the mechanism of the voice, how the voice is made, what like is the throat, the lungs. Why trouble after all this? I sing quite naturally, and with facility, and want to forget how my voice comes. How else can I think of my part, and be a real artist—live my characters? No! Some singers are 'troppo sapere.' My debut? My debut in Italia was in Milano, at La Scala Theatre. In a small role, 'Francisca da Rimini.' It was a great success, and a greater success after in Genoa. In Genoa I met many English people, as there was an England military hospital there. This was in 1918. My favourite roles are 'Lucia' and 'Rosina' in 'The Barber of Seville.'" Toti dal Monte, born in Venice, is known throughout Europe as the "Venetian Nightingale."

SWEETS FROM SPAIN

SON of a Swedish father and an English mother, both musicians, Victor Olof has been playing the fiddle since he was seven. Making his debut in Vienna in 1921, he has gone



from strength to strength until now, as director of the Victor Olof Sextet, and also of the Salon Orchestra, he has little time for his hobbies of singing, gardening and cycling, not forgetting a devotion for Shaw, Casals and Epstein. He once had a letter of passionate admiration from two doctors at Saragossa, who listened to his London broadcasts in sunny Spain. With the letter came two boxes of sweets—for distribution among "your musicians and the announcer whose voice we

have come to know so well"; also the music of a popular Spanish air, the "Jota Aragonesa," with the request that it be played by the sextet.

FRANKAU FRENZY

IT'S all very well for operatic stars to get enthusiastic about the operatic heroine on gramophone records. They are just singing the same things which they have done on the stage, and in the same way. But Ronald Frankau is one who can talk about of those artists women and lots of silly things on a gramophone record, and make it interesting. Mind you, he says some naughty things now and then—he'll admit it. And he finds some strange types of women to talk about—he'll admit that he is an authority on those, too. For all we know, he might be a badly hen-pecked husband, but we like to think of him as an inconsequential philanderer, who'll tell us all about those women. He has become one of the best known recorded humorists of the last few years, and the Frankau frenzy in New Zealand lasted well. A gramophone library was scarcely complete without a Frankau record. But in some of his records he became too frenzied, and the censor stepped in to guard New Zealand's chastity. It was good of the censor to let Ronald's ten-inch appeal for purity in recordings reach the public. It's a jolly good lesson for those fellows who say naughty things on records. A friend of ours is sending a copy to Ronald.

COAXING THE 'CELLO

ALTHOUGH he was one of the fortunate ones, born to music, Trevor de Clive Lowe put in a few years of hard study before he satisfied his family that he was a competent 'cello performer. By the time he started practising as a doctor, he was an accomplished musician, and since then it has appeared no effort for him to drag his 'cello out of the corner and string off a tune to the taste of any company. His father, Dr. George de Clive Lowe, also of Auckland, has long been known as a gifted writer of plays and short stories, and a lover of good music. The two elder sons are practising doctors, and the younger, a last-year dental student, shows decided musical promise with his voice. Dr. Trevor has distinguished himself in Auckland, on the 'cello in concerts, chamber music and over the air, and it must be considerable consolation to his parents to know that music, as well as professional skill has not died out in this generation of the family.

of the week



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.

KAROL SZRETER, pianist, in records from 3YA, on Wednesday, March 6.

TOTI DAL MONTE, soprano, in records from 3YA on Friday, March 8.

MARCEL DUPRE, organist, records from 2YA on Thursday, March 7.

CYRIL SCOTT, composer-pianist, from 1YA on Monday, March 4.

GLADYS MONCRIEFF, soprano, in records from 3YA Monday, March 4.

TREVOR de CLIVE LOWE, 'cellist, from 1YA on Wednesday, March 6.

VICTOR OLOF, conductor, from 4YA, Saturday, March 9.

MISCHA ELMAN'S QUARTET, in records from 2YA, Monday, March 4.

PABLO CASALS, 'cellist, in records from 3Y on Friday, March 8.

WILLIS AIREY, M.A., in a talk from 1YA on Thursday, March 7.

RONALD FRANKAU, humourist, in records from 1YA on Saturday, March 9.

LAURITZ MELCHIOR, tenor, from 3AR, Melbourne, on Monday, March 4.

REV. D. GARDNER MILLER, in a broadcast of the service from the Trinity Congregational Church, Christchurch, at 11 a.m. on Sunday, March 3.

MR. DAVID McLAREN, in a talk, "Talking About Gossip," from 2YA at 8.40 p.m. on Monday, March 4.

MONA TRACY, in a talk from 3YA at 9.3 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5.