

PERSONALITIES

of the week

SPAT AT JERITZA

BEFORE broadcasting, the name of Maria Olszewska was quite unknown in New Zealand, but her records have made her voice widely known and greatly appreciated. Although already well known in Central Europe, she first came into international prominence when she spat on the lovely looking soprano Jeritza. Events of that type are only trifles in grand opera



circles. Maria's success is considerably due to her excellent acting as well as vocal richness and ability to sing in several languages. Her first outstanding success was in Hamburg as Aueris in Verdi's "Aida." The young singer appeared as if she had been born

on the stage, every gesture and the freedom of her action being remarkable, and especially in view of the fact that she had been brought up in the seclusion of a Bavarian convent. She is a good pianist.

N.Z. PLEASE COPY!

AMONG the most exasperating people who cumber this earth are late-comers to concerts, theatres, and meetings generally. There is a story told of Leopold Stokowsky, how when he first went to take charge of the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphians were in the habit of arriving late at concerts. The conductor, annoyed by these bad manners, retaliated. One evening he sent in his orchestra one at a time, for a symphony. First came a handful of fiddlers and began to play, next a 'cello or so, until the whole orchestra had arrived and joined in. Stokowsky himself



reached his desk a dozen bars before the end of the first movement. The hint was taken. From that day no one has dared to arrive late at his concerts.

ELLY FROM BONN

ELLY NEY is the daughter of an ancient Alsatian family, and a direct descendant of General Ney, the famous Marshall under Napoleon. Her mother, an exceptional musician, gave the child her first training. At the age of ten Elly Ney gained a scholarship in one of the largest conservatoires in Germany. When 16, she won first prize in a great musical contest, and one year later the hotly-contested Mendelssohn prize. Leschetizky, the teacher of so many famous pianists, became most interested in her and took her as a pupil. Born in Bonn, the birthplace of Beethoven, of whose music she is a most distinguished interpreter, she has been granted the freedom of her native city, and is the first woman in Germany to enjoy this unique civic distinction. Her husband is Willy von Hoogstraten, Dutch violinist and conductor.

SYDNEY RAYNER

ONE of the recorded tenors of the highest order is Sydney Rayner, American-born, but of British parentage, who possesses a beautiful and easy production and a voice of rare,

pure quality. He received his principal training in Italy, the true home of operatic tenors, making his debut in Rome on June 5, 1927, in "La Boheme," where he scored a remarkable success. Following this he was heard "all over Italy," where, if we are to believe the once-popular song "they sing so prettily." In January, 1930, Sydney Rayner made his Parisian debut at the Opera Comique, where he was acclaimed as one of the greatest tenors of the day. He stands to-day as one of the first favourites among New Zealand radio listeners.

BEST SELLER

A BEST-SELLER, like a tested wire, can hold up an astonishing weight of reputation. Gabriel Piere is a musician of consequence in France, though it is very doubtful if even his name would convey very much to us in distant New Zealand if it were not for his famous "Serenade in A." Piere's true poetic imagination reaches its loftiest heights in his wonderful oratorios, such as "The Children's Crusade," "The Children of Bethlehem," "St. Francis of Assisi," etc. Ease and efficiency, purity and grace, characterise all the large and varied musical output of this able Frenchman, and his ability as a conductor is manifested on several records of distinction.

GOOSSENS FAMILY

LEO GOOSSENS, the oboe player, with his admirable and precise technique, his exceptional knowledge of ensemble and evident musicianship,



and his mastery of his chosen instrument, is indisputably the greatest exponent of the oboe in the world. Together with Lionel Tertis, the greatest living viola player, he has earned a profound respect for British musicianship, both on the Continent and elsewhere. He belongs to a quite unusually gifted musical family. He is the son of Eugene Goossens, the Belgian conductor, who settled in England early in his life and soon became recognised as an operatic conductor of genius. Leon's brother, Eugene, has made his name equally as composer and conductor. And there is Sidonie Goossens, who is a harpist of real distinction. All three are on the records.

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.

GORDON BRYAN, pianist, from 2FC, Sydney, on Saturday, March 15.

DR. EDGAR L. BANTON, lecturer and conductor, from 2FC, Sydney, on Sunday, March 10, and Wednesday, March 13.

W. P. LIPSCOMB, dramatic reciter, from 3YA on Thursday, March 14.

GABRIEL PIERNE, conductor, from 2FC, Sydney, on Friday, March 15.

LEON GOOSSENS, oboe virtuoso, from 1YA on Wednesday, March 13.

SYDNEY RAYNER, tenor, from 4YA on Wednesday, March 13.