

PERSONALITIES

of the week

FOUR "VIRTUOSI"

THE ambitious title, "Virtuoso Quartet," was given to a string quartet by four brilliant players, with every justification for its use. These four musicians are Marjorie Hayward, Edwin Wirgo, Raymond Jeremy and Cedric Sharpe. The first and the last-named are well-known to radio listeners by their records. Marjorie Hayward is an English violinist now in her 50th year, who has a very powerful style and is a former pupil of Emile Sauret and Otakar Sevcik. Miss Hayward enjoyed, therefore, tuition in both the French and the Czech schools. Older readers will recall the tour years ago of Marie Hall, who was also a pupil of Sevcik. Cedric Sharpe, the English cellist, who has a fine tone and good style, is known also through the Cedric Sharpe Sextet. He is 41 and is a pupil of W. H. Squire.

"THE WINTER GARDEN"

THERE has recently been collected into book form by the widow of the author, four dramatic pieces by John Galsworthy. The first, "The Win-

ter Garden," is a one-act play written about 1908. It was never published during Galsworthy's lifetime—in fact, he sub-titled it "A Symphonic Squib" and laid it aside in a drawer. The second of the four pieces is a complete scene from that excellent play, "Escape." It was written in 1926 but it was discarded from the finished play



JOHN GALSWORTHY.

as "not advancing the action sufficiently to justify its inclusion." In Mrs. Galsworthy's opinion this action was regrettable, as the act showed a decidedly new angle in Matt Dennant's attitude to his misfortunes, and it is certainly entertaining. The third, "The Golden Eggs" was written in the Christmas midsummer sun of Cape Colony, and the fourth—just a fragment—was written after the completion of Galsworthy's last novel, "Over the River." The volume was published by Duckworth.

A NATIONAL FIGURE

BROADCASTING is such a powerful factor in daily life that it can make a man into a national figure. Henry Hall is a national figure in Great Britain; his name is synonymous with dance band music; he has an audience seven times every week, that every front bench politician might envy. Tall, slim, dark in appearance, he has quiet thoughtful eyes which flame, on occasion, with an eloquent smile. Henry Hall has never become infected with the virus of West-Endism; he does not spend his spare evenings in night-clubs, nor, being a teetotaler, is he of the bar-leaning, cocktail-gulping type of lounge lizard. Sophisticated by years of professional work in cinemas, on the stage and hotel-banding, he is at the same time versatile in outlook. Such an outlook is essential to a man who plays to small groups of four or five people gathered round six million firesides.

"THE MORNING OPUS"

MOSHE MENUHIN, father of Yehudi and Hephzibah Menuhin, divulged some rather interesting domestic details six years ago, when the famous violinist was a mere boy of eleven. Mr. Menuhin said the best gramophone recordings of symphonies, sonatas, etc., were played for the children at breakfast and supper time. The biggest punishment he could invent for his children was to say to them:—"This morning we shall have breakfast without Beethoven's 'Ninth Symphony,' which we intended to have to-day." The noon meal was kept for family round table talk; usually sweet little Hephzibah would monopolise it with her never-ending, always new and delightful French stories, which she read at her leisure and recited with great delight and original flavour daily.

CHILD OF THE "GRAM."

OLGA HALEY may be said to be the child of the gramophone. At five years of age, Mr. Ricketts, of the Gramophone Co., Ltd., heard her sing and was so struck with her voice that he said: "When she is old enough, let her make her record debut with us." For every year after that period until she was ready to do this, Mr. Ricketts heard her, with the result that she ultimately got her contract and recorded for them. Although she has made for other companies since then, Olga Haley owes much to Mr. Ricketts. She furnishes a brilliant example of what home training can do, for she was taught entirely within the walls of her own home—by her mother for piano, by her father for voice. Here is an all-British product of which we should be proud.

ERNEST IN EARNEST

WRITING in "Music in New Zealand" on the subject of "The Fetish of Memorising" (with special reference to musicians), Mr. Ernest Jenner says: "There are other essentials far more valuable if one is to be a real musician than either faultless memory or faultless technique. The over-cultivation of these two things often means the neglect of great interpretative power, and this is the thing that matters most. It is the music that matters, the meaning of that music, and the handing of that meaning over to the audience that should be the concert artist's chief concern. If the artist is at his greatest ease when playing from memory, by all means let him; but there is a type who has so much to express, who does not play from mere habit, but who receives new and better interpretations under concert conditions; and this type of interpreter, because of these new creative impulses, needs the printed copy because he is no longer playing from memory. Were it mere memory

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.

JACK HYLTON, conductor, 3YA, Friday, May 24.

HENRY HALL, conductor, 3YA, Saturday, May 25.

HEPHZIBAH and YEHUDI MENUHIN, piano and violin duo, 2YA, Monday, May 20.

OLGA HALEY, contralto, 2YA, Wednesday, May 22, and 1YA, Friday, May 24.

HENRY GEEHL, composer-pianist, 1YA, Monday, May 20.

The late HUGO KREISLER, cellist, 1YA, Monday, May 20.

VIRTUOSO STRING QUARTET, 4YA, Sunday, May 19, and 1YA, Monday, May 20.

JOHN GALSWORTHY, whose play "The Mob," in radio version, comes from 2FC on Tuesday, May 21.

ERNEST JENNER, pianist, 3YA, Monday, May 20.