

PERSONALITIES

of the week

A Silly Nickname

PHILIP GUEDALA, in a penetrating study of Dean Inge, ascribes a novel cause to the nickname by which he is world famed. "Here was a man," Mr. Guedala says, "without a paper to his name (for it can hardly be that St. Paul's Cathedral has a parish magazine), who usurped the authority of the omniscient gentlemen who write leading articles and undertook to lecture his fellow-countrymen on their affairs. Any journalist could see that the claim was preposterous, and had to be denied. The man was demonstrably a black-leg. So they conspired to call him the 'Gloomy Dean.' It was a silly nickname. But it has stuck. . . . But you cannot dismiss an intelligent and articulate man with a nickname, and the Dean's point of view is often an opinion to be reckoned with."

"Like a Dream"

SOMETIMES it does seem like a dream. I can hardly believe it is really I," Florence Austral once confessed after a triumph at a big musical festival. "It has been hard and continuous work, the constant worry of whether the ladder could ever be scaled in



safety." Born Florence Mary Wilson, on the suggestion of Henry Higgins, of Covent Garden, she adopted the name of Austral. Spending her early life in an environment in which great music was never heard, Madame Austral sang ballads and little songs at amateur and church concerts. In 1918 she entered the Ballarat competitions, and up to this time she had never heard an opera. Her great success at Ballarat led her to Melbourne, and study, then on to London, where, in four short years, she made her operatic debut as Brunnhilde.

"In the Speaker"

LEONARD GOWINGS, tenor, has a favourite niece who lives at Chiswick, a few miles from London. Once, after a recital at 2LO, he went by taxi to see her. She was in the nursery when her mother came in and said: "Here's Uncle Leonard." "It can't be," she quickly replied, "he's in the loud-speaker!" Mr. Gowings has the unique distinction of having his eldest daughter on H.M.V. records as well as himself. Miss Margaret, when 16, made a beautiful record which consists of recitations from Shelley, Blake, Leigh Hunt and Shakespeare. Leonard's worst weakness is a proneness to make spoonerisms. In a speech at a social gathering, he referred to a scoutmaster and "his scoop of boy trouts."

The Dolmetsches

DOWN at Haslemere, in Surrey, Arnold Dolmetsch, the well-known expert on the music and musical instruments of earlier times, has established his own workshop, where, under conditions far removed from the push and bustle of to-day, he and his family make such old instruments as viols and harpsichords and clavichords. He is not only, however, a rare craftsman; he is a delicate musician, a fine and purist interpreter of early music. It is an experience not easily forgotten to be present at Haslemere when the summer festival of old music is in progress. All the family take part—for

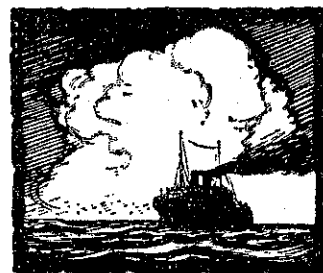
Mr. Dolmetsch has re-established in his own household the domestic consort of the 17th century. Every member "does" something in a musical sense.

Tauber to Marry

THE cables announce the engagement of Richard Tauber, noted German tenor, to Miss Diana Napier, the film actress. When gramophiles were electrified some eight years ago by the freshness and spontaneity this young German gave to the Schubert song cycle, "The Winter Journey," many among them immediately appreciated that a new favourite had arrived. The lustre of this masterpiece remains undimmed, and is still appreciated by radio listeners or gramophone owners wherever it is heard. Tauber has since bowed to popular taste, but his voice and artistry have something of the "philosopher's stone," for they turn to gold that which would be but dross in a lesser artist's hands. In his 43rd year, Richard Tauber should make a steady husband. Here's wishing him the best!

Historian M.P.

MR. PHILIP GUEDALA maintains we can hardly be too grateful to Mr. Winston Churchill for his lively presentation of history. In his naval history gunnery grows wildly thrilling under his vivid touch and there is nothing better in dramatic writing than von Spee's discovery of the battle-cruisers at the Falkland Islands. "A few minutes later a terrible apparition broke upon German eyes. Rising from



behind the promontory, sharply visible in the clear air, were a pair of tripod masts. One glance was enough. They meant certain death. The day was beautifully fine, and from the tops the horizon extended thirty or forty miles in every direction. There was no hope for victory. There was no chance of escape. A month before another admiral and his sailors had suffered a similar experience."

"A Violin Virtuoso"

IN the 1890's Bronislaw Hubermann was the prodigy violinist of the day, exactly as Yehudi Menuhin is that of these present years. To-day he is one of the greatest violinists known in history, for his gifts have developed and

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.

LEONARD GOWINGS, tenor, from 1YA, Monday, May 6.

FLORENCE AUSTRAL, soprano, from 1YA, Saturday, May 11.

ARNOLD RUDOLPH and **CECILE DOLMETSCH**, exponents of early English music, from 2YA Thursday, May 9.

Rt. Hon. WINSTON CHURCHILL, C.H., M.P., lecturer, from 3YA Wednesday, May 8.

BRONISLAW HUBERMANN, violinist, from 4YA, Sunday, May 5.

EILEEN JOYCE, pianist, from 1YA, Saturday, May 11.

The Very Rev. W. R. INGE, K.C.V.O., D.D., from 4YA, Thursday, May 9.

Dr. WILHELM FURTWÄNGLER, conductor, who has been reinstated in Germany.

RICHARD TAUBER, tenor, whose engagement was announced recently.