

practically the only market which is available to musical talent.

"Some of you have, perhaps, compared renditions by local artists with gramophone records and you have said, 'Why do not programmes consist entirely of recordings?' There is no one more alive than the Radio Broadcasting Company to the merits of recordings. An electrical reproduction is now well-nigh perfect from a technical point of view, and the item recorded is probably the best of a dozen efforts made by the artist under ideal conditions. To make comparison with the local artist's performance is rather unfair to the local artist.

#### Restriction on Records.

**B**UT it has not been possible for us to provide a service consisting solely of recorded items—even if we had desired to do so. The regulations under which we have operated have restricted to 25 per cent. the amount of recorded items in our evening concert programmes. In any case, as we have said, the Broadcasting Company has given what encouragement it could to local talent, and we think that on the general average the New Zealand artists have served you well and compared more than favourably with those heard overseas. One thing is certain: had the Broadcasting Company not patronised local industry the protests would have far exceeded those received for having done so.

"The Broadcasting Company has thought it right that encouragement should be given to music, and it has used its best efforts to foster it, not only by offering engagements to singers and players who could pass the audition tests, but by subsidising musical societies. In this connection, in each of the four centres a sum of £250 has been placed annually at the disposal of a committee consisting of representatives of the various musical and dramatic societies in the city, and that sum has been apportioned out to the societies in such sums as the committee thought fit.

#### Advisory Committees.

**W**HEN referring to the musical and dramatic committees, it may be stated for the benefit of those of our listeners who may not be aware of the extent to which the Broadcasting Company's service has been organised, that the YA stations have had the advice of advisory committees, there being a number in each city dealing with separate branches of broadcasting. These committees have numbered 14, consisting of 114 different members, and have comprised musical and dramatic, children's, primary productions, and church committees. Throughout New Zealand a number of official listeners have regularly reported on the standard of programmes and the quality of reception.

"A broadcasting service encompasses a wide variety of features, apart from the regular concert entertainment. Sessions are regularly devoted to the children, to religious services, to dinner music, and in informative talks to housewives, to farmers, and to people generally; there are sessions given over to news and to sport. In all of these the Broadcasting Company has given of its best.

"If there is one section of broadcasting more than another which appeals to listeners it is the broadcasting of topical happenings. In this direction the YA stations have devoted a



—Spencer Digby, photo.

## Ava Symons—Violinist

### Artist of Outstanding Ability

**ACCOMPANYING** is an artistic portrait by Spencer Digby of the unusually gifted violinist, Ava Symons, of whose playing a recent critic stated: "It would be difficult to find in this country an equal to Ava Symons as a violinist. Possessing superb tone and the most facile technique, she plays with a refinement and authority that command admiration."

She is a New Zealander and showed exceptional talent during her early studies with Max Hoppe, when she was successful at competitions in Napier and Auckland in 1911—in this year she also gained orchestral experience, being the youngest member of the orchestra of the Sheffield Choir, which toured New Zealand under Drs. Coward and Harris.

To pursue her studies, she journeyed to England and entered the Royal Academy, studying there under the well-known violinist and exponent of the Auer School, Spencer Dyke. Owing to the war and unforeseen circumstances, in 1914 Miss Symons returned to New Zealand, and since has made several successful tours throughout the Dominion.

In 1919 Miss Symons went to England again, and in London was fortunate enough to receive tuition from the famous French violiniste, Mdlle. Rene Chemet. It was this great artist who was responsible for Miss Symons securing the beautiful "Grand Nicola

Amati" violin which she possesses. Since her return to the Dominion, Miss Symons has been heard at many concerts and has given recitals throughout New Zealand with Joseph Hislop, Frank Hutchens, and the Symons-Ellwood-Short Trio. Her instruction has been gleaned from such notable musicians as Toscha Seidel, Daniel Melsa, William Reed, Renee Chemet, and Alberto Poltronieri, of the Milan Conservatorium. Listeners of 2YA must feel intimate with her work, as she has been heard from this station since its inception.

Miss Symons's playing is characterised by sound methods, and her simple, unaffected style, fine technical capacity, natural artistry and charming personality make her appearance a pleasure and an education.

Performing from 2YA on Sunday, January 10, Miss Symons will be heard in the following:—

(a) Schon Rosmarin—an original, dainty composition of Kreisler's.

(b) The Foggy Dew—an appealing Irish melody.

(c) Sicilienne and Rigaudon—a graceful Sicilienne and spirited rigaudon.

Her second group will include:—

(a) "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen"—a negro spiritual.

(b) Obeliss—a brilliant mazurka.

(c) Serenade Espagole—a rhythmic Spanish serenade.

trans-Tasman flight. It will be remembered that a few hours after flying the Tasman, Guy Menzies, though located in a small town on the West Coast, was speaking to 3YA listeners.

"Rebroadcasts of overseas stations have frequently been carried out with more or less success, dependent upon

atmospheric conditions. As listeners will have noticed in recent cable news a regular Empire short-wave service is to begin on Monday next, and no doubt in the future rebroadcasts will be a feature of the YA schedules."

"The Broadcasting Company is proud of its achievements, and is grateful to the many listeners who have so generously expressed appreciation of the service given. The company has at all times endeavoured to maintain a high standard, and it has taken meticulous care that what is broadcast should not offend the susceptibilities of anyone, nor be unfit to be heard by any members of the family. No one has realised better than the directors of the company the widespread and far-reaching power of broadcasting. It is the mightiest power for good in the world to-day.

"I desire, before concluding, to express our sincere appreciation of the co-operation of the many talented artists and the various musical and kindred organisations who have contributed to our broadcast programmes, and especially do I desire to convey our grateful thanks to the ladies and gentlemen who have done such splendid work in connection with our children's sessions, the honorary lecturers who have given so freely of their time and knowledge, the members of our honorary advisory committees, our honorary official listeners in all parts of the Dominion, our loyal, zealous, and efficient staff, and, indeed, all who have been in any way associated with the service.

"With a full realisation of the potentialities of radio, the directors of the Broadcasting Company have every confidence that in the personnel of the Broadcasting Board the future control of the New Zealand service has been placed in safe keeping. In handing over to the board the New Zealand broadcasting service, the directors of the Radio Broadcasting Company extend to the members of the board their good will and best wishes for their future success. To the board and to all listeners they wish a very happy New Year."

#### A Tribute to the Staff.

**MR. BALL** then, in a neat speech, eulogised the artists and the staff.

#### Unlimited Possibilities.

**A STATEMENT** was made from each station on behalf of the Postmaster-General, Hon. A. Hamilton, and the Broadcasting Board.

"For about six years broadcasting in New Zealand has been owned and controlled by the Radio Broadcasting Company," stated the Minister, "and I should like to express appreciation to the company for its successful pioneering of the service. When the company agreed to establish stations some years ago this most recent development of science was then in its infancy. To-day broadcasting is an important part of our social and educational life.

"A clause in the agreement, under which the company operated, gave the Government the right to take over the stations at the end of 1931. This the Government by legislation last session decided to do. The price to be paid is being settled by arbitration. The Post and Telegraph Department has taken the stations over from the company, and, when the transaction is completed, will hand them over to the board,

(Concluded on page 28.)