

PERSONALITIES

ON THE AIR

NOW touring the Commonwealth for the Australian Broadcasting Commission is a young man with a mission. Sigurd Rascher dreams of the rehabilitation of the saxophone. As the world's finest exponent of this much-misunderstood and much-abused instrument, he has discovered in it a very close kinship to many other musical tools. At will he can make it resemble a bassoon, a piccolo, a banjo or a flute. A professor of the Danish Royal Conservatoire, Rascher is no mere "stuntist," but a serious musician with a profound faith in his medium.

3YA listeners will hear Sigurd Rascher on the saxophone on Saturday, August 6.

AWKWARDNESS IN A PIANIST'S LIFE Widely sought as an accompanist, Mr. M. T. Dixon, studio pianist and accom-

pianist for 3YA has had considerable musical experience, despite his youth. Before joining 3YA five years ago, he toured New Zealand as accompanist to Adelaide van Starenen, dramatic mezzo. Other artists of overseas fame whom Mr. Dixon has accompanied include Peter Dawson, Stella Power,



"MAT" DIXON OF 3YA.

... Peter Dawson asked him what about it.

Margherita Zelanda, Clem Williams, Chostiakoff, Sydney McEwan, Dorothy Heinrich and Dorothy Clark. Once when Peter Dawson was giving a talk from 3YA someone telephoned and begged for a song. The obliging Peter, though under contract to someone else, asked Mat what about it? There was

Clara Butt Took Up Too Much Room



CLARA BUTT.

... Squeezed Kipnis into corners.

AMONG those who storm the artist's room after a concert none is more determined than the autograph hunter. In common with most great musical stars, Alexander Kipnis signs programmes, photographs and autograph books with a kindly patience.

But one type of birthday book he was occasionally given on his Australian and New Zealand tour never failed to amuse him. In the space for his birthday, on February 1, there was practically no room left: Clara Butt's signature had been secured! The autograph of this great English contralto resembled her own generous proportions, and those who signed after her had to squeeze in their signatures at the side.

no music available, there had been no rehearsal, but singer and accompanist presented an impromptu item which delighted thousands. Another incident in Mr. Dixon's musical career was more awkward. A singer for whom he was playing at 3YA forgot her words. Unable to prompt in front of the microphone the pianist had to leave the piano, dash over to a music stand, place his thumb on the missing words, and dash back. Nobody noticed it.

GENIUS FOR MONTH'S TRIAL Not so very long ago two sisters sat waiting in the studio of a great violinist: the elder had made such progress with her fiddle, that lessons were sought from the famous teacher. But during the interview he happened to catch sight of the younger girl's hands, was struck by their extraordinary shape, and immediately said she, too, must learn the violin. He was so emphatic that it was agreed the elder sister should give the eight-year-old child one month's lessons as an experiment. The experiment produced such remarkable results, that the services of a famous master were secured for the girl. The name of the young violinist was Yelley d'Aranyi, and the famous master was Jeno Hubay.

Yelley d'Aranyi, a grand-niece of the late Joseph Joachim, will be heard from 1YA on Sunday afternoon, July 31.

THE VOICE OF A GUARNERIUS How Kreisler came into possession of his Guarnerius violin, dated 1737, was

once told by the violinist in the following words:—"One day as I entered the rooms of Mr. George Hart I heard a voice, liquid, pure, penetrating which filled my soul with longing and made me determined to possess such a treasure at any cost. There were difficulties in the way, as Mr. Hart (the London dealer) had already parted with it to a collector, and it was only after long and earnest persuasion, in which Mr.



FRITZ KREISLER.

... Paid £2000 for his violin.

Hart joined, that I was enabled to buy it for two thousand pounds."

The case alone of this superb instrument is said to be worth £200.

The famous violin will be heard during 2YA's Dinner Music Session on Monday, August 1, when Fritz Kreisler will be associated with his brother Hugo Kreisler, 'cellist.