

TEMPO di JAZZ

BRITISH musicians are eligible for unemployment pay if the profit (that is, after deducting expenses) from their band engagement does not exceed 3/4 a day.

THE leader of one of Denmark's best hot bands at the Swing Restaurant, Copenhagen, is a 20-year-old girl, Gerda Neumann, a grand vocalist of the Mildred Bailey type.

"EVEN the best-known dance players of Portugal had never heard of men like Armstrong, Hawkins, Ellington or Fletcher Henderson."—Red De-broy, noted Dutch sax player on Portuguese experiences.

DANCE FEATURES

1YA, Thursday September 10:
An hour with Rudy Vallee and his Connecticut Yankees.
Saturday, September 12: Relay by Lauri Paddi and his Peter Pan Band.

2YA, Wednesday, September 9:
An hour with Ambrose and his Orchestra, with interludes by Elsie Carlisle.

Friday, September 11: New release dance programme.

Saturday, September 12: Relay by Jack Coudray and his Dance Band.

3YA, Tuesday, September 8:
"More Best Sellers," a programme of popular dance numbers.

CHARLOTTE HALDANE describes "Spike" Hughes in her new book, "Music, My Love," as follows:—"A little, eagle-eyed, enthusiastic Irishman whose enthusiasms are tempered by a shrewd and irreverent critical sense."

MRS. LOUIS ARMSTRONG, is said to handle the trumpet with asbestos gloves, being one of the hottest performers of her sex on this difficult instrument.

A FRIEND of the "O.B." official of the B.B.C. ("O.B." by the way, means Outside Broadcasts), said he knew a girl with a wonderful voice. Some of the girls in a Manchester trading house always sing at their work, and one of them has a wonderful crooning voice. The friend was never able to find out which of the girls the voice belonged to, and the firm's regulations made it difficult to make inquiries. Accepting the friend's invitation the "O.B." official visited the warehouse, heard the singing and, in the way that is peculiarly his own, he spotted correctly the Manchester girl with the golden voice. A radio appearance was the sequel.

PERSONALITIES of the WEEK

Robust Tenor

RICHARD CROOKS concerns himself with rough action no less than with polite art, though in hardly the same professional way. He goes in for exercise that wants a heavy hand, as well as that which requires a light voice. If you follow him about where his leisure permits him to go and where his work calls him, you will see him at the sea shore digging clams, to-day, and you will hear him in a concert pavilion interpreting operatic arias, to-morrow. To speak of him in the old-fashioned phrase, Richard Crooks is a robust tenor. Had he adopted fish and fish-getting as his line of business he might have been famous for fish; whereas actually send him to the beach at low tide with a spade and basket, and he will return with only an amateur's carry and stained fingers. The voice of Richard Crooks will be heard from 3YA on Monday, September 7.

A "Musical" Chair

AN Australian visitor to the home of Franz Lehar, in Vienna, was the innocent victim of a standing practical joke at the Lehar establishment. The genial composer pushed the Australian into a chair that stands in a corner of the study. The sitter was most startled and surprised when he sank into the seat to hear the strains of "The Merry Widow" waltz suddenly come from the springs of the chair. It would be perhaps more correct to call this Lehar's "sitting" joke. Lehar's success is founded on his melodious material, ideas and orchestration. He was the first to introduce special dancing parts for the actors after each song or duet, and throughout his music the influence of the South-Slav folk-song is felt. His works for stage now exceed two score in number. Selections from quite a number of these are heard on the air from time to time.

"Sea Fever"

LEONARD GOWINGS is not only one of England's foremost tenors, but a flautist into the bargain. His uncles and brothers were all seafaring men and on their return home on shore leave they would fill the house with a restless atmosphere and tell stories of strange adventures in out-of-the-way

ports and lands. When Leonard was 23 he was doing well in his father's business, and his singing was attracting attention. He suddenly astonished everyone by going to sea on one of the Union Castle liners bound for the Cape. The sea had called him and, having no better qualification, he shipped as a bandsman and played the flute in the ship's orchestra. Although he loved his new life, he soon abandoned it, and on returning to London began his steady upward climb to fame. Leonard Gowings has made very few records and consequently his voice is not as well known to listeners as it should be. The records he has made have found their way to the station libraries and are broadcast.

Athletic Enid

ENID CRUICKSHANK, the Scottish opera contralto (born in Aberdeen), unlike many operatic artistes, is extremely athletic. Vigorous sports occupy much of her spare time, among them flying and swimming. When Enid was working as switchboard operator in a Glasgow office, her mind was much preoccupied with amateur theatricals, and in the shows in which she took part she was considered as something of an embryo star. Eventually she went to Plymouth, where after a few lessons she won several gold and silver medals in the Devonshire port's first musical competitions festival. Charles Manner, was impressed with her success and entry into his opera company started her on the upgrade. Her voice will be heard by 4YA listeners on Sunday afternoon, September 6.

Started With a Bang

AN unusual distinction clings to the comedian, Leonard Henry. He must be the only comedian who went on to the stage as the result of an explosion. This explosion happened in the laboratory of a big firm of manufacturing chemists with whom he was working at the time. When they sorted him out of the ruins he was sent to the seaside to recuperate, and met a friend who was in a beach concert-party. Leonard Henry started "entertaining at the piano" as a joke and it proved such a good one that he never got back to the laboratory. He went from concert party to stage, and from