

The Week's RECORDS

THE Russian composer Borodin shared his short and strenuous life between music and chemistry, making his mark in no uncertain fashion on both. He delivered one of his lectures to the medical school at Petrograd on the very day on which he died. He used to say himself that the only times he could spare for composition, were when he was too ill to do his medical work, so that his friends used not to greet him with the customary: "I hope you are well," but rather, "I hope you are ill."

His opera, "Prince Igor," of which he wrote both the libretto and the music, was not quite completed at his death. It was finished by his good friends Rimsky-Korsakov and Glazounov. In the second act of the opera, Prince Igor is a captive in the camp of his enemies, the Polovsti; but a captive who is treated with all the homage due to a valiant and distinguished enemy. The dances are arranged and performed in his presence, and with a view of doing him honour. The Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra under Leopold Stokowsky has recorded these "Dances of the Polovstian Maidens" (H.M.V. DB3232-33). The two records can be strongly recommended to the growing army of Philadelphia Orchestra fans.

Echo from Wales

VERY early in the present century, Sir Edward Elgar was on holiday in Wales, and while there was impressed by the sound of distant singing, in which the cadence of a falling third particularly caught his fancy. From the train of thought thus generated sprang the main tune of his orchestral work, "Introduction and Allegro for Strings" (Op. 47). Later on, a song heard in the valley of the Wye reinforced the Welsh impressions and led to the completion of the work. It was written for a solo quartet (two violins, viola and cello) in conjunction with a string orchestra, and was first performed in March, 1905. Under the baton of Sir Adrian Boult, the strings of the BBC Symphony Orchestra have recorded the work. The string quartet in the new H.M.V. recording is named on the labels of the two discs (H.M.V. DB. 3198-99), the personnel being Paul Beard, Barry Squire, Bernard Shore and Ambrose Gauntlett, a very able team. The three sides occupied by Elgar's piece will give delight to lovers of good orchestral music. On the fourth and spare side the orchestra plays the same composer's "Sospiri" (Op. 70).

One critic has said of this tender little trifle for strings and harp that there is something native about it—both individual and national. Every British listener will immediately respond to its appeal, and acknowledge on hearing it that our great composer was as successful in musical miniatures as he was in the field of the symphony, concerto and oratorio.

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PERSONALITIES .. ON THE AIR ..

WHEN Berlioz met Wallace, the composer of "Maritana," he stumbled upon one of the choicest subjects of "copy" that ever a writer encountered. In his "Evenings in the Orchestra," Berlioz has set out the amazing adventures of this nomadic genius. Berlioz wrote, "He has carried off women, he has fought several duels that turned out badly for his adversaries, and he was a savage—yes, a savage, or pretty nearly one, for six months." This was in New Zealand about a century ago, where Wallace had an astounding adventure with a Maori princess. Both Berlioz and Wallace were probably champion leg-pullers, but composing even a great success like "Maritana" must have seemed tame compared with his travels with his fiddle round the world and the adoration of Maori beauties, among others.

Excerpts from the opera "Maritana" will be featured by 4YA on Sunday, November 27.

GLOBE-TROT AND LEARN Bacon hit the nail on the head when he said: "Travel in the younger sort is a part of education; in the older, a part of experience." As globe-trotting was one of the early ambitions of Colin Bailey, M.A., and he has been enabled to see Great



(S. P. Andrew Photo.)
Colin Bailey has done much travel.

Britain, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Czechoslovakia, Austria and Germany, it is natural he has something worth saying to young New Zealand after five years sojourn abroad. Born in Christchurch, Mr. Bailey is one of our more brilliant New Zealanders who has made a niche for himself and has settled in his native land to give the rising generation the benefit of his unique knowledge.

He regularly broadcasts talks in the 2YA Educational Session and will be heard on Thursday, December 1, on the fascinating subject of "Ancient Egypt, The Land of Pyramids."

IN THE HEART OF THE SUDAN For six months in 1933, Mr. H. W. Milner (a native of "proud" Preston in Lancashire) visited various stations under the Sudan United Mission. This great country with an area more than twenty times as large as that of New Zealand furnishes abundant evidence of

modern British administration in favour of the natives. During Mr. Milner's trip he saw some of the most primitive tribes in the world, and among them certain tribes which still manage to practise the sacrificing of babies to appease their gods. These people need, and are receiving sympathy.

Confessions Of People You Know

HAVING just published "A Guest of Life," her ninth novel and a very notable one at that, Miss Nelle Scanlon, well-known New Zealand writer who lives in London, is now visiting New Zealand. She is giving radio talks during her visit. This week the "Record" has secured Miss Scanlon's confessions for its readers.

My eyes are: Blue.
My hair is: Iron grey.
Favourite colours for clothes: Black, white, grey and blue.

My favourite play is: A different one every year.

My favourite motto is: Count your blessings.

My pet aversion is: Radios that go on mumbling all day long.

I could happily spend the rest of my life in: Doing nothing.

My favourite screen star: I haven't one.

What has pleased me most about New Zealand: New Zealand.

What has disappointed me most: Ah!!!

thetic study and consideration from their rulers and the missionaries.

On the subject of the Sudan Mr. Milner is an authority. He will be heard by 2YA listeners in the Educational Session on Thursday, December 1, speaking on "Life in North Africa."

"HAMLET" WERE "REIT ENOOF" There are many variations of the story of the old lady, who, on being taken to

a performance of "Hamlet," complained that it was full of quotations. Here is an old Yorkshire woman's reaction to this classic: "Aye, it were reit enoof," she said, "Ah proply enjoyed bits of it, but there's a lot of it no mover Shakespeare nor what Ah am. Ah've heard my father saying fifty things as comes inter you play, when Ah was nowt but a bairn."

"Hamlet" (quotations and all) will be broadcast from 2YA on Sunday, November 27. The production comes from the NBS studios.

BIRTHPLACE HAS NOW MOVED Walter Widdop's birthplace, an ancient building which has defied the wind

and the rain for centuries, has long since emigrated to America. A millionaire took a fancy to it, had it dismantled and transported to his home town in the States, where it now has been rebuilt. So although Widdop's birthplace was in Yorkshire, it is now in America. The tenor began his career as a clerk with the Bradford Dyers' Association. It was not until his twentieth year that he began to study singing, and after a year he competed successfully in various

festivals. After studying at the London Opera School he made his debut in "Aida" at Leeds.

Walter Widdop, tenor, will be heard at 4YA on Thursday, December 1.

NOVEL AS A SERIAL Ultimately translated into French, German, Italian, Greek and Russian, Mrs. Craik's most successful novel, "John Halifax, Gentleman," is a story of middle-class English life. The hero carried about with him an old Greek testament, in which, after an ancestor's name, was the word "gentleman"—to John a motto, a talisman, a charter, imposing on him truth, honour, fidelity and purity. Mrs. Craik was the daughter of a Non-conformist minister, who, seven years after the appearance of her best-known work, married George Lillie Craik, a partner in the publishing house of Macmillan.

An instalment of a dramatic serial, "John Halifax, Gentleman," played by George Edwards and Company, will be heard from 1YA on Monday, November 28.

PLATONIC LOVE FOR JAZZ "I have sympathy for jazz, but as I never dance, it is merely a platonic love," confided Walter Gieseking, master pianist, a few years ago. He sees in it, however, a danger to folk music of many countries, as it is distributed cheaply by means of records and easily establishes itself among rhythm-loving peoples. Son of a well-known doctor and scientific explorer, the pianist was born in the French city of Lyons. As early

as four years of age he made his first appearance as a pianist in Naples, and a year later he played a varied programme at the 1900 Paris Exhibition. Since those days Gieseking has become the apostle of modern piano music.



Walter Gieseking has sympathy for jazz.

3YA listeners will hear Walter Gieseking, pianist, on Friday, December 2.

WOMEN IN THE FIELD Two young women cornet soloists, Miss Doreen and Miss June Church, trained by Bandmaster George Buckley, of the Auckland Artillery Band, will be heard from 1YA on December 1, on the same evening as the American woman trumpeter, Miss Grace Adams East, gives a recital from the studio. Women, it seems, are invading the exclusively masculine fields in music as in the other arts.

Male cornetists will listen to the women players from 1YA on December 1 with keen interest.

Pepperpot

PRIZES of one shilling each will be awarded for the best announcers' slips heard by listeners, but entrants must be fair to announcers by leaving words in their right context. Address letters to "Pepperpot," C/o "Radio Record," Box 1680, Wellington. Payments are made at the end of each month.

MRS —, bringing in the announcer's morning tea, Station 1ZB, at 7.15, Friday, November 4: "I must be going, I'm all behind today."

AQUATICS.

THE STROLLING PAYMASTER, 2ZB, 6.47 p.m., November 7: "And now we'll take a stroll up the Wanganui River."

NOT CRICKET.

ANNOUNCER, 2YA, 10.3 p.m., November 5: "Woolworths (22 and 30) collapsed against Amalgamated Bricks, the pitch being badly cut up."

NO, THANKS.

JOHNNIE, 1ZB, 5.25 p.m., Wednesday, November 9 (news page of magazine of the air): "The next item is an earthquake."

FAMILIARITY.

ALEC. REGAN from 2ZB, 6.35 p.m., November 10: "Aha, there's Kingi smacking my lips."

PERFORMING DEER.

CHILDREN'S session, 2ZB, Thursday, November 10, 5.20 p.m. (the Ranger talking about the deer in Wanganui): "You just clap your hands and they all fly back into the trees."

WELL BRED.

3YA announcer at Christchurch Show, November 11, describing grand parade of cattle: "And here come the dainty little Jerseys—hear them clapping?"

TRUNK MURDER?

PETER, from 4ZB, Children's Session, 5.20 p.m., Thursday, November 10: "... saw a pal taking an old lady's arm across the street."

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