

a description of faces seen in London's streets. Number 5 of Leon Gotz's talks on "Leaves from a Planter's Notebook" will be presented on May 20.

In Japan

GIACOMO PUCCINI wrote many operas, and though "La Boheme" and "Tosca" are quite well known, his greatest fame was derived from an opera that broke away from the Italian atmosphere and gave us a glimpse of the East. That was "Madame Butterfly," a favourite of both stage and screen. Possibly the fact that it dared to be different gave it that aura of attraction to performers and public that it has always possessed. A recorded presentation will be presented from 4YA on Sunday next at 8.30 p.m.

Male Voices

CONCERT by the Wellington Apollo Male Voice Choir will be relayed by 2YA on May 19. Conducted by H. Temple White, the choir will feature part songs by Elgar in their programme. Liszt and Bach will be represented by pianoforte solos in the hands of Mrs. Audrey Gibson-Foster. Included in the broadcast will be a composition by Mr. Temple White which he has named "To Daisies."

"Interference"

ELECTIONS are upsetting things, and the municipal elections interfered with 4YA's plans this week. With so many announcements going over the air almost in a string, it was impossible to present "The Masked Masqueraders" or the first instalment of the new serial, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame." A postponement of one week was inevitable, and so these items will now be heard next Wednesday night.

An Ageing Race

THREE talks of first-rate importance touching on population, really the greatest issue affecting New Zealand to-day, are to be given at 1YA by Dr. H. P. Neale, secretary of the Auckland Chamber of Commerce, on "Population and Immigration." Dr. Neale is an economist of standing who has made a special study of the question. He is to tell listeners what the posi-



tion of the population is to-day, that it is an aging population; that is, the proportion of middle-aged and old people is increasing. He is to touch briefly on the economic consequences of this, and then to give a short history of immigration into New Zealand, and finally to consider the prospects and consequences of resumption of a policy of organised immigration.

For Scots

ONE of the features which have made 12M Auckland well liked by Scottish listeners is a series of monthly "Scottish Talks," given by Mr. A. J. Sinclair, of Te Awamutu, during the past two years. Mr. Sinclair is a

In The Dusk Of The Organ Loft

MUSICIAN WHO GAVE UP THE WORLD TO FIND HIMSELF

"THE history of music," says Harvey Grace, "is largely the story of conflict between the genius and the parent." The parent is usually father, of course, and he says: "Be a lawyer, or a doctor, or a schoolmaster," as the case may be, anything but a musician—and the genius goes his own way.

Yet in this matter Cesar Franck's experience was unusual. His father was a banker, and ought to have said "Be a banker!" But he was also interested in art, so the banker and the dilettante made a duet of it, and bade the boy become a piano virtuoso.

There was money in that. That's how Franck was set to piano-playing, and did so well that he made his first tour when barely eleven.

For the next ten years the virtuoso plan was pursued, young Cesar being compelled also to compose showy pieces for his own concert use. Then both taste and temperament rebelled, and the projected "star" became a church organist, drudging piano teacher, and composer of serious, un lucrative music. And the longer he lived the more he drudged and withdrew into the organ loft.

To all "too old at forty" go-getters Cesar Franck should be an object lesson. With scarcely an exception, all the music on which his fame rests was written after his fiftieth year. He never really found himself as a composer till he lost himself in the dusk of the organ loft.

The plodding drudge was unexpectedly adventurous, too. He flew in the faces of his family by marrying an actress.

To make ends meet Cesar Franck had to start off on his teaching rounds by 7.30 in the morning—his work took him well into the evening hours. So that to get time to compose he rose winter and summer at 5.30. The result of this unselfish industry is a handful

of superb works that have become classics.

In his sixty-third year (the year he was awarded the ribbon of a Chevalier



CESAR FRANCK.

... His disciples called him "Father" Franck.

of the Legion of Honour for his organ work) he gave to the world his glorious Symphonic Variations for piano and orchestra.

The Symphonic Variations do not form a series of different presentations of a tune, as we expect of variations. They are rather like a long, smooth-flowing improvisation.

They begin with a full-sized introduction, in which hints of the coming tune can be heard. The theme itself when it comes is simple and expressive, and then the variations follow on it without breaks, and very naturally.

This popular work will be played by Walter Gieseking, pianist, and the London Philharmonic Orchestra, under Sir Henry Wood, at 2YA on Tuesday, May 17.

Lanarkshire man, a life-long student of the history and customs of his native land. He is well known among the Scottish societies of the North Island as an authority on the Scottish Bard. On Sunday, May 22, at 9 p.m., he will be heard in his twentieth talk in this series, entitled, "Kirk Alloway: A Reminiscence of the Burns Country." This is an arrangement which Mr. Sinclair has written for broadcasting of Burns's famous poem, "Tam o' Shanter."

Weather, or Not

FOR long enough Otago residents have criticised the existing Government weather forecasts put over by 4YA. Tune in to any station you like, and the report is always the same. "How on earth," your conscientious Otago man wishes to know, "can an Auckland forecast

be expected to hold good down here?" It has been a reasonable grievance, especially as 99 times out of 100 the forecast has been sadly astray, so far as Otago is concerned. The matter is at last going to be rectified. From Monday next a special Otago forecast will be broadcast nightly, immediately following the regular Government notices.

All British

WILLIAM WALTON'S Concerto for Viola and Orchestra will be broadcast for the first time, on Tuesday, May 17, from 2YA. Frederick Riddle plays the solo instrumental part, and is supported by the London Symphony Orchestra, conducted by the composer. The remainder of this programme is taken up by modern British composers, consisting of works by Roger Quilter