

MUSIC

By HENRIETTA M. REES.

MAHA'S prospects are musically bright in the near future with the coming of John McCormack, Yvette Guilbert, and Mrs. Edward MacDowell.

One of the charms about the three concerts which will soon follow each other is the wide contrast and variety they will present. John McCormack, the incomparable ballad singer; Yvette Guilbert, diseuse, and really more of an actress than singer, but in both an inimitable interpreter; and Mrs. MacDowell, versatile pianist and lecturer, who interests and enthralls her listeners, and sends them away more than delighted that they have attended. A variety of concerts like these are what the constant concertgoers like. One does not become steeped in crime, as is the case after a season of Italian opera; one is not lagged by a sameness of any instrumental tone, nor animated by the opportunity for close comparisons. There is no comparison between three such widely different programs as these will be, and if one stops to think about it in listening to them they will bring to mind the broad differences in subject, in expression and in sympathy, music can cover. Three concerts of this sort would be delightful in three days rather than one each in three weeks.

John McCormack will be heard at the Auditorium Friday evening, January 18. Mr. McCormack is easily the most popular singer on the concert stage today. He has won his way through the natural and beautiful lyric quality of his voice, combined with the whole-hearted warmth and sincerity with which he sings. He is one of the few operatic singers who, on the concert stage, does not sacrifice both art and voice by a constant unvarying style of dramatic expression. Mr. McCormack is thoroughly at home with the old Irish folk melodies. Whatever he sings he interprets in his peculiar style; be it an aria, a ballad or a folk song, it receives the same consideration, the same wonderful concentration and the same inimitable delivery. Standing before an audience he is a wizard songbird, swaying the emotions of his fellows as though he knew the hidden spring of the human heart. He is a master of heart throbs and a dictator of smiles.

The third concert of the season's series under the auspices of the Tuesday Musical club will be given on Thursday evening, January 24, at the Boyd theater at 8:15 o'clock. The celebrated interpreter of songs, Mme. Yvette Guilbert, assisted by Maurice Eisner at the piano and Miss Emily Greson, violinist, will be the attraction.

Mme. Guilbert will be heard in "Great Songs of France," in costumes of their different periods. Those few who heard Mme. Guilbert last year at the Auditorium know well what a treat they have in store, those who did not may accept the consensus of opinion of public and press wherever she has been that she is mistress of an incomparable art, as one writer has said, "It is not acting, it is not recitation, it is not singing, yet it combines the finest of all three." Mme. Guilbert likens herself to the "ancient troubadour or minstrel, who wandered from one land to another, instilling into other nations the love and respect of his own, by celebrating in song its manifold beauties. It is in the songs of France that the entire national history is to be found; the history of her soil, her heroisms, her brain, her heart, the apotheosis, in short, of a race which exhibits a reserve of serene and courteous strength; who can crown life with roses or bow to death with equal grace."

It is one of the virtues of Tuesday Musical club programs that the words of the songs are printed upon the programs. This will add a great deal to the enjoyment of this concert, for although without them you can get the spirit of the songs through the singer's art, with the translations one can get the spirit and the sense as well.

Mrs. Edward MacDowell, pianist and lecturer, has been engaged by the Omaha branch of the National MacDowell association to appear in a recital at the Young Women's Christian association auditorium on Saturday evening, February 2. A part of the buildings of the MacDowell Memorial association at Peterborough, N. H., is to be converted into quarters for returning convalescing soldiers, arrangements being made for the accommodation of about 50. The proceeds of this recital will be divided equally between the MacDowell fund proper and the soldiers' fund. In addition to a program of musical numbers from the works of MacDowell, Mrs. MacDowell will present a complete set of stereopticon views of the MacDowell Memorial association at Peterborough, N. H. A. M. Borglum, president of the Omaha branch, announces that card tickets will be issued within a few days, which may be exchanged for reserved seats at the Schmoller & Mueller music store. Interesting circulars concerning this concert have recently been issued.

There are a great many of us who can easily spare from our musical libraries music to send to the Young Men's Christian association huts at the front. Miss Elizabeth Stewart, formerly of the Omaha library who is in the library headquarters of the Young Men's Christian association in Paris, has written her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Stewart, of this city, that while most of the huts at the front have pianos there is but little music. Ballads, pretty songs, the songs of Carrie Jacobs Bond, and popular classics are the most acceptable. College song books are also gladly received. Make the music you can spare into four-pound packages, including the wrappings, and mail them to Miss Elizabeth Stewart, 12 Rue D'Aguesseau, Paris, France. Y. M. C. A. Headquarters, Am. Exped. Force. It will give great pleasure to the soldiers—do it today.

The many interesting events at the annual national convention of the American Guild of Organists are duly recorded in the musical journals of the week, and in greatest detail in the Musical Courier. This was held at New York City college, December 26, and following days, and delegates were present from many states and

SINGS SOON FOR OMAHA FOLKS



Yvette Guilbert
DISEUSE AND SINGER

This 17-year-old youth has taken all the eastern cities by storm and critics are alike in unqualifiedly proclaiming him a genius. Another Auer pupil, Max Rosen, also widely heralded, has recently returned from Russia, and is causing much favorable comment.

Lee G. Kratz has recently organized a Community chorus, which makes it possible for any one who desires to sing, whether educated in music or not, to get together with others who also enjoy singing for a few hours of pleasure in this recreation. This is a move in the right direction, and there are many who may not only enjoy singing the songs that they know at these meetings, but who may learn them better and also have a chance to learn new ones. The next meeting will take place this afternoon at 2:30 at the Young Men's Christian association auditorium. Besides community singing, led by Mr. Kratz, the West sisters quartet will present several numbers, with Miss Madge West, violin soloist, and Mrs. Flanagan, soprano.

Musical Notes.

Miss Ruth Edwards, a former pupil of Max Landow and Martin Busch, is now in New York studying at the New York Musical Art Institute. Her studies comprise composition and ear training under Dr. Percy Goetschius. Miss Edwards is taking piano instruction under Leopold Godowsky. This is quite a triumph for her as Godowsky accepts only pupils of undoubted talent. Miss Edwards was teacher of piano at the Grand Island conservatory last year. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Edwards of that city.

Robert Cuscaden, violinist, assisted by Mrs. A. I. Root, contralto, and Martin W. Bush, pianist, will give his first concert of the season on Friday evening, January 25, at the First Congregational church, corner Nineteenth and Davenport streets. The program will appear at a later date.

Since the beginning of the war we have received many copies of popular songs with war as the theme. The one this week comes from Seattle, Wash., and is called "Marching Through Germany," by Thomas W. Treisdler, who not only sends the piano arrangement of his military march but an orchestration as well.

The Nebraska State Music Teachers' association will soon issue a pamphlet with constitution and membership, also giving the aims and ambitions of the association. This association, which has members in all parts of the state, expects to hold a meeting in Omaha in the spring. The program committee and executive committee are chosen from the hostess city. An opening reception is planned, round table discussions for the various departments of musical study and papers and programs will be given. Participants in the programs must be members of the association. One recital by a widely-known artist may also be given. Among other departments of interest in this association is one for the encouragement of local composition and a department for hearing so-called artist pupils. There is a student membership which admits students to all concerts and other privileges, except holding office and voting.

FAMOUS IRISH TENOR HERE THIS WEEK



John McCormack

from different chapters in Canada. Several remarkable organ recitals were given, some of them entirely from memory. Addresses upon the modern cantata, church anthems, and other subjects of interest to organists were made by men of the highest authority, among them Charles Heinrich, R. Huntington Woodman and Dr. Horatio Parker.

Of interest to pianists is an article in the recent issue of the Ladies' Home Journal, concerning Josef Hoffmann. A year before the war this celebrated pianist gave 21 recitals in Petrograd, before 67,000 persons, at which he played from memory 253 compositions. The list of the compositions is given, and therein lies the interest. One of the most noticeable things about it is the preponderance of classics. Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, Schubert and Schumann predominate. There is no MacDowell, only one Debussy number, one by Brahms, and but two Grieg compositions.

Henry Hadley, former director of the San Francisco Symphony orchestra, recently conducted the premiere of his opera "Azora" with the Chicago Opera company. The opera is written about the ancient Aztecs and is said to closely resemble "Aida" in plot and spectacle. Reviewers say that the orchestra part is well written, but rather heavily scored, with a preponderance of brasses, and that the human voice is treated slightly, and the accompaniments are rather heavy. On the other hand, the work is "plausible, sturdy and striking," and by far the most interesting novelty of home fabrication of the opera years of Chicago, according to Eric Delarmarter. Mr. Hadley also recently won the Hinshaw prize of \$1,000 for a native work with small chorus and orchestra, which will be produced next spring by the Society of American Singers of New York City.

Who will bring Jascha Heifetz, young Russian violinist, to Omaha?

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