

MUSICAL MENTION

JOHN RANDOLPH

Paderewski has just sailed for his home in Paris taking with him nearly two hundred thousand dollars of good American money—presumably on a gold basis. The enormous sum of two hundred and forty-seven thousand dollars represents the actual receipts of his three months tour in this country. The travelling expenses are comparatively small for Paderewski furnishes the whole entertainment without the assistance of vocalist or violinist. When he plays with orchestra it is with an organization like the Boston Symphony or the band of Theodore Thomas permanently located in some city. Of course he carried with him a private secretary and manager besides his grand pianoforte, but it will be seen that these entail comparatively small expense. Even Madame Patti must carry an orchestra and other singers; Bernhardt and Duse and Irving represent hundreds of people; this one slight nervous man plays a piano and the dollars roll in! There must be some ground for the statement that Paderewski is a hypnotist of wonderful power, who mesmerizes his audiences. So far only one man has been heard from who is dissatisfied with the "entertainment" given by Paderewski. He lives in Nashville, Tennessee, and declared the show a failure because there were not at least a fiddle or two and a singer to help out. He was promptly refunded his money.

The hot weather is making the labor of musician and even of the inferior art of the musical critic not an easy one. On Sunday afternoon, May 3, the Hagenow quartet gave their usual concert before a rather small audience. Wieniawski's "Legende" for violin solo was played by Miss Ina Ensign with smoothness and beauty of tone, and an apparent nervousness was probably responsible for occasional deviation from pitch or uncertainty of delivery. If this young player can develop temperament as readily as she has acquired technique and tone she may go far. At present her power of artistic expression is somewhat limited. The vocal soloist of the day, Mrs. E. Lewis Baker, sang an air from "Il Corsara" of Verdi—presumably an early work, for I am not acquainted with this Romanza—with much authority.

The singer's voice is a rich mezzo contralto, and she sang both the sustained and florid passages of her number with assured phrasing and abundant breath

control. The string quartet was heard in the slow movement from d minor, quartet of Mozart, in a transcription of the slow movement of a pianoforte sonata op. 27, No. 2 of Beethoven, in some smaller numbers by Chopin, Gluck and Schubert, and in the allegro movement from op. 47 of Robert Schuman. This is a work for pianoforte and strings. The piano was played by Miss Susie Scofield. The composition is delightfully fresh and vigorous, evidently written before the shades of the prison house had closed down over Robert Schuman, and is both emotional and intellectual. Apparently this number had not received sufficient rehearsal, for it did not go very smoothly, but it was so musical that I hope it will be given again. No more attractive number has been played this last winter by the string quartet.

RUTH ASHMORE, JR.

In this column we will be pleased to answer any questions in regard to university life—social, political, ethical, personal, unclassified. The names of the inquirers will be carefully guarded and kept secret, so that none need fear to ask about anything that weighs upon his mind so heavily that that mind is not able to bear the strain unassisted. Following the example of our illustrious god-mother, Ruth Ashmore, Sr., we will positively refuse to answer any questions in regard to our personality. If you have any desire to know whether we are male, or female, brute or human, young or old, please communicate with the editor.

Sport.—Field day this year has been postponed until commencement week. A good many men are practicing for the events and it would pay you well to come to the city at that time.

Anxious Parent.—You ask concerning the class in bench work, of which your daughter has written. The bench work classes are a part of the manual school, where the students have to use planers, saws, hammers, etc. There is another class in bench work which I am sure your daughter does not attend. It holds continuously from 7:30 a. m. until the night watch closes the gates at night. Only members of sororities or would-be members are eligible to these classes. The recitations are held upon the campus, except that Dr. Wolcott of the department of zoology gives illustrated lectures in the Nebraska hall. Prof McCloud has charge of the university extension work in this line, and instructs several classes in the city. In stormy weather classes are held in the halls and recitation rooms which are not in use for other classes, and in the library of the state historical society. Prof. Barrett also does something in this line.

University of Nebraska, May 8.

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