

# PERSONALITIES

## ON THE AIR

**T**HE musical critic of the London "Times" once attacked Ignaz Friedman, the pianist, for having the gross bad taste to play a cadenza in Beethoven's "G Major Concerto." It happened to have been written by Beethoven himself, so Ignaz did not worry. Incidentally, a Dutch critic fell into the same trap years ago when the great Busoni played the cadenza. Busoni read the criticism and waited—waited until midnight. On the stroke of twelve he called the critic on the telephone. "Hello; is that Mr. Blank? This is Mr. Beethoven. I wrote the cadenza!"

Ignaz Friedman, pianist, will be heard at 3YA on Sunday afternoon, August 7.

### MACBETH IN FORM OF OPERA

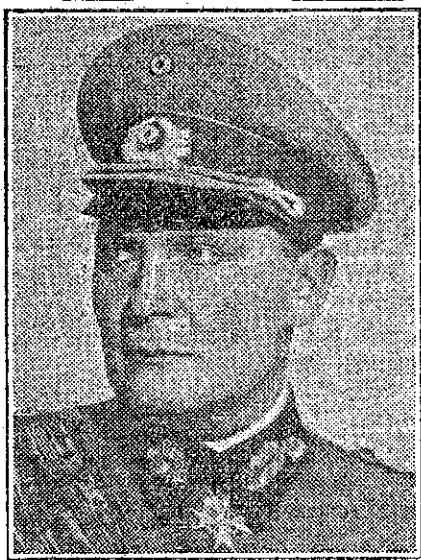
Considering the charges of non-appreciation of opera made against the British public, one would think nobody would have the courage to compose another of these works. But criticism did not deter Lawrence Collingwood. He set "Macbeth" to music and conducted its first performance at Sadler's Wells four years ago. He won success because he contented himself with making his music observe the interests of the immortal lines.

4YA listeners will hear the London Symphony Orchestra under Lawrence Collingwood on Sunday afternoon, August 7.

### WAIKATO MAN TELLS OF FREEBOOTER

Well known in the New Zealand dairy industry is Mr. A. J. Sinclair, of the Te Awamutu Dairy Company. As a gifted public speaker he has frequently broadcast from 1ZM during the last few years, and, in fact, is tremendously enthusiastic about broadcasting. Sometimes he is featured by 1ZM twice a week, and each time has to drive the 100 miles from Te Awamutu to Auckland and back. To do that one has to be an enthusiast! His latest radio subject is the old enemy of James V of Scotland—Johnny Armstrong, freebooter. With his four and twenty horsemen Armstrong pestered authority until one fateful July day in 1530 he ran into a trap, and with those of his followers who survived the fight was strung up on some trees at Carlanrigg. Tradition has it that the trees on which they were hanged were immediately blasted, and withered away. In the churchyard near the scene of Armstrong's last stand is a memorial stone let into the wall, which recounts the story of the treacherous capture and the fate of the rebels. The stone was erected as late

### Goering Stood Hitler Against Wall



GENERAL GOERING.

... His study has blood-red walls, pitch-black carpet.

**A**N Englishman has given an amusing account of a visit to General Goering at his palatial house in the Leipzigerplatz. The great man received his guest in a study, the wallpaper of which is blood-red and the carpet pitch-black.

Along one side of the large room are three white busts, two of politicians—Herr Hitler and himself. The third is the bust of a musician, Dr. Furtwaengler. Each face is illuminated by arc lights trained upon the busts from the other wall.

A desk the size of a small island is the most conspicuous piece of furniture, and on it stands a telephone and a switchboard with a bewildering number of different coloured buttons. "If I press this one," said General Goering amiably to his English guest, putting his finger on one of the knobs, "you will be arrested within five seconds."

The Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, under Wilhelm Furtwaengler, will be heard from 4YA on Thursday, August 11.

as September, 1897, for tradition dies hard in old Scotland!

This fascinating Border tale will be retold by Mr. A. J. Sinclair at 1YA on Friday, August 12—the day when the Scottish countryside will re-echo to the shots of grouse-shooting hunters.

### COMPOSER AT ELEVEN YEARS

In 1908, when George Szell was 11 years old, he attracted the attention of the musical world at Vienna by filling the dual role of pianist and composer. He made further appearances as a pianist in Germany with the Dresden Court Orchestra, and later in London. In 1914, at the age of 17, Szell made his debut at a concert at the Berlin School of Music, appearing for the first time as conductor as well as composer and pianist. Two years of apprenticeship under Richard Strauss followed at the Berlin Opera House. On Strauss's recommendation he succeeded Klemperer in April, 1917, when scarcely 20 years old, as chief conductor at the Strasbourg Municipal Theatre. Since then he has conducted various British and Continental orchestras, and is at present visiting Australia under contract to the Australian Broadcasting Commission.

The Czech Philharmonic Orchestra of Prague, under George Szell, will be heard at 2YA on Tuesday, August 9.

### VAIN SAMUEL DOCTOR SAMUEL

Many are the stories told of the vanity of Samuel Richardson, first of English novelists. He particularly annoyed Samuel Johnson, who said once: "You think I love flattery, and so I do. But a little too much always disgusts me. That fellow Richardson, on the contrary, could not be contented to sail quietly down the stream of reputation without longing to taste the froth from every stroke of the oar. Nevertheless, apart from his vanity, Richardson's private life was exemplary. He was hospitable, friendly and generous. Married twice, by his first wife he had five sons and a daughter, and by his second wife he had five girls and one boy. He lost all six sons and two daughters, bereavements which affected his outlook deeply.

3YA listeners will hear a talk on Samuel Richardson given by Mr. H. Winstone Rhodes on Wednesday, August 10.

### "GIVE 'IM A CLOUT!"

As a youth Vivian Foster used to imitate his clergyman father. The old man took it in such good part that by the time young Vivian was old enough to marry he had become such an expert "Vicar" that he followed his wife's advice and took up entertaining as a profession. Apart from his clever monologues (which, incidentally, are most popular with the clergy), Vivian Foster is an able dancer and an accomplished ventriloquist. So realistic is his ventriloquism, indeed, that at one northern theatre a Yorkshire patron excitedly yelled out, "Give that cheeky