

UPCOMING MARRIAGES

ASHCOMBE AND MRS. I. MILLS
marriage has been arranged, and will take place, between Lord Ashcombe, of Dorking, and Mrs. Idina Mills, of Bryanston Court, George Street, W.1, daughter of Colonel R. E. Myddelton, of Castle, Denbighshire.

G. F. C. DE BERTODANO AND MISS E. L. WIDDERSON

engagement is announced between Giles Bertodano, of 20, Devonshire Terrace, W.2, son of the late Sir Thomas Thompson, and Miss E. L. Widderson, of Canelones, Montevideo, Uruguay, and late of Es Gate, S.W.7.

DON G. P. NERY AND MISS SINCLAIR
engagement is announced, and the ceremony will take place on Wednesday, July 15, at 3.30 p.m., at the residence of Señor Don Guy P. Nery, attaché of the Uruguayan Embassy in London, and his wife, only daughter of Mr. Donald Sinclair, 31, Queen's Gate, S.W.7. Pre-press: 20, Roland Way, S.W.7.

CRÉMER AND MME. A. M. CHATENAY
marriage has been arranged, and will take place tomorrow, between Jean Pierre Crémier, son of M. Crémier and Mme. Crémier, of the late Sir Thomas Thompson, and Anne Marie Chatenay, daughter of Mme. Victor Chatenay, Château de Menerie, St. Barthelemy d'Anjou, and widow of Mrs. A. W. Stirling, of Goring-on-Thames.

S. HASTINGS AND MRS. JEPHSON
engagement is announced between Stephen Hastings, M.C., Scots Guards, son of Major Lewis Hastings, M.C., late of the late Sir Thomas Thompson, and Mrs. Hastings, of Bark Wokingham, Berkshire, and widow of Major G. D. (Tony) Jephson, of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, and elder daughter of Lieutenant Julian Tomlin, C.B.E., D.S.O., and late Mrs. Tomlin.

ANT L. P. WATSON, R.N., AND MISS I. D. BRADBURY

engagement is announced between Peter, son of Lieutenant-Colonel and L. Watson, of Woodlands, Barford, and Isabel Doris, daughter of the late Commander R. A. Bradbury, R.N., and Mrs. Bradbury, of Dunfermline, Fife.

K. BLACK AND DR. M. C. WOOD
engagement is announced between the second son of the Rev. A. P. Black, Islandmagee, County Antrim, and Margaret, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Farquharson Wood, Roselea, Co. Wick.

MARMION AND MISS U. M. KYNOCHE
engagement is announced between Edward Marmion, M.A., M.B., son of the late Mr. P. E. Marmion, of Walnut Tree, Farnham-on-Sea, and Ursula Mary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. R. of Knowle, Brentwood, Essex.

DOWRICK AND MISS C. B. BURBURY
marriage of Mr. Frank Ernest Dowrick, of Cherry Barbara, Burbury will take place on July 27 at the English Church, Wokingham.

V. HAIG AND MISS E. Y. DAVIDSON
engagement is announced between

FOLK MUSIC AND DANCE

THE EDINBURGH CONGRESS

BY OUR MUSIC CRITIC

The gathering convened in Edinburgh last week by the Scottish Anthropological and Folk Lore Society was in part a congress at which papers were read and discussed and in part a festival of traditional music and dance. The two parts were complementary, and together revealed the great wealth and variety of surviving material in traditions that are still alive in the British Isles.

It was high time for such a stocktaking to be made. The initiative of the English Folk Dance and Song Society has brought to London at different times, both before and after the great international festival of 1935, not only musicians and dancers from Europe but individual teams from Scotland, Wales, and Ireland. But in cultivating the international field, with its broad basis for comparative study, we have neglected to bring together all our insular traditions and see what comparison can reveal each to the other among ourselves. A Swedish visitor even asked that some co-ordinating body might be established to speak for the British Isles to the inquiring foreigner. On the purely artistic side it was the extraordinary diversity and the strength of the several traditions that was most impressive. Scotland's own two traditions were the most striking example of this independence. The Gaelic and the Lowland songs flow in two streams with little interconnexion. Language would partly account for the differences in feeling and in technical features like pentatonicism and the Scotch snap. The dances show a little more interaction, as Lord James Stewart Murray demonstrated, when he showed what happened to a simple country dance, which might have come originally from England, when it reached Perthshire. He also showed the vitality of both Highland and Lowland dancing when he declared the birthplace and date of the Eightsome Reel as Blair Athol about 1880, and demonstrated a new "Fifty-first Division" country dance composed in the tradition by prisoners of war. The Irish contingent similarly exhibited a fine spectacular dance composed in the tradition called "The Brooch of Tara." The sharp distinction observed in England between folk-art and individual composition is thus blurred in the Celtic fringe, where tradition is still fluid.

The dance traditions are of interest to musicians in that they show how traditions themselves behave. But to some of the questions about folk-song answers are still sought in vain. Is there an ethnic as well as a linguistic element in the distinction between Highland and Lowland song? Do instruments affect vocal melody? If so, what features in Gaelic song may be attributed respectively to the gentle clarsach and the raucous bagpipe? Some say that, whether scales, intervals, and compass of song melodies are influenced by instruments or not, the style of singing may be, and they quote instances from Hebridean lullabies and Spanish folk-songs, where a whispering harp and a nasal pipe respectively cause singers to imitate instrumental music. There is some piquancy after such a debate on instrumental priority to remember that in the eighteenth century it was held that "the finest instrumental music may be considered an

OBITUARY

VICE-ADMIRAL R. WILLSON, U.S.N.

Vice-Admiral Russell Willson, U.S.N., retired, died in Washington on Tuesday, aged 64. He served, with the then rank of captain, as naval attaché at the American Embassy in London from 1937 to 1938.

As rear-admiral he was placed in command of the first battleship division, United States Navy, in 1939, and, in 1941 was appointed superintendent of the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, where he himself had once matriculated. Soon after Pearl Harbour, Admiral Ernest J. King, the Commander-in-Chief of the United States Fleet, selected him as his chief of staff, and he served in this position until he was promoted in 1942 to be Deputy Commander-in-Chief. From 1943 until 1946 Admiral Willson was attached to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington. He was closely associated with Admiral R. K. Turner in planning the first American amphibious operation at Guadalcanal Island, and was active at the Quebec conference in 1943 and at the Cairo conference in the same year.

In 1911 he married Miss Eunice Westcott, and there were two daughters and a son of the marriage. His son lost his life as a naval aviator in the late war.

THE MAHARAJA OF COCHIN

Our Bombay Correspondent reports the death from pneumonia yesterday at Ernakulam, his capital, of His Highness Kerala Varma Maharaja of Cochin, at the age of 78.

He was the fourth ruler of this State on the extreme south-west coast of the Indian peninsula to die within little more than seven years. This high rate of mortality is accounted for by the fact that under the matriarchal system prevailing in the State, as in its greater neighbour Travancore, succession frequently devolves on the eldest surviving brother. The late Maharaja had occupied the *musnad* for 24 years. He was conspicuous for his ready and steadfast support of the movement for further constitutional reforms, and acceded to the Indian Union soon after the partition last year. The State is of considerable importance, for it has a population of 1,500,000 and an area approaching 1,500 square miles, much of it, however, consisting of forest and lagoons or backwaters.

MR. H. G. ROBERTSON

Sir Walter Monckton, K.C., writes:—

The Bar has lost a very distinguished figure by the death on Wednesday of Henry George Robertson. After a brilliant career at Rugby and Oxford, he was called to the Bar in 1903 and became a Benchers of the Inner Temple in 1929. At Rugby he was head of the School and Captain of the Rugby XV, and won the cross-country race three years in succession. At Oxford he continued his career of brilliant scholarship and got a double first, and in sport represented the university in the quarter-mile. At the Bar in his early days he devilled for the late Lord Atkin and for a long time was in the Chambers of the late Mr. F. P. M. Schiller, K.C.

For the last 20 years Robertson was recognized as one of the most eminent and successful lawyers in commercial and local government