

PERSONALITIES

ON THE AIR

PERFECT comrades in the fun racket, Haver and Lee met each other under rather doubtful circumstances. Lee will have it that he rescued Haver from a watery grave. Haver has it he was looking for his gold watch, and found the watch—with Lee. They are two of radio's most successful funny men, and have never regretted their partnership, although their rehearsals are rumoured to be a bit boisterous!

In 2YA's music, mirth and melody session, Haver and Lee (comedians) will be heard on Thursday, July 28.

A. E. HOUSMAN A Professor of REGRETTED Latin at Cambridge HIS POETRY. University, and then the University

of London, gave us some of our best modern poems of the English countryside. For this reason A. E. Housman's poetry has been extremely popular with composers. During his lifetime, requests from musicians for permission to set it to music were so numerous that he used to say he wished he had never written the poems. Favourite of all was "The Shropshire Lad," written in 1896, to find in 1909 at the hands of Vaughan Williams perhaps the most successful of all settings. Williams' cycle "On Wenlock Edge" consists of six of the songs, laid out



A. E. HOUSMAN

... Poet Too Much Sought-after.

for tenor voice with accompaniment for pianoforte and string quartet. The cycle was first sung by Gervase Elwes, in London in 1909. These songs are as truly English in spirit as anything Vaughan Williams ever wrote. They make adroit use of some of the older

Forefather Steals Composer's Fame



HENRY PURCELL

... Not the Composer of "Passing By."

LISTENERS who hear a familiar setting of "Passing By," which Alexander Kipnis sang recently in New Zealand, usually assume it was written by the great English composer, Henry Purcell. Actually, the credit goes to E. C. Purcell, a much less eminent descendant of the genius.

Of E. C. Purcell very little is known except this one song, deservedly popular for its simple, old-world charm.

Another setting of Robert Herrick's lyric was published in 1607 by Thomas Ford in his "Musicke of Sundrie Kindes," under the title, "There is a Ladie Sweet and Kind." Ford's setting was a four-part song, and has just the kind of lovely melody one associates with early Stuart times. Companion song in Ford's collection is "Since First I Saw Your Face."

3YA listeners will be hearing G. A. Macann (baritone) sing "Passing By" on Friday, July 29.

modal scales, just as many of the real English folk songs do.

"On Wenlock Edge," a Shropshire song cycle (Vaughan Williams) will be heard from 3YA on Friday, July 29. Soloist is Stewart Wilson (tenor).

CONDUCTORS IN SHIRT SLEEVES.

Ways of conductors at rehearsals are interesting because at rehearsals is done all the hard work of interpretation. Most conductors rehearse in shirt-sleeves, to give themselves greater freedom of movement. One of these is Ernest Ansermet, Swiss conductor, a man with very alert and decisive personality. In England Ansermet gives his commands in excellent English and does not waste a moment—just what one might expect of a man who was Professor of Mathematics at the Lausanne University before his musical gifts changed his career.

Ernest Ansermet conducts the Decca String Orchestra at 1YA on Wednesday, July 27.

ENTERTAINS MUSICAL CELEBRITIES.

Most famous musical celebrities who have visited Wellington in the last few years have enjoyed the hospitality of its citizens, but as a "collector" of such notables Miss Marjorie Bennie must surely hold the record. An enthusiast of music, Miss Bennie naturally seeks the opportunity of entertaining its disciples, and on her recent trip to England she renewed many musical friendships. In London she studied singing with Herr Graubaume, of the Royal College of Music, Charles Kennedy Scott, Elena Gerhardt and Dale Smith. As she is a librarian by profession, she also studied at the London University, and obtained her librarian's diploma of A.L.A. But she found time,



MARJORIE BENNIE

... Soprano Renewed Musical Friendships.

too, to fulfil a number of professional engagements for afternoon receptions in and around London.

2YA listeners will hear Marjorie Bennie (soprano) in French and Italian songs on Thursday, July 28.