

to stick to British films, which is something to be thankful for. The hit of Jack's career so far, is "Yes, Mr. Brown."

In 4YA's music, mirth and melody session on Thursday, May 19, Jack Buchanan's cheery voice will be heard.

SHAW FOUGHT FOR PLACE IN SUN. Bernard Shaw wrote five long novels (all refused by the publishers),

between 1879 and 1883, and made precisely £5/15/6 by his pen, fifteen shillings of which was for an article on Christian Names, and £5 for an article on Patent Medicines! Shaw the unsuccessful novelist, Shaw the street corner preacher of Socialism. Shaw the daringly violent critic of music and letters—these were the beginnings of the most successful British dramatist of this century.

Something of a radio dramatic event is promised by 2YA on Wednesday, May 18, when Shaw's play "The Man of Destiny" will be presented.

"THE PAGANINI OF THE MANDOLIN." Despite the aphorism of St. Matthew that a prophet is not without honour

save in his own country, it was Naples, his native city, that honoured Mario di Pietro with the title "The Paganini of the Mandolin." A child prodigy on the violin at seven years of age, di Pietro became fascinated by the instruments forming the so-called "Plectrum Quartet"—the mandolin, mandola, guitar and lute—and learnt to play them with equal skill and dexterity, in addition to the tenor banjo and ukulele.

Mario di Pietro is a member of Stanelli's Stag Band which will be featured in the Music, Mirth and Melody session at 2YA on Tuesday, May 17.

ESTATE LEFT BY EMILIO COLOMBO. The famous violinist and orchestral leader, Emilio Colombo, who died in London last November, left estate in England of the gross value of £9462. (This looks comparatively small alongside the £191,000 left by Graham Peel, song composer, who died at Bournemouth in October last. A possible explanation may be that Graham Peel's father was a wealthy Lancashire cotton spinner). Colombo, a native of Magenta, Italy, was so talented that Tschalkovsky placed him under the famous Caesar Thompson to study violin, after which he ultimately became Court violinist to the Czar. He escaped from Russia by the skin of his teeth during the revolution, and finally in 1920 settled in London.

His output of records was not heavy, but his Tzigane Orchestra, heard on the air from national stations, presents such novel entertainments that it is very popular with New Zealand radio fans.

KEEPING UP THE OLD TRADITIONS. Harry Engleman carried on the musical tradition of his family. His

father, Joseph Engleman, is a composer, and his grandfather was a trombonist in the old Birmingham Grand Theatre Orchestra. He has broadcast frequently for the BBC since 1931, when he played some of his own compositions in the children's hour, with Bert Lamb on the xylophone. His quintet, with himself in the role of pianist, was formed later. It is noted for its polished performance of light

music, much of which has been arranged by Engleman himself.

Harry Engleman's Quintet will be heard in the Music, Mirth and Melody session at 3YA on Monday, May 16.

T. E. LAWRENCE, In his book, "Portrait of T. E. Lawrence," Vyvyan Richards sums up that enigmatic genius: "Take the heart of St. Francis or Lincoln, join it to the mind of Leonardo da Vinci and the driving will of Stonewall Jackson; set them in the body of an anchorite or a



T. E. LAWRENCE.

... "The wiles of Odysseus."

Stefanson; add the artful resource of all men of wiles from Odysseus to Sven Hedin and the tongue of a Shakespearean Conrad; stir all this into a wild old desert people on the warpath, and then you might get "Revolt in the Desert."

A dramatic study in personality entitled, "Lawrence of Arabia," will be presented by the Civic Players at 3YA on Thursday, May 19.

"THE DOCTOR OF THE BRASS BAND WORLD." The man who trained Foden's Band to victory in 1909 was William Rimmer (1861-1936), the one-time Grand Old Man of the brass band world. His influence in England was at least as great as Sousa's in America. Besides being a composer and arranger, Rimmer was a famous coach—he earned the title of "The Doctor of the Brass Band World." This Lancashire-born musician was closely associated in this capacity with the Wingates, Irwell Springs, Black Dyke and Hebden Bridge bands. In listening to the efficiently performed music by these bands on the records one should not forget the coach.

Listeners to 3YA will hear Foden's Motor Works Band on Friday, May 20.

WASHINGTON AND HIS OLD FLUTE. No one claims to have seen George Washington's hat, but anyone who visits Mount Vernon in the United States may see his flute. After Washington's strenuous public life, he retired to his beautiful farm home and there enjoyed a well-earned rest. One of his pastimes during his country retirement was playing old English, Irish

and Scottish airs. Incidentally, the flute, still kept at the Washington shrine is one of the best instruments of his day, a Meyer model, with an ivory head. The old flute, however, needs repairing.

From 4YA the London Flute Quartet will be heard on Sunday afternoon, May 15.

PARISH ORGANIST AT AGE OF NINE. The beginnings of the career of that sound cinema organist, "Bobby"

(Robinson) Cleaver, is the familiar tale of infant precocity, for he was a parish church organist at nine years of age, and a choirmaster two years later. Known as "the boy organist," he toured the North of England when eleven years old, giving recitals in Manchester, Sheffield, Pontefract and several Cumberland churches. He studied at the Royal Manchester College of Music, gaining his A.R.C.O. when 21 years old. Married to an organist, "Bobby" says his wife is his best critic.

Robinson Cleaver will be heard in 3YA's programme on Tuesday, May 17.

PLAYED 145 TUNES IN AN HOUR. When the BBC variety director heard some medley records made by

Geraldo and his Orchestra, such as "Geraldo Land" and "Geraldo Nights," he suggested that Geraldo play an hour's non-stop potpourri of popular tunes. It was to be an hour's complete entertainment without announcement. The music was, for once, to be allowed to speak for itself, calling on all the reserves of reminiscence and association that people have for popular tunes. Taking three months to compile and re-orchestrate, the result was eight hundred sheets of manuscript of 145 tunes from 1918 onwards.

Listeners to 1YA will hear Geraldo and his Orchestra in the music, mirth and melody session on Monday, May 16.

FOUNDER OF AN ENGLISH CHOIR. Charles Kennedy Scott (not content with his shining success with the

Oriana Madrigal Society) established the Philharmonic Choir in 1919, a remarkable chorus of 250 voices which has since given many memorable performances of modern choral masterpieces. In his work Kennedy Scott has achieved real fame, and certainly removed the reproach that in England the finest choirs are only to be found in the northern counties. Like the late Sir Richard Terry, this great great conductor cultivated the best music of the English schools.

On Tuesday, May 17, the Philharmonic Choir, under Charles Kennedy Scott, will be heard from 2YA.

CHAMPAGNE WAS AN INSPIRATION. Featured at 2YA on a recent Monday was a continuity programme, "Some

Musical Curiosities." Nothing is more curious in musical history than the devices resorted to by famous composers to induce the muse to "stand by." Haydn, solitary and sober as Newton, could neither compose nor extemporise unless he wore the diamond ring which Frederick the Great presented to him. Rossini swilled champagne ere he sat down to compose. Paisiello could only write music between the warm sheets.