

QUEEN WHO WAS STAR-DOOMED.

If ever a woman was star-doomed, that woman was Mary, lovely Queen of the Scots. It was death to hate her, death to love her. First there was the French boy who was her husband for two years—King Francis II, a sickly brat of sixteen, who died of a brain tumour. Then followed Chastelhard, the poet—hanged; Rizzio, with fifty-six wounds in him; Darnley, blown sky-high and stabbed as he tried to escape; Norfolk, who was given fair warning by Queen Bess to mind "on what pillow he laid his head," but who loved Mary all the same till suddenly there came a swift summons to the Tower—and to the block; Babington, who plotted for Mary so clumsily and was drawn and quartered for it. Only Bothwell lived to say he had loved her, but even he, divorced and banished, died a madman, locked in a Scandinavian prison.

1YA listeners meet Mary, Queen of Scots, in the Coronets of England series on Wednesday, August 17.

YOUNG ORGANIST WITH AMBITIONS.

As one of Wellington's younger school of organists, Mr. Brian Withers has set a fine example of efficient service. First at St. Luke's Church, Wadestown, then for a year at St. Paul's Pro-Cathedral, now in his present post as relieving organist at St. Peter's Church, he has given church-goers much deep pleasure by his playing. A Gold Medallist and L.A.B., Mr. Withers has been offered two scholarships for study in England, but had to refuse both offers for financial reasons. Nevertheless he is still ambitious to visit England and study at Sir Sydney Nicholson's School of English Church Music, where all aspects of organ work are taught—from recital work to choir training and the training of boys. Mr. Withers has made several organ arrangements of works for his own use.

On Sunday, August 14, the morning service of St. Peter's Anglican Church will be relayed by 2YA.

FROM CARAVAN TO BUDAPEST CAFE.

Recording the genuine old-style gipsy music would involve all sorts of difficulties. It would mean taking a van out on the remote plains of Hungary and stalking an elusive caravan to its evening lair. Even then, the fiddler might or might not be in form. But supposing everything did go well, supposing you hid your microphone behind a cooking pot and caught the authentic Zigeuner at his wildest and most unself-conscious—it is still very doubtful whether sophisticated gramophone listeners would be much impressed. The easier alternative is to visit a fashionable cafe in Budapest, and find some such famous Tzigane musician as Magyari Imri.

1YA listeners will hear Magyari Imri and his Hungarian Gipsy Orchestra on Wednesday, August 17.

HE FOUND BLOOD WENT ROUND.

The English philosopher, Thomas Hobbes, used to say of his contemporary William Harvey, discoverer of the circulation of the blood, that he was the only man who ever lived to see his theories established during his own lifetime. Nevertheless, Harvey's discovery roused the jealousy of his brother

The Crean Rises To The Top



RICHARD CREAN
... Studied in a hard school.

EDUCATION in the hard school of musical experience has enabled Richard Crean to rise to the top of theatrical conducting. He started in Dublin at the Royal Irish Academy, studying harmony, counterpoint, orchestration, piano, and violin. In 1912 he went on a world tour with the Thomas Quillan Opera Company. Half-way through the tour, he transferred himself to the musical staff and became chorus-master and solo coach. Back in London in 1914, he went straight to the grand opera season at Covent Garden, and was soon working alongside Adrian Boult and Julius Harrison on the musical staff. Sundry London and provincial appointments led finally to his important appointment at the London Palladium.

3YA listeners will hear the Richard Crean Orchestra on Friday, August 19.

physicians, and his patients all deserted him for other doctors. Harvey, however, was a rich man, and a generous one. He built a library for the College of Physicians with a great parlour underneath, and gave the college his estate at Burmarsh, in Kent. He also endowed the Harveian Oration, which is still delivered each year on St. Luke's Day. Harvey's most interesting literary work is a description of the post-mortem examination of Old Parr, who died at the alleged age of 152.

3YA listeners will hear a talk on William Harvey by Dr. J. Guthrie, on Wednesday, August 17.

NATIONALLY "JUST A SALAD"

Jeanne de Casalis, creator of "Mrs. Feather," one of the most famous of humorous characters in present-day literature, confessed recently that nationally she is "just a salad." A woman of Basque origin, born in Basutoland, educated in Paris and married to an Englishman, Jeanne has a glittering personality, "is usually most alert, but when at all vague is usually thinking of three things at once." She loves practical jokes of a simple sort and is given to impersonating her servant on

the telephone and saying she is sorry Miss de Casalis is out. On the other hand, she loves classical music, writes wittily, and at her cottage at Charing, in Kent, delights in doing her own gardening.

Jeanne de Casalis, entertainer, will be heard from 4YA in the music, mirth, and melody session on Thursday, August 18.

ALFREDO WAS ON VARIETY TOUR

Hailing from the important New Jersey city of Newark, Alfredo, the famous light orchestral conductor, was in his day a child prodigy who studied under a favourite pupil of the great Joachim in his native city. He made his debut as soloist at the age of twelve with the local symphony orchestra, of which he was a member. After a few years he became the violinist in a classical quartet company and toured the variety theatres for two years, when he determined to do a "lone act," and made a distinguished reputation as "The Vagabond Violinist."

Alfredo and his Orchestra will be heard in 3YA's Dinner Music session on Tuesday, August 15, and Friday, August 19; and he will also be heard from 4YO on Saturday night, August 20.

NO SHACKLES FOR THIS MAN.

A young man with the Englishman's wholesome outlook on life and art, Leslie Woodgate contrives to steer clear of the shackles in which the folk-song cult is apt to bind some of his contemporaries. Apart from being a clever composer, who received a Carnegie Award for a composition in 1923 on his 21st birthday, Leslie Woodgate is employed at the BBC as choral and orchestral conductor. While at the Royal College of Music, he studied composition under Armstrong Gibbs and the organ under Sir Walter Alcock.

The BBC Chorus, under Leslie Woodgate, will be heard from 4YA on Sunday afternoon, August 14.

ROYAL FAMILY OF BROADWAY.

The so-called Royal Family of Broadway, the famed "House of Barrymore," has three of its members in the films—Lionel, Ethel, and John. John is rated by some as America's best actor. His real name is John Blythe, and he was born in Philadelphia on February 15, 1882. For a time he departed from family tradition by serving as a cartoonist on a New York newspaper, but in 1903 he decided to follow in his parents' footsteps and began his stage career by playing in "Magda." In 1926 he went to London to play in Shakespeare, and started his film career in 1915 with the uproarious farce, "Are You a Mason?"

4YA listeners will hear John Barrymore on Sunday afternoon, August 14, in Gloucester's Soliloquy, from Shakespeare's "Henry VI."

ANY MUSIC BUT JAZZ TUNES.

Since Cedric Sharpe's Sextet first broadcast in 1931, it has climbed steadily into the affections of listeners and filmgoers. The combination can play any type of music except jazz, and has been chosen primarily for its experience in quartet playing. The leader is Edward Virgo, and the 'celist, of course, Cedric Sharpe.

The Cedric Sharpe Sextet will be heard in 2YA's dinner music session on Tuesday, August 16.