

## MARVELLOUS DUPRE

MARCEL DUPRE has had an astonishing career. Belonging to a family distinguished in organ music, he was only ten when he attracted attention by playing some of Bach's "Preludes and Fugues" by heart on the organ. His most remarkable feat was a series of ten recitals, in the course of which he played the whole of Bach's organ music by heart, a feat which few indeed could emulate. Since then, Dupre has given recitals in many parts of the world, and is everywhere looked up to as one of the greatest living masters of the organ. His extempore playing is as famous as his mastery of the classics, being on the high level which makes it difficult for the hearer to believe that it is really improvised on the spur of the moment on melodies given him there and then.

## NOSE FOR NEWS

MONA TRACY has that rare journalistic gift of not only being able to put down a good story on paper, but of being able to scent an interesting tale out of the most unlikely corners. In the days when "Anssie" was being published, Mrs. Tracy was a regular contributor—and her stories were eagerly looked for by readers, both here and in Australia. Mrs. Tracy's journalistic flair stands her in good stead in broadcasting, too. Her talks on early New Zealand have been told with a verve that makes the most jaded listener sit up and take notice. "I'm fairly old in the tooth as a writer," she once remarked to a "Radio Record" representative, "but at broadcasting I'm as a little child. My general idea, in putting over the talks on New Zealand, is to select some person or group of persons and, through their experiences, bring the New Zealand of a century ago before the mind of the listener."

## MODERNIST APOSTLE

COMPOSER, poet, and author of works on philosophy, Cyril Scott is one of our most versatile and distinguished modern English musicians. From the stage, through which most of us pass, of playing the piano by ear at very early age, he has advanced to the premier position in the English musical world as the prophet and apostle of modernism, and as foremost recital pianist. Born in Cheshire in 1879, he studied at Frankfurt, where more than one other young Englishman who has stepped into the front rank of composers, was with him. His music, songs, and smaller pieces, are heard all too seldom, and his orchestral, choral and chamber music is overdue on the gramophone records, where it should be.

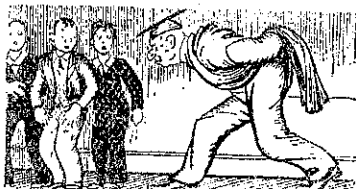
## AWKWARD PAUSE

MISCHA ELMAN, violinist (born 1892 of Russian parentage), was the grandson of a public performer in the South of Russia, and his father, a poor Jewish schoolmaster, was also a violinist. When only four years old his father gave him a tiny fiddle, and upon playing it to a lady he received an offer of free education upon condition he became a Catholic, an offer his father declined. Mischa took to the violin like a duck takes to water, and when only five he played at a village concert. Somewhat later he played at a reception at a Russian prince's reception. "For an urchin of seven," he says, "I flatter myself I rattled off

Beethoven's 'Kreutzer Sonata' finely. This sonata, you know, has several long and impressive rests. Well, during one of them a motherly old lady leaned forward, patted my shoulder, and said, 'Play something you know, dear.'"

## ANGELL'S COUNTERPART

IF there is a man in New Zealand who might be called the antipodean counterpart of Sir Norman Angell—by virtue of his principles—it must be Mr. Willis T. G. Airey, M.A. One remembers him as a master at the Auckland Grammar School, fourteen years ago, in his B.A. days. Even then



he was a pacifist at heart, compared with the best "swipers" in the school, to the contentment of his pupils. But his pacifism is not the milk-sop or C.O. type encountered during recruiting for the last Great Scrap. He has the logic and conviction of the famous author of "The Great Illusion," and can argue the economic fallacies of international strife with an ability possessed by few in this Dominion. Consequently, he has become one of the pillars of the Auckland Branch of the League of Nations Union. Whether or no you may approve of the League itself, there is no escaping the force of Mr. Airey's arguments against war, which are delivered with a frigid and undramatic logic, which must appeal to anybody who gives the question a second thought. Without being a seditionist he has taken the opportunity in the last few years of training W.E.A. students along the lines of sane economics, and he has the art of bringing home his lessons without letting prejudices detract from the evident soundness of his judgement.

## DANISH TENOR

THE son of the owner of one of the finest schools in Copenhagen, Lauritz Melchior, was intended to follow his father's profession, but his love of music was so great that he insisted on being allowed to follow it in some form, and at seventeen he entered a music publishing house, studying in his spare time with a famous teacher of singing. At 21 he made his debut as a baritone, and at 25 he was principal baritone at the Royal Opera, Copenhagen. But as time passed, he found that his high baritone voice was rapidly changing to tenor quality, so, after seven years before the public, he retired for a further period of study—at the expense of the Danish Government—and he made his tenor debut as Caris in "Pagliacci." He is most popular in England.

## BACK IN 1915

IT was 'way back in 1915—during a season of Gilbert and Sullivan—that Gladys Moncrieff first appeared on a New Zealand stage. But in those days her name was a long way down the programme, and it was not until she came back in "The Maid of the Mountains" that the public really sat up and took notice of her. Since then she has sung many songs and played

in many roles, her latest being in "The Cedar Tree," which has had a good run in Melbourne. New Zealand hasn't seen Gladys since 1929, when she played a triumphant season in "Rio Rita." The talkies obscured the sun for a time, but Gladys is now back in a big way in the "flesh and blood" entertainment world.

## A WARM CORNER!

CHRISTCHURCH knows the Rev. D. Gardner Miller for the earnest endeavour he puts behind any scheme which he takes up—and for the pithy notices which appear on the board outside his church in Worcester Street, not far from Cathedral Square. On one occasion the notice read:

## HELL.

Preacher: Rev. D. Gardner Miller.

One of the local papers commented, "And a very lucrative parish for Mr. Miller, too!"

## MASTER 'CELLIST

PABLO CASSALS, the great Spanish 'cellist and conductor, was born in a small village near Barcelona, where his father was church organist. As a small boy he learned the flute, violin, and piano, and sang in his father's choir, but not until he was 13 did he begin to study the 'cello under Jose Garcia. His progress was so rapid that within two years of his first lesson he won the first prize at the Barcelona Conservatoire. That remarkable achievement brought him to the notice of the Spanish statesman, Morphy, who presented him to Queen Christina, and, under her patronage, he spent two years at the Royal Conservatoire in Madrid; study in Brussels and Paris converted him into one of the greatest artists of our time. In Barcelona he has founded a musical society of 10,000, to which working people can belong for a very small fee. These concerts attract students from all over Europe.

## "DAVE" McLAREN

MR. DAVID McLAREN—"Dave" McLaren as he is better known to thousands of Wellingtonians—was the first Labour mayor of the Capital. This little man still has an immense capacity for work, and his powers of reasoning might be envied by many a younger man. The writer remembers a winter afternoon when, over a big fire, Mr. McLaren and a young married woman aired their views on the age-old question of how to bring up children. From his remarks one gathered that "Dave's" life had not exactly been a bed of roses—but his kindly remarks on his mother, who struggled hard to bring up her family, stamped him as a man of sympathy and human understanding.

JAPAN'S five-year radio plan is proceeding apace. The management of the Japanese Broadcasting Commission proposes to spend ten million yen (£1,500,000) on the scheme, which includes a 150-kilowatt station for Tokio, two high-power stations at Osaka and Kiocho, and from 10 to 15 regional stations on lower power, all to be completed within eighteen months. Meanwhile, the main streets of Tokio and Osaka resound with broadcast programmes relayed by public address equipment. This is no doubt a step towards popularising private ownership of sets.