

PERSONALITIES

NOMADIC QUARTET

DURING its long artistic career, the Rose String Quartet has appeared in practically every country in Europe. This perfect and congenial combination of artists is made up as follows: Professor Arnold Rose, first violin, Paul Fischer, second violin, Anton Ruzitska, viola, and Anton Walter, 'cello. Professor Rose, the founder, is a native of Jassy, Roumania, and, as a young soloist, he played at the first performance of the Goldmark Concerto, which was given under the direction of Nikisch in Leipzig. At the early age of 18 he was appointed concert master of the Imperial Opera in Vienna. He is a brother-in-law of the late Gustav Mahler, composer and conductor of the New York Metropolitan Opera, and the same city's famous Philharmonic Orchestra.

of the week

THORNDIKE HIKES

THE man in the street has come to believe that great actresses spend their leisure time reclining on silken divans and smoking fat and heaven-scented cigarettes. Dame Sybil Thorndike, who was in New Zealand last year, does nothing of the sort. When she was acting in Christchurch she spent most of her spare moments

same school—the Budapest Academy. All except the 'cellist were the pupils of one master, Hubay, and he was a pupil and close friend of Joachim, so that the best traditions of quartet-playing long ago became part of their equipment. The 'cellist was a pupil of that great artist, David Popper. When revolution broke out in Vienna in 1918, all four were leading members of the Budapest opera orchestra; they went into retirement, and devoted themselves for two years to uninterrupted quartet practice, with a success which was immediately acclaimed on their first appearance as a team. To the musical world of Vienna, and soon afterwards in Paris, their playing was something of a revelation, and even now, when the whole world knows them, it is always a fresh amazement, wherever they are heard, that four artists can play as though only one conception of the music guided their thoughts and hands. The Lener Quartet personnel is Jenő Lener, first violin, Joseph Smolovitz, second violin, Sándor Kóth, viola, and Omre Hartman, 'cello.



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.

ENRICO CARUSO, in recordings from 4YA on Tuesday, April 30; from 3YA on Saturday, May 4; from 1YA on Wednesday, May 1.

ROSE QUARTET in chamber music from 2YA on Monday, April 29.

SERGE KOUSSEVITSKY, as conductor in recordings from 4YA on Thursday, May 2.

ARTHUR MEALE in recordings from 3YA on Saturday, May 4.

NORMAN LONG, in a comedy recording from 4YA on Tuesday, April 30.

LENER STRING QUARTET in recordings from 3YA on Monday, April 29.

PERCY PITT, as conductor recordings from 3YA on Sunday, April 28.

DR. LEO BECK, as conductor in recordings from 3YA on Wednesday, May 1.

DAME SYBIL THORNDIKE in recordings from 2YA on Wednesday, May 1; from 1YX on Sunday, April 28.

walking on the Port Hills. She became a familiar figure on the Cashmere Hills trams and her dress was usually something brown and of heavy tweed. A felt hat that looked as if it had survived many southerly busters, a pair of stout shoes and an equally business-like walking stick completed the outfit. Her husband, Mr. Lewis Casson, and son Christopher, usually made up the walking party, the men being equally sensibly dressed in flannels and sport coats.

DOUBLE BASS SOLOIST

SERGE KOUSSEVITSKY was not always a conductor. His original fame was as a double-bass soloist. The interest created by the aristocratic-looking young man from Moscow at the turn of the century was intense. He stirred up the most blasé musical public in the whole world—the self-sufficient concert-goers of Berlin. He did not play the small-sized three string bass tuned to fifths, as did Botticini, but he gave vein to his virtuosity on a full-size orchestra bass tuned to fourths in the ordinary way. No one had attempted to win virtuoso laurels on the full-sized bass since the eccentric genius, Dragonetti, 100 years before. Young Serge came, played, and conquered, and with the critics, especially he was, in modern parlance—"a riot."

IDEAL TEAM WORK

THE splendid team-work of the Lener String Quartet, to which the whole world looks as a standard, began with the best possible of auguries. The four artists are almost the same age—two were born in 1894 and two in 1895—and all were distinguished pupils of the

CARUSO AT BLACKPOOL

WHEN Caruso went to Blackpool in the summer of 1909, his recital at the Winter Gardens created an indelible impression on the minds of the audience. There are many people who still regard it as one of the most dramatic experiences of their lives. According to the files of "The Blackpool Gazette," people waited four hours outside the Winter Gardens for the commencement of the concert. People paid five shillings for gallery seats and three shillings for the privilege of standing on the promenade. Caruso's beaming smiles contrasted oddly with his general Napoleonic mien, and towards the box which contained his two friends, Mr. Eugene Sandow and Mr. George Robey, he directed many friendly glances. His final appearance on the stage after many encores, was in overcoat with Gibus hat, and his gloves in his hand, with which he waved a genial "addio."

POPULAR ORGANIST

THE death of Arthur Meale, organist and composer, on December 10, 1932, robbed the art of music of one of its most faithful and sincere servants and one of its most popular figures. Born at Slaithwaite, Huddersfield, Yorkshire (the birthplace also incidentally of the composer, Haydn Wood), Arthur Meale attained fame by his splendidly attended recitals at the Central Hall, Westminster, at which console he made many fine organ records. One of these, his own composition, "The Storm," became a best seller. His other compositions, apart from organ music, consisted of pianoforte and vocal music. He designed many fine organs including the one in the City Hall, Hull.