

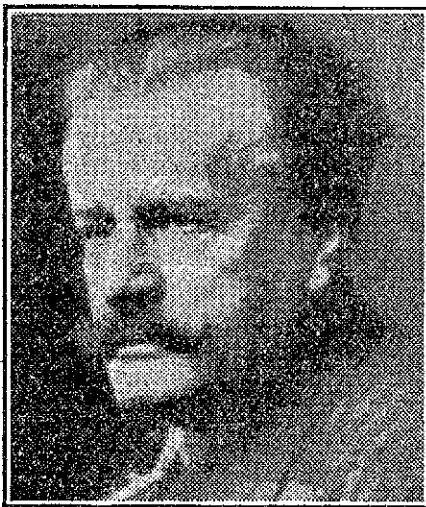
PERSONALITIES

ON THE AIR

ON his recent eightieth birthday, the famous piano teacher, Tobias Matthay, was presented with a grand piano. A Wellington listener received last week a letter in which the birthday of this remarkable old maestro was described. As many listeners know, Mr. Matthay was responsible for more famous British pianists than any man of his generation. His birthday gathering was attended by many of these celebrities. Among Mr. Matthay's pupils are Myra Hess, Irene Scharrer, York Bowen, Harriet Cohen, Arnold Bax, the Rae Robertsons, and other distinguished musicians. His New Zealand pupil, Miss Valerie Corliss, founder and organiser of the British Music Society in this country, is Mr. Matthay's representative in the Dominion. At the age of 76, Mr. Matthay underwent a serious operation, but soon found himself fit again for the fray. His eightieth birthday was the occasion of a special broadcast by the BBC, in which recordings by Mr. Matthay and some of his more famous pupils were presented.

During its afternoon session last Sunday week, station 2YA broadcast some piano solos composed, played and recorded by Tobias Matthay.

Conjurer Of The Piano



ROSENTHAL.

... Was a pupil of Liszt.

"I NEVER knew what technique was until I heard Rosenthal," exclaimed Anton Rubinstein. The famous German critic, Hanslick, called him a "pianoforte conjuror."

That was many years ago. Rosenthal no longer claims a foremost place among the young pianists, because he is past the three-quarters of a century mark.

Liszt first heard Rosenthal at the age of fourteen, and said to the boy he took as a pupil: "There is within you a great pianist who will surely work his way out."

On Sunday afternoon, May 15, Moritz Rosenthal, pianist, will be heard at 4YA.

her career as a teacher of gymnastics and ballroom dancing, she progressed to such a degree in this profession that she became a finalist in the world's ballroom dancing championship. Her stage debut was in 1926, and films first knew her four years later.

Associated with Trefor Jones, she will be heard in 1YA's music, mirth and melody session on Monday, May 16.

HOW WILLIAM TOOK POSSESSION.

On September 28, 1066, William the Conqueror landed on the Sussex shore, and slipped face foremost as he sprang from the beaked prow of his ship. "Evil omen!" said his nobles, who had left with a bad grace and many forebodings their stout Norman

castles to come on this fool's errand in open boats to a savage, sea-girt isle. But William rose with his favourite crashing oath, the Sussex sand oozing through his fingers. "By the splendour of God!" he roared, "I have taken seisin" (possession) "of this land with my hands, and it is mine."

The first episode of a new recorded radio serial, "William the Conqueror," will be heard at 3YA on Tuesday, May 17.

SON OF STRANGE MAN IN PLAGUE DAYS.

All schoolboys have read of that curious character Solomon Eccles, or Eagle. This was the man who ran about London during the Plague of 1666 in a state of nudity, with a brazier of burning brimstone on his head, exhorting people to repent. As a fact, Solomon was a musician of parts, although always an eccentric. The time came when Solomon developed a conscience and made a public bonfire of his books and instruments on Tower Hill. His two sons were musical, the second one, Henry, a fine composer and violinist, and a member of the Band of the King of France.

One of Henry Eccles's sonatas will be played at 3YA on Monday, May 16, by Valmai Moffat (cellist) and Ernest Jenner (pianist).



ANNA NEAGLE.

... Is blue-eyed blonde.

ONCE FINALIST IN DANCE CONTEST. The real name of Anna Neagle is Marjorie Robertson; she is Stuart Robertson's sister. In fact she and the popular baritone acted together on the films in "Bitter Sweet." Anna Neagle was born at Forest Gate, London, on October 20, 1904, and one who should know tells us that she is a blue-eyed blonde. She was educated at St. Alban's High School. Beginning



JACK BUCHANAN.

... Is at the dangerous age.

DARLING OF LADIES STILL SINGLE.

The best light comedian that ever Glasgow turned out, Jack Buchanan, at the critical age of two-score years and seven, seems destined to hold his own. He is six-foot two and the darling of the ladies, and what's more important he is still single—a state of things that surprises Jack's closest friends. He was nearly captured by Hollywood for its own, but now seems