

PERSONALITIES

ON THE AIR

THOUGH her actual birthplace was Waihi, it was in Auckland where the art of Ida Lockwood, violinist, developed and matured, under the able tuition of Colin Muston, Edith Whitelaw and Harold Baxter. In the early stages of her career she did well in the various musical competitions and eventually reached professional status. Her services were utilised over a period at the fashionable J.C.L. Tearooms, and by way of variety she made periodic tours of the Dominion in the orchestra of J. C. Williamson's companies. Her sympathies being generous, organisers of charity concerts had cause to be grateful to her on the many times she freely gave her services to worthy causes. Miss Lockwood recently made her home in Wellington.

Listeners to 2YA will hear Ida Lockwood, violinist, on Thursday, June 23.

STILL SAMUEL MANAGED TO SMILE

A well-known American concert agent told the late Harold Samuel, that his public liked its artists to keep smiling. Mr. Samuel, never a misanthropic-looking individual, apparently managed not to disappoint his American friends in that respect. Some admirers expressed their appreciation personally as the following story shows. After the pianist had played one of Bach's most magnificent fugues, a lady congratulated him becomingly. "Thank you so much, Mr. Samuel," she said, "we did enjoy your playing so much. That last fugue was just dinky."

Harold Samuel, pianist, will be heard at 3YA on Monday, June 20.

MADE FORTUNE OF PORTUGAL

A great sea captain and his crew knelt beside the banks of the Tagus on July 9, 1497—St. Maria de Belem, in Lisbon, now marks the spot—and then set sail on the voyage which was to show us moderns the sea route to India, and to make the fortune of Portugal. Vasco da Gama, however, was by no means the first man to round the Cape of Good Hope. About 600 B.C. Phoenician sailors—the same wonderful breed who brought news of Britain's rugged islands and savage people to the cultivated princes of the Levant—had sailed round from the Red Sea, at the bidding of Neco, King of Egypt. Keeping the coast of Africa in sight all the time, they voyaged for three years till—as he conjectured they might—they found their way, through the Straits of Gibraltar, back to Egypt again.

At 3YA on Wednesday, June 22, in the education session, Mr. F. C. Brew, M.A., gives a talk on Vasco da Gama.

Once Pianist To Pavlova



W. DEARDEN-JACKSON.
Musician for New Zealand.

NEW ZEALAND does not boast many musicians who studied under the great Italian pianist-composer, Ferruccio Busoni.

A new arrival, Mr. W. Dearden-Jackson, not only enjoys this distinction, but has the privilege of attaching to his name an impressive array of letters denoting British academic distinctions.

What is more to the point, he plays three different instruments—piano, violoncello and bassoon. He is an experienced conductor and adjudicator, and was once Pavlova's pianist.

Listeners to 2YA will taste his versatility and quality, first, as solo pianist in the relay of the Wellington Harmonic Society's concert on Tuesday, June 21; and, secondly, as bassoon recitalist in a studio appearance on Thursday, June 23.

THE PRINCESS AND THE VIOLIN

While playing at Monte Carlo, the father of Mantovani, the famous Venetian orchestral leader and violinist, had among his audience a Russian princess. Mythical as this story may sound, this royal personage had Mantovani senior brought to her, and frankly remarked that she did not like the tone of the instrument on which he played. She presented him with a most

beautiful fiddle, which awakened the curiosity of Mantovani, junior, who openly coveted the instrument. Father agreed to give him the fiddle "when he could do justice to it." This set young Mantovani studying hard, and when, in due course, he was able to play two very difficult and intricate concertos, he became the proud possessor of a rare violin.

On Tuesday, June 21, Mantovani and his Orchestra will be heard from 1YA.

PRODIGY TRUNDLED HOOP IN HYDE PARK

When an eleven year-old violinist, Franz von Vecsey, burst on London in 1904 he created a furor. Queen Alexandra made his acquaintance, and he grew to like that gentle lady so much that he called her "Tame Konigen," while she called him "Du," German pronominal form reserved for personal friends. The boy had a healthy appetite, was full of fun, and was always ready for a game. One day at the hotel he went round the corridor in which his bedroom was placed, and carefully mixed up the boots placed outside the doors, putting ladies' boots where gentlemen's boots were. Hyde Park was his favourite resort, and after a matinee recital he would run off there to trundle his hoop. In 1935, this Hungarian violinist-composer died in Rome, aged 42.

Recorded music by Von Vecsey, violinist, will be heard from 2YA on Sunday, June 19.

MUSICIAN OF INFINITE RESOURCE

The memory and capacity of the great organist, G. D. Cunningham, extends beyond his chosen instrument to piano music and the orchestra. Once the blowing mechanism of the Birmingham organ failed just after the start of a recital. A piano happened to be on the town hall platform. Mr. Cunningham did not want his audience to be among those who are sent empty away, and he therefore gave them, on the instant and without copy, an excellent Chopin recital.

Listeners to 2YA will hear G. D. Cunningham, organist, on Sunday afternoon, June 19.

"THE WHITE ANGEL" OF THE CRIMEA

When Florence Nightingale went out to the Crimea there was no nursing there at all. English wounded suffered unspeakable misery and died like flies—forty-two per cent. a month. When she took charge of the 10,000 sick and wounded, the death rate soon came down to two per cent., and war had lost some of its gruesome horrors. A grateful nation subscribed £50,000, which she declined to accept for herself, but devoted to founding the home for nurses which still bears her name. "An example to our sex," Queen Vic-