

THEIR CIVIL WAR

By

"EMILE"

... Musical Strife Between Husband And Wife Is The Family Jest of The Schramms When They Play Two Pianos

"WE call it our civil war," said Paul Schramm, "this playing of two-piano music by my wife and myself." He laughed across at his smiling wife, Diny Schramm, the Dutch girl whom he had met in Holland.

She had been a music student in Holland and Germany, had been a teacher in the Conservatorium at Holland, and she had studied as a pupil under the visiting Paul Schramm. "And so it happened," says Paul Schramm.

The brilliant Austrian pianist who has left Batavia to live in New Zealand, which he toured under engagement to the NBS last December, laughed across at his smiling wife. Even Hans, the small son of the Schramms, looked up with a flash of amusement in the eyes raised from the arithmetic book on the table in front of him. For Hans must soon go to a New Zealand school.

"Usually Divorcing"

THIS year will be the tenth anniversary of their civil war, the Schramms told me. They will continue the campaign shortly with two piano-recitals in New Zealand.

"We are one of the very seldom artist pairs who are still together after 10 years," said Mrs. Schramm. "The others are usually divorcing very quickly."

THERE is a good deal of music specially written for two pianos, but naturally much less than for piano solos. This, however, does not worry Paul Schramm. He merely arranges one piano compositions for two pianos. He has arranged works by Weber, Rubinstein and Strauss, and one work which he thinks will be well-liked in New Zealand, Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue."

MASTER pianist who began life as a boy prodigy, Paul Schramm has come to live in New Zealand, with his home in Wellington. He is well remembered by radio listeners for his NBS tour last December. This time he brings another musical asset, his wife, Diny Schramm, with whom he plays two-piano works.

OUTSIDE, the rain was pouring steadily down on the Wellington streets. There was not much warmth—after Batavia.

"We feel the cold," said Mrs. Schramm, "and so does our car. We brought it with us from Batavia. Our blood

is too cold and its oil is too thick."

They said they thought they were going to like New Zealand very much, but when they arrived after the Tasman crossing, "much shaken by the sea," they were welcomed by what were icy storms for people coming from the tropics, and they were seasick and frozen.

"We could only cancel everything and nurse ourselves."

They smiled in rueful recollection.

No More Wars

PAUL SCHRAMM is well-remembered in New Zealand for his provocative and original interpretations of Beethoven, Bach and Chopin during his recent NBS tour. He began his career as a boy prodigy, when he made his first tour of the Balkan States, Germany and Austria. From then on, he showed remarkable progress, both as a pupil of Leschetizky and subsequently as a concert pianist. He lived in Berlin until 1933, and then made a tour of the Far East.

"I had no faith in Europe," he said. "I liked Batavia so I stayed there. And I made all my subsequent tours from that divine place."

Paul Schramm served with the Austrian army for two years during the war. He does not want to be mixed up in any more wars. What he desires most is peace and freedom. He found them in the colourful islands of Batavia, and he hopes to find them again in New Zealand.

IN Batavia he had his own symphony orchestra of instrumentalists.

"In it," he says, "we had men of all nationalities.

(Contd. on p. 35).



—Spencer Digby Photo.

FAMILY ALBUM.

Diny Schramm, Paul Schramm, and son Hans.