

PERSONALITIES

ON THE AIR

THOSE fortunate people who see the various productions of the Wellington Repertory Society all know the familiar figure that presides at the piano, that important member of the trio which provides the incidental music for the plays. Admirers and friends by the hundred appreciate the splendid work she so unostentatiously and efficiently does season after season. It is the pianist's back that the audience sees mostly, but face to face Mrs. MacDonald is a genial soul of rare temperament, a type without which public societies of almost any kind would find it hard to function.

In association with two others, Mrs. MacDonald will be heard in a trio playing "Popular Serenades," from 2YA on Thursday, May 5.

WHEN CICELY CAME TO NEW ZEALAND Both parents of Cicely Courtneidge were on the stage, and her grandmother, Cicely Adams, was a fine opera singer. When Robert Courtneidge's daughter was born in Sydney, in 1893, she was named after granny. The very hotel she was born in at Sydney had stage associations—it was owned by the father of Oscar Asche. Cicely's debut was at the age of eight, as Peasblossom in her father's production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at Manchester. This production came "down under," where she again played the same part at Melbourne. As this production toured New Zealand, it is quite possible that many of the elders

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CICELY COURTNEIDGE.

... Aged Eight, Toured N.Z.

amongst us saw Cicely the child, long before Cicely the comedienne convulsed us with her recorded comicalities.

Station 3YA listeners will hear Cicely Courtneidge in the Music, Mirth and Melody Session on Friday, May 6.

THACKERAY AND HIS BROKEN NOSE When William Makepeace Thackeray was at Charterhouse School two of his chums, John Kemble and

Made Music For The "Greenwood Tree"



MAURICE WINNICK.

... Plays "The Sweetest Music."

BORN in Manchester and educated at the Manchester College of Music, Maurice Winnick, violinist and orchestral leader, first began professional work playing in various cinema orchestras.

Following provincial and London experience, Maurice devoted a good deal of attention to film work, providing music for many pictures, including "Atlantic" and "Under the Greenwood Tree."

Maurice Winnick and His Sweetest Music is now a favourite combination, and broadcasts frequently. His signature tune is "The Sweetest Music This Side of Heaven."

This orchestra will be heard from 4YA on Tuesday, May 3.

George Venables, broke the bridge of his nose when they were playing together. A similar accident, it may be remembered, had befallen the great Florentine sculptor; and it is not impossible that his defaced lineaments may have suggested to the mind of Thackeray the incongruous pen-name of "Michael Angelo Titmarsh," which he has more completely identified with himself than any other.

At 1YA on Friday, May 6, D'Arcy Crosswell will read extracts from Thackeray's "Yellow Plush Papers."

COULD MAKE THE ANIMALS FUNNY Jane Carr (whose real name is Brunstrom) was born at Whitley Bay, Northumberland, and was educated at Harrogate College. In the school holidays she took her teddy bear and monkey to the Newcastle studios of the BBC and asked George Marshall if she could go on the air. She said she could make the animals very funny. Mr. Marshall said it was a pity they weren't real, but Jane replied they were very real to her. He let her try. Then someone wrote to the papers and asked who the funny animals were. She then began broadcasting every week. She made up stories around Teddy and Chimpey, and gave them adventures. She still has them, and they're her greatest friends.

Station 4YE listeners will hear Jane Carr, entertainer, in the Music, Mirth and Melody Session on Tuesday, May 3.

VOICE OF DEANNA ON THE AIR Born in Winnipeg, Canada, December 14, 1922, blue-eyed, brown-haired

Deanna Durbin sprang into world fame in her first film, "Three Smart Girls." Her subsequent successes, "100 Men and a Girl" and "Mad About Music," have confirmed the most optimistic prophecies regarding her artistic future. She was taken to Hollywood when she was a year old. She began to sing children's songs al-



DEANNA DURBIN.

... Aged One, Went to Hollywood.

most as soon as she could talk. By the time she was ten her parents realised she had definite talent, and took her to a singing teacher. Prior to her introduction to the films, all her public concert experience was confined to local entertainments.

In 3YA's Music, Mirth and Melody Session on Monday, May 2, the golden voice of Deanna Durbin will be heard.