

The Week's RECORDS

"Of course, it's only light music." How often do we hear such words as these, pronounced in a half-apologetic tone by some one who professes himself unable to appreciate what he calls "classical music."

It is a commonly accepted belief that "classical music" consists of the established works of great masters which are enjoyed only by the elite, whereas light music is treated as if it were synonymous with the popular music of the day for which not even its adherents claim more than a passing fancy, but which they modestly allege to be the only music within the capacity of their humble powers of appreciation.

Many people, especially classical music enthusiasts, forget that the great masters of the past composed music for a living. Very few of these great men were half-recluses like old Bach or Cesar Franck. In order to live, the big majority of them had to be continually turning out music that people would enjoy hearing—in other words, popular music.

If, in the passage of years, quite a considerable amount of this music ultimately found a place in the standard repertory, all the better. Any composer who sets to work to turn out immortal masterpieces ends up by producing a mass of music that is stillborn to begin with.

These sentiments, which at first blush, may seem odd in a record review, are inspired by the many fine and well-played compositions among recent releases. At no period in musical history were better musicians engaged in orchestras.

The playing, for example, of the Paramount Orchestra, under Anton, is superb in their newly-recorded "Medley of Paso-Dobles." In this disc (HMV. EA2092) they are assisted by Al Bollington at the organ. This lovely Spanish potpourri contains pieces of Marquena, Para, Porschman, Fernando, and Ricardo. The record is cordially recommended.

Barnabas von Geczy and his orchestra is another most efficient band, and in their latest record (HMV. B8676) they play, with great efficiency and charm, two waltzes—"Castanet" by Richartz, and the ever-popular "España" by Waldteufel.

"Artist's Life" waltz by Johann Strauss comes in for expert treatment at the hands of the Boston Promenade Orchestra, under Arthur Fiedler. "Artist's Life" belongs to that splendid group of waltzes which Strauss created about 1867, and is next but one after "The Blue Danube" in order of composition.

Its seductive strains occupy two sides of a record (HMV. C2919), calculated to please practically all who hear it.

Playing eight of the choicest of Sousa's Marches, the Grand Symphony Orchestra is responsible for a record (HMV. C2957) that will win many friends.

MINERS' COUGH CURE
EXTRA STRONG
FOR BRONCHITIS, ASTHMA, WHOOPING COUGH, AND ALL BRONCHIAL AFFECTIONS

PERSONALITIES ON THE AIR

FROM the musical city of Birmingham comes one of the best English conductors—Clarence Raybould, who enjoys the proud distinction of being the first student to take a degree in music at Birmingham University. He is a magnificent walker and a good swimmer—and he looks it. Most of our modern musicians in all categories refute the stupid notion that music is a soft job, or worse, a job for soft people. Few manual workers toil so laboriously as a busy conductor. Clarence Raybould speaks French, Italian, German and Swedish, and is a firm believer in the merit of British music.

2YA listeners will hear a Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Clarence Raybould, on Sunday afternoon, January 29.

TRAGIC END OF AN AUTHOR

An able and popular Irish author named Eliot Warburton, was appointed in 1851 by the Atlantic and Pacific Junction Company to visit the Indians of the Isthmus of Darien, establish a friendly understanding with them, and make himself thoroughly acquainted with their country. Shortly before starting on his voyage, Warburton published his last book, a historical romance "Darien," dealing with Paterson and his Scots fellow-adventurers. In this work, Warburton ominously described a fire at sea. On Friday, January 2, 1852, the West Indian mail ship "Amazon" left Southampton on her maiden voyage. On Sunday morning, January 4, she was destroyed by fire at sea, about 100 miles from Scilly. Among those who perished was Eliot Warburton.

On Friday, February 3, Miss Florence Robinson will give readings from Charles Lamb, John Keats and Eliot Warburton.

HE FOUND A NEW LINE

Not so very long ago R. M. Armitage, M.A., Mus.Bac., Cantab., decided to give church music a break and take up composing music for revues.



NOEL GAY.—Yorkshireman who turned from church music to revue.

Originally intending to devote himself to classical music, he became assistant-organist at the historic Chapel Royal, St. James's, and organist and director of music at the musically famous St. Ann's, Soho, at the early age of 18. A decade later he took the plunge, assumed the professional name of Noel Gay and began writing revue winners and song hits, such as "There's Something About A Sol-

dier," "The King's Horses," and more recently "The Lambeth Walk."

Confessions of People You Know

"KAY BEE," well known to NBS listeners, this week gives some lively confessions to "Record" readers:

My eyes are: Limpid brown.
My hair is: Scantie.
Favourite colour for clothes: Midnight blue.
My lucky day is: Pay-day.
My favourite musical play is: Wedding March.

In my friends I look for the qualities of: Innocence.

My favourite motto is: "What'll you have?"

My pet aversion is: Small glasses.

I could happily spend the rest of my life in: Being a play boy.

My favourite screen stars are: Beautiful unmarried blondes.

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

What has disappointed me most: The Government.

2YA listeners will spend "Fifteen Minutes with Noel Gay" on Monday, January 30.

FIFTY YEARS A STAMP MAN

Shortly after the appearance in England, in 1840, of the first postage stamps, the "penny black" and the "Mulreedy envelope" of Sir Rowland Hill, there sprang up the craze of collecting stamps. From a mere hobby it has now developed into a scientific pursuit, cultivated by numerous societies. For over half this period, Mr. E. Philpot-Crowther has been a stamp collector, and 20 years ago was a member of many British and European philatelic societies. In 1911 he was awarded the Bronze Medal at the International Philatelic Exhibition held in Vienna, which included exhibits lent by world-wide notabilities in the stamp world, including the late King George. Mr. Philpot-Crowther's special display was a portion of the stamp issues of Finland. His stamp interests today are principally Finnish, Australian Commonwealth and New Zealand issues. Years ago Mr. Philpot-Crowther was a contributor to several philatelic journals, and was awarded a Bronze Medal in 1909 for the best paper read before a British philatelic society. A widely-travelled man he has known in the past (some intimately) eminent philatelists, including Sir E. Bacon, the Earl of Crawford, Messrs M. P. Castle and J. E. Bainbridge, and Herr Adolf Passer of Vienna. Nowadays this veteran philatelist's interests are confined to other people's stamps and their enlightenment. Stamp collecting may merge from a mere hobby into philately, which is an absorbing and fascinating science, as well as a serious financial investment.

On Monday, January 30, at 2YA, Mr. E. Philpot-Crowther will give a talk on "Stamp Collecting as an Investment."

SLIP OF OLD DEVON STOCK

There is a line in the rousing song "Glorious Devon" which runs: "To every land the wide world o'er, some slips of the old stock roam." Charles Robert Bidwill, once of Exeter, later to blaze the trail in the Wairarapa, was one of the "slips of the

old stock." In the "Nelson Examiner," Bidwill's arrival in the colony is recorded as follows. "The Posthumous, 9 days from Sydney with 1600 sheep intended for Port Nicholson, arrived in Nelson in March, 1843. It is interesting to note that the greater portion of her cargo is the property of Mr. C. R. Bidwill. Some of these sheep were put up for sale and only realised 15s to 17s each." It was not until over a year after this that Bidwill, with his flock of 350 merino sheep, arrived at Kopungarara to open another chapter in New Zealand's pastoral history.

Mr. Douglas Cresswell continues his recorded talks on "Historic New Zealand Estates" at 2YA on Monday, January 30. The subject of this particular talk is "The Bidwills of the Wairarapa."

CARLYLE TOOK £100 CASH

In his "History of the French Revolution," Thomas Carlyle brought before us with most impressive and life-like reality and in Homeric fashion, various episodes of that terrible period. This work was almost lost in 1835 through the destruction by a servant girl of all but four or five leaves of the manuscript of the first volume, which had been lent to John Stuart Mill. Carlyle accepted £100 from Mill as compensation for the loss.

MUSICIANS WHO AIDED HIM

Within a week or two of the Battle of Waterloo was born at Halle one of the greatest German song composers, Robert Franz. His first set of songs evoked from the discerning and kindly critic, Schumann, an encouraging article, and his work was welcomed both by Liszt and by Mendelssohn. But, for all that, Franz suffered a good deal of neglect, partly due, no doubt, to his own timid disposition. By the time he was 53, total deafness and pecuniary troubles made his situation so desperate that he was rescued only through a series of benefit concerts by Liszt and others. He wound up his career as a musical editor and arranger of undoubted ability. Notwithstanding



FORGOTTEN COMPOSER.—Songs of Robert Franz are revived by contralto Dorothy Stentiford.

ing all this, his 250 songs suffered, and still suffer from an altogether undeserved neglect.

4YA listeners will hear a group of four songs by Robert Franz, sung by Dorothy Stentiford, contralto, on Sunday, January 29.

Deeperoot

A UNT DAISY, 2ZB, 9 a.m., January 9: "Very interesting for anybody who's got the borer."

SPEEDY TRAVEL.

ANNOUNCER (reading from script), 2ZB, January 10, 7.37 p.m.: "I was in a hurry, so I pushed my car along."

NATURAL HISTORY.

BIRD MAN, 2ZB, 5.40 p.m. Tuesday, January 3: "You will find the skins and bones of rats and mice and other little birds."

PIRATES.

ANNOUNCER, "Music, Mirth and Melody" hour from 1YA, January 11: "We now present Carson Robison and His Buccaneers."

OTHER?

A UNT DAISY, 9.20 a.m., January 12: "Mr. Reg Morgan and the other women will tell you that."

FITTINGS.

MARGOT, 2ZB Thursday, January 12, 11.55 a.m.: "And you can go down to the — tailors with your husband and be fitted for his new suit."

EXPENSIVE MISS.

KINGI, 2ZB, January 11, 7.20 p.m.: "You have just heard recordings made recently by Miss —, a star stinger. . ."

EXERCISE?

ANNOUNCER, 2ZB, relaying from a factory at 7.30 p.m., January 9: "And if we have time we may have a run through some pyjamas."

CANNIBAL FEAST.

MORNING announcer, 1ZB, Monday, January 9, 8.23 a.m.: "And now we'll have a little bit of Strauss. . ."

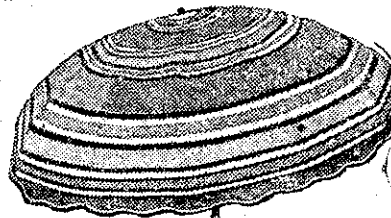
SYMPATHY.

DOROTHY, 1ZB, 1.55 p.m., January 13: "Oh, your father was a Scotsman. I can sympathise with you there!"

UP-AND-DOWN.

ANNOUNCER, 2YA, Wednesday, January 11, 9.5 p.m.: "Low pressure remains high in the North."

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