



NEWS

BY HENRIETTA M. REES.

NE is sometimes inclined to the suspicion that old Mother Nature, when she sifts her spiritual material for future generations—reserving for the future those souls that are the finest, and dumping those which do not go through the sieve each time upon our planet for each succeeding generation—occasionally must have some part of her sieve clogged, or else at times she is careless.

At any rate, some souls that are about 200 years ahead of their time very often turn up on earth in almost every form of activity. History in general shows many instances, and history of music (which relates the steps of progress in but one branch of human endeavor), has its full share of these wonderful people. Perhaps one of the greatest examples is Johann Sebastian Bach, who caught the ball of Protestant church music, as it were, and carried it so masterfully that he laid the field and planted the goal posts for the goal posts for a touchdown that it took the musical world almost 100 years to realize what he had done, and up to the present time to appreciate it. It has yet to surpass it.

Now comes the news from Berlin that in the latter part of November of this year Siegfried Ochs produced, for the first time in that city, Bach's "Passion According to St. Matthew" in its original form. This work is considered the greatest of all his masterpieces. It was given by Bach himself in Leipzig in 1725, but it was way over the heads of the people. Later, the director of the Berlin Singakademie, purchased the original manuscript from a cheese and butter monger early in the nineteenth century, and it was in his possession that the youthful Mendelssohn discovered it. He became very enthusiastic about it and modernized the orchestral parts, and gave an impressive hearing of it in Berlin in 1829. Whenever the work has been given since, it has been given in the Mendelssohn arrangement, until last month. It is a long work, and was originally given in two parts, with a sermon between. Ochs gave it in two parts, also—Wednesday morning and evening. In speaking of this most interesting revival, the Musical Courier's correspondent says:

"Not only were the recitatives given in their entirety, but also all of the arias and all of the choruses, and even the orchestra, the original and now obsolete instruments were employed, as the viola da gamba, the oboe d'amore and the oboe da caccia. * * * The beautiful chorales, as sung by this wonderful choir, were among the grandest musical impressions I have ever had. * * * It was all so vivid and so masterful that one had the impression that in this way and no other should the work be presented."

Richard Aldrich in the New York Times voices the desire that in these days of transcriptions that we might hear more of Bach's smaller and lighter compositions in their original form. Bach was himself a great transcriber of his own compositions, and among other worthy transcribers of his works are the names of Liszt and Busoni. It is not because the transcriptions are unworthy that Mr. Aldrich expresses this wish, but rather to find out the effect of these in their original form upon a serious musical audience of real cultivation.

Nathan Franko recently accepted a position as conductor of the orchestra at the New McAlpen hotel in New York City at a salary of \$30,000 a year. Mr. Franko's name is constantly appearing as a conductor in the best musical events of the east, as well as in New York. There are many of the people of Omaha who will remember Mr. Franko, who was at one time a resident of this city, teaching violin, and directing an orchestra during his stay.

Upon looking through the last copy of Musical America the face of a former Omaha boy was found looking seriously upon from one of the pages. This was Stanislaw Letovsky. He is gaining much fame in Europe, not only as the conductor at the Opera at Posen, Germany, but also by his compositions. He has recently added a comic opera in three acts entitled, "Die Dame am Putzisch," libretto by Walter Ramsohr to his previous list of compositions. Mr. Letovsky studied piano in Omaha for several years with Mr. Cahm and Mr. Duffield. Mr. Duffield has several of his compositions, and one day in his studio I listened to the opening theme of his piano sonata, which is strong and most strikingly original. The sonata itself requires considerable technique to play. Godowsky has praised this composition. He has also written four lullabies, some other piano compositions and many songs.

If only all the nicely dressed, well-taken-care-of little girls and boys who are studying music because their mothers make them, or because all the other children on their street do, or for some similar reason, would only read the story of "Boy Who Wanted a Fiddle," in the December Everybody's, perhaps they might appreciate a little more the opportunity they are having, and try to give more value received to their parents who are investing money in them. If only the happy time could come when the teachers instead of being chosen by the students or their people, might instead choose their pupils, and only teach those who showed talent, interest and application, perhaps the average person would be the more highly value the opportunity of studying. People are so constituted that as a rule they want what it is hard to get. If the study of the arts was given only to those who proved themselves worthy, no doubt the number of those studying would diminish a considerable per cent, at the same time the quality of students would be greatly raised in proportion.

Thomas Edison told a recent interviewer that at present he is working upon musical matters and that he intends to devote two years more to research along this line. He is looking for some way to bring the great masterpieces of the world to the masses. He thinks a perfect combination of the moving picture machine and phonograph will be the means of preserving actors, singers and the present day drama to future generations, as well as to broaden their scope.

dreamer in the past, and when he does find out what the trouble is, maybe he will give us a clue as to what direction music will take in the future, and set at rest the minds of some of the people who are so concerned about the music of the future.

The argument as to which language is the most beautiful for singing, is very much like that other one, as to which country produces the most beautiful women. Each has a right to his own opinion, and opinions differ.

As a rule the music given in the churches at Christmas time is of a simpler order, but not less beautiful than that sung at other holiday seasons. The reason for this, perhaps, is a feeling among the directors that the event they are commemorating, the birth of a child, really demands the simpler forms. At all of the principle churches, special musical services will be given today. At the First Methodist church, Sunday evening a special musical service will be held, when many beautiful carols sought out by the director, Mr. Kelly, will be sung by the choir. Among these is the beautiful, "A Hunter Would A-Kunting Go," by Brahms. Mr. Bush, the organist, will play three Christmas organ solos, a "Christmas Pastoral," by Merkel, "Meditation on French Noel," by D'Ervy and "The Shepherds in the Fields," by Malling.

At All Saints' church, where J. H. Simms is organist and choirmaster, a short service will be held Christmas morning, and a longer musical service will be given the following Sunday. At these some lovely old Christmas carols, principally from the French will be sung, and two unusually beautiful Christmas anthems, one by Grevaert and the other an arrangement of an old choral with soprano solo by Peter Cornelius.

These choirs do a great deal of unaccompanied work, and a person who goes to one of these services and listens to the pure, uplifting music, well and worshipfully sung, can not help but be moved by its influence. Many times music of this sort will whisper to the inner consciousness of a man, and awaken a more earnest wish for self-improvement than many a worthy sermon could inspire.

Musical Notes.
Omaha will be treated to an evening of chamber music the early part of February by Mr. Landberg, Mr. Wetman and Mr. Steckelberg of Lincoln. An interesting number will be a sonata composed by Mr. Landberg and presented on this occasion.

J. Frouer Simons, who will be remembered some time ago as the organist at Trinity Cathedral, is at present situated at Youngstown, O., where he is organist and conductor of a large chorus. He is the leader of a large chorus there, similar to our Mendelssohn choir, which is spoken about as one of the best organizations of its kind in the United States.

Miss Elizabeth Herffhoff, Ruth Flynn, Grace Slabaugh and Mabel Hendrickson of the artist section of Mr. Landberg's party may also be made festive in appearance by the judicious use of fancy ribbon or cord, decorated seals and stickers and tags.

Although the cost of these helps in the giving of Christmas cheer is nominal, it is possible to imitate them at home for nothing.

A rope board that will serve in place of ribbon is easily made by twisting long narrow strips of crepe paper. Home made seals of red paper cut in the shape of stars are as attractive as any that can be bought and passpartout binding crossed around a box makes a neat and secure fastening.

Whether she uses the products of the modern manufacturer or the fruits of her own clever fingers the wise woman ties up her own Christmas packages, setting the cover no less than the contents to the taste of the recipient—a gay Santa Claus package for a little boy, a flower covered box for his young

girl, a simple but carefully tied gift for the old family friend. Thus will the giver get all the joy there is in the Christmas season, giving not alone of her thought and affection.

Home Decorations.
A pretty and easily arranged holiday decoration is the Christmas bell table. Instead of red bells ordinarily seen white cones are used, and are sprayed with a solution of gum arabic and sprinkled with snow sparkle. A large steel bell is hung over the center of the table and tiny ones strung on narrow white ribbons are carried to the corners of the table. Each bell is decorated with a sprig of holly and the color effect is far more beautiful and brilliant than when red bells are used.

Entirely different in treatment is the punch table. In this a landscape of the frozen north is represented with the aid of cotton, evergreen and pine. A hill about two feet high is constructed with empty boxes and newspapers. Near the crest a glass punch bowl is arranged to represent a lake, using a wooden box beneath it so that there may be no possibility of its tipping over. Cover the hill and entire table with fleecy cotton batting, banking it around the sides of the bowl, and sprinkle with powdered mica.

The decoration is completed by a mound of mica sprinkled cotton snow in the center of a table, the top of a chimney rising from the center, with a figure of Santa Claus apparently just climbing out.

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Green Gables
DR. BENJ. F. BAILEY.
SANATORIUM
Lincoln, Neb.
This institution is the only one in the central west with separate buildings situated in their own ample grounds, yet entirely distinct, and rendering it possible to classify cases. The one building being fitted for and devoted to the treatment of non-contagious and non-mental diseases, no others being admitted; the other Rest Cottage being designed for and devoted to the exclusive treatment of select mental cases requiring for a time watchful care and special nursing.

SKILL IN GIFT WRAPPING

Opportunity for Daintiness in Tying Up the Package.

SOME DECORATIVE TOUCHES

Material Best Suited to Display the Taste of the Donor—Artistic Simplicity in Home Decorations.

Half the fun of Christmas is in getting ready for it. Not only does the selecting and preparing of the presents themselves afford real pleasure to the giver, but the tying up of the packages may supply great entertainment.

A gift should be an evidence of thought and affection. Its outer wrapper may partake of the same qualities. To fulfill its highest function the gift must be complete in every detail, must prove the regard that inspired it up to the moment the package reaches the recipient. A small gift, chosen with care to suit an individual taste and wrapped daintily, may be a greater evidence of affection than an expensive article inconspicuously selected and sent in the wrappings in which it came from the shop.

The manufacturers have realized the importance of the appeal to the eye with the result that at tasteful and all purposes may be satisfied in materials that make the tying up of Christmas parcels not alone a joy, but a matter of simplicity. Boxes of all sizes may now be purchased for a few cents, covered with gaily decorated paper which shows "A Merry Christmas" at first sight.

Crepe paper with a large spreading pattern or a fine close design makes an ideal covering for big or little gifts. The sides of the snowball are decorated with sprays of artificial holly and mistletoe fastened with fine wire. On the top Santa Claus and his reindeer appear in silhouette. These are cut from crepe paper and mounted on cardboard, the reverse side being covered with plain black crepe. Covering both sides not only makes them uniform in appearance, but prevents the cardboard from curling. Crepe wire wound shafts and a harness of scarlet ribbon help to hold the reindeer upright, and they are fastened in position with paste. A large whip of paper covered wire is fastened to the good saint's hand and a scarlet horn, wherewith to announce his coming, tied to the dashboard.

The scarlet ribbons attached to the tissue wrapped favors are drawn through the sides of the snowball, each package being pulled up close against the inside wall. Then the interior of the ball is lightly stuffed with tissue to prevent the dropping back of the packages and possible entanglement of the ribbons, and the opening in the under side is closed by pasting a sheet of paper over it.

A most amusing table favor is the little Christmas clown, his body a bon-bon box and his head a ball of white paper. The box is cylindrical in shape. White crepe paper is first pasted to the top and then the sides are covered with a strip of the same, which is gathered into a flat, projecting plait about halfway back on either side. Bright paper napkins are not to be despised, for they come in appropriate patterns and convenient size for small parties. Plain tissue paper or even white wrapping paper may also be made festive in appearance by the judicious use of fancy ribbon or cord, decorated seals and stickers and tags.

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Whether she uses the products of the modern manufacturer or the fruits of her own clever fingers the wise woman ties up her own Christmas packages, setting the cover no less than the contents to the taste of the recipient—a gay Santa Claus package for a little boy, a flower covered box for his young

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It Happened in the Ungraded Room
Tragedy of Giuseppe's Papa and the Tears That Followed

HE tardy gong had struck. The teacher of the Ungraded Room took stock of the varied nationalities. One seat was vacant. "Where is Giuseppe?" smiled the teacher.

The teacher had smiled and each child before her beamed; for he knew the mother-tongue twixt teacher and pupils was as yet unknown. The answering smile being of no value in determining Giuseppe's whereabouts, the teacher walked to Giuseppe's desk, and, with several motions, again repeated her query. Mike, Giuseppe's friend and sponsor, scratched his head in a bewildered way. "No, know," murmured the son of Italy.

Not knowing just how to proceed in the case, the teacher called the first class. The four pupils in it, of as many nationalities, were being introduced to such words as cow, and eat, and milk, the teacher showing the picture of the animal and performing the antics necessary for the other words. Suddenly, without warning, the door opened with the noise which one associates with the battle of Balaklava. All attention was diverted. Giuseppe had arrived, weeping. "Never mind; go right on," said the teacher to her flock, and, stepping quickly to Mike, the interpreter, said: "Ask Giuseppe why late?"

Mike put the question in the language of Italy. Alas for the sorrows of childhood! Sobs shook Giuseppe's frame, and the tears rolling down his cheeks washed away enough accumulation to show that Giuseppe was not a negro. The tale must have been harrowing, for Mike, making a gesture to Giuseppe commanding silence, turned to his desk and diligently began to write: "Well, Mike?" encouraged the teacher.

But Mike made not a sign showing he had heard the question. The teacher stood perplexed. Just what to do in a case of this sort was not in her knowledge. The giving of Christmas cheer is nominal, it is possible to imitate them at home for nothing. A rope board that will serve in place of ribbon is easily made by twisting long narrow strips of crepe paper. Home made seals of red paper cut in the shape of stars are as attractive as any that can be bought and passpartout binding crossed around a box makes a neat and secure fastening. Whether she uses the products of the modern manufacturer or the fruits of her own clever fingers the wise woman ties up her own Christmas packages, setting the cover no less than the contents to the taste of the recipient—a gay Santa Claus package for a little boy, a flower covered box for his young girl, a simple but carefully tied gift for the old family friend. Thus will the giver get all the joy there is in the Christmas season, giving not alone of her thought and affection.

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edge. "You must tell me, Mike, why Giuseppe cry?" This time Mike made a gesture of dissent. Muttering, "No wanta tell." The teacher returned to her waiting class resolved to talk to Mike when she had more time. Giuseppe continued to weep, and Mike attended strictly to his lessons—a state of affairs so unusual that the teacher, scented a tragedy. About ten minutes elapsed ere the teacher was again at liberty. "Mike will tell now," began the teacher. "No can talk here," gruffly said Mike. "Can tell in the coat room?" said the teacher. "Yes," laconically emitted the Italian lad. The teacher led the way to the place of privacy. Mike lumbering heavily behind, Giuseppe's tears and Mike's unwonted diligence had produced a tremendous calm upon the remaining aliens who were members of the Ungraded Room. Each child applied itself to his task with the zeal proverbially connected with the time which precedes the judgment day. The teacher waited expectantly for the confidence. Mike's sullen countenance relaxed as his hands shot above his head, and his tale came forth.

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