

# MUSIC

By HENRIETTA M. REES.

THE other day Miss Luella Anderson, of the violin department of Brownell Hall, in the course of an entertaining conversation, said she thought the term, "musical prodigy," was used too loosely, that a great many fairly talented children were considered musical prodigies who were not, thus courting for themselves future disappointment, and then she propounded the question, "Just what is a musical prodigy?"

Of course, if about half of the mothers of talented children were consulted they would say without hesitating, "My child." Some few of the more ebullient teachers would say, "My best pupil," but as a matter of fact, the real musical prodigies in the world are few, and their gifts are so unusual and extraordinary as to place them in a class by themselves without question.

Personally, in common with many other musical people, I am inclined to use the word prodigy, in a supposed-to-be semi-humorous manner, to refer to almost any young music student, although musical people are slow to apply the term seriously to any child who may show aptitude in the line of musical endeavor.

There are a great many talented children who are not prodigies. There are children who have absolute pitch, but absolute pitch, while it may be an asset, is not in itself an evidence of any extraordinary musical aptitude. There are other children who have unusual facility in execution, who learn rapidly, and who have a quick sight memory, which enables them to read notes rapidly and accurately, and to learn their lessons much more accurately and easily than many other children, but this does not mean that they are musical prodigies.

There are other children who have both absolute pitch and a sound memory, which enables them to hear melodies and harmonies, and after a space of time has elapsed, to be able to reproduce them more or less accurately. This is a sign of exceptional talent, and may be the sign of real genius, according to the accuracy with which the music is reproduced, and the difficulty of music which the child is able to understand.

But even this in itself is not enough to classify a child as a musical prodigy. Nor is a special predilection for any instrument, or an unusual ease in the mastery of technique, nor the ability to play little studies in several keys a definite sign of genius. These are signs of talent, and a greater or less talent according to the degree of facility with which the

Will Sing for Tuesday Musical Club



Arthur Hackett

child takes to them. But none of them mean that the child is necessarily a musical prodigy.

The word prodigy in itself, does not mean as much as it has grown to mean in connection with extraordinary precocity in music. Prodigy comes from the Latin pro; and dicere, and means to "say beforehand, to foretell. But it has come to mean a marvelous child, whose gifts are phenomenal.

A musical prodigy, a real musical prodigy is a child who at a tender age has mastered musical compositions which are considered difficult for professional adults, who has shown gifts in composition, and who performs difficult mental and technical feats with a marvelous accuracy which requires years of study from even the more talented musical students.

Mozart was perhaps the most famous musical prodigy. At the age of 4 he was able to play with accuracy and ease, compositions of considerable difficulty, among them trios and minuets. Sometimes he would learn them, and know them correctly in half an hour. At the age of 6 he had composed a little sonata and some minuets, in a man-

## Nellie M. Scott, Directing Head \$1,000,000 Industrial Plant, Enters the Movies

MISS NELLIE M. SCOTT, the only woman in the United States who is the president and directing head of a million-dollar industrial plant, is going into motion pictures to act the stellar role in a story that will be a source of inspiration to men and women the world over and at the same time prove instrumental in spreading the gospel of industrial democracy and increased production to employers and employees.

The work of making and distributing the picture has been turned over to Harry Lewis, managing director of the industrial and educational department of the Universal Film Manufacturing company, who saw the possibilities of creating a motion picture text book at the plant of the Bantam Ball Bearing company at Bantam, Conn., of which Miss Scott has succeeded I. J. Rogers as president. The completed picture will be shown in all of the 3,100 factory theaters of the country and in entertainment theaters all over the world.



Nellie M. Scott

ner which held unusual promise for the future. Yet Mozart from his most tender years was under the most careful musical guidance, and many of his little exercises in composition had to be corrected, just the same as those of other students. But Mozart was 4 years old when he was able to undertake this creative work.

Handel was a prodigy. He it was who braved the terrors of the dark to play in the attic upon the harpsichord and who with almost no instruction played the organ in a church so musically at 7 that his father was persuaded to allow him a musical career.

Joseph Hofman, Mischa Elman and Jascha Heifetz were all musical prodigies, capable of the mental and physical feats equal to those of adults in their early years. I remember hearing Mr. Cuscaden tell when he heard Heifetz play in Berlin under Niekisch, a Brahms concerto I believe it was, with the orchestra. At that time he was around the age of 8 or 9 and Mr. Cuscaden said he played it so flawlessly that most of the audience was in tears as it watched the little boy with his black velvet suit and lace collar, as he stood in front of the orchestra playing on his little three-quarter size violin.

There are innumerable talented children, who are capable of untold possibilities in music, but they are not prodigies. This does not mean that many of them may not become great musicians, for all great musicians did not display remarkable

genius in their youth. They had talent, of course, but it takes more than talent for a child to be a musical prodigy.

Those who remember the beautiful singing of Arthur Hackett, when he appeared here last year in joint recital with Mme. Julia Clausen, will rejoice that he has been engaged to take the place of Frances Ingram in the recital to be given in connection with the Zoellner quartet on Tuesday evening, January 13, under the auspices of the Tuesday Musical Club. This will be held in the Brandeis theater at 8:15 o'clock. Miss Ingram was compelled to cancel her engagement, as the Metropolitan Opera company management refused at the last moment to release her for this concert tour.

Personally, I think Arthur Hackett is one of the finest singers who has appeared before Omaha audiences. He sings the most difficult music with the most marvelous ease, he has a fine voice and a distinct style, and upon the whole is a constant delight.

The Zoellner quartet has also been heard in Omaha and, although it was several years ago, the enjoyment they gave has caused them to be remembered by many. The Zoell-

## McCormack Has New Songs This Year On His Program

AS an evidence of his great popularity and drawing powers, John McCormack, who celebrated his 30th birthday, demonstrated this particular quality at his recital at the armory last night, says the Louisville Evening Post.

The Post then goes on: "There are certainly few artists who could draw an audience of more than 6,000 people in Louisville in a hall with the pitiable acoustic properties of the armory and in competition with a noise of rain beating on a metal roof, hold every listener quiet and enthralled during every song. This was done last night by John McCormack, and the outburst upon the conclusion of every number, the spontaneous demand for encores, demonstrated the audience's delight in the entire performance.

Mr. McCormack's program alone was sufficient to prove the high artistic aim of John McCormack. There was a Mozart aria, songs by Caesar Franck Coleridge-Taylor, Granville Bantock, a group of folk songs; and (as an encore) an aria by Handel. The number of modern names indicates that the singer is willing to try new music.

Mr. McCormack will appear in recital at the Auditorium Friday evening, January 23. Seat sale starts Thursday, January 15, at Mickel Bros., Fifteenth and Harney streets. Mail orders with remittance, including war tax, self-addressed and



John McCormack

stamped envelope, sent to Mrs. A. L. Green, care of the Auditorium, will be filled in order of their receipt.

director of the school and instructor in piano and organ. Mrs. Shaw and Mrs. Barker were roommates at Oberlin college.

Mrs. Shaw gave an excellent interpretation of the Grieg G major sonata, with Mrs. E. R. Zabriskie at the piano, and she also played a group of three shorter numbers with beauty of tone and grace of line. Mrs. Mable Allen Smailes delighted with several vocal numbers, and Mr. George McIntyre was also heard to advantage in a group of songs, among them an effective one with violin obligato by Mrs. Zabriskie. The accompanists were Mrs. Alfred Gordon for Mrs. Smailes, and Mrs. McIntyre for her husband. After the program tea was served by the hostess, Mrs. Shaw returns to her home in Mt. Vernon today.

Appoggiaturas. The annual report of the commissioner of revenue gives the total admission taxes collected by the government as practically \$51,000,000. These taxes were from theaters, concerts, other places of amusements, leases of opera boxes

## See Mae Murray In a New Frock

MAE MURRAY displays a wardrobe in her newest picture, "The A. B. C. of Love," guaranteed to cause feminine hearts to flutter and to make no slight impression on the masculine heart. From lacy gossamer lingerie to frilly, girlish dancing frocks and daring sophisticated evening gowns, to say nothing of chic little street gowns and suits, Miss Murray runs the gamut of milady's wardrobe.

"The A. B. C. of Love" tells the story of the ignorant but beautiful country girl who marries a man of position and wealth and brains. When the glamour of her innocence and naivete wears off he realizes that her intellect is no mate for his, and their matrimonialship founders on the rocks. The Empress announces the first run of "The A. B. C. of Love" for three days commencing Thursday.

and seats, roof gardens and cabarets. The six leading states in the return of the tax are respectively: New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Massachusetts and California.

Adj. Gen. P. C. Harris, in a recent statement said: "Among the more definite lessons which the war taught is the vital necessity and unqualified value of music in the field in treating and sustaining morale. As a builder and maintainer of staunch morale, as a relief for tired nerves and as a tonic for flagging spirits, music was found indispensable."

A daughter has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Enrico Caruso.

Musical Journals are discussing a successor to Campanini. Many possibilities have been named, among them, Max Rabinoff, Antonio Scotti and Fortune Gallo. But the most probable conclusion is that the business management will be continued in the hands of Herbert Johnson

of Chicago, with Gino Marinuzzi to attend to the artistic end. Marinuzzi is one of the conductors of the company who has demonstrated his artistic ability, and he was spoken of with high favor by the deceased maestro.

**Musical Notes.**  
The choir of the Grace Methodist Episcopal church, Twenty-fifth and E streets, will present a program of sacred musical oddities January 4, 1919, at 7:30 p. m. The choir is composed of 30 voices under the direction of E. P. Baker. Mrs. J. D. Ringer is the accompanist. A group of Christmas carols will be sung at an external prologue, followed by the professional. The program will be divided into two parts with five numbers in each part. C. C. Wilson is the pastor of the church.

**HAMILTON** 48th and Hamilton  
**BERT LYTELL**  
In  
"One Thing at a Time O'Day"  
and Mack Bennett Comedy.

**IDEAL** 16th and Dorcas  
**Harry Carey**  
In  
"The Riders of the Law"  
And Comedy.

**MUSE**  
Presents  
A Bret Harte Story  
**"THE GRAY WOLF'S GHOST"**  
Starring  
**H. B. WARNER**  
The story of a strong man who had to face a suspicious world and a treacherous father's past.  
Comedy:  
"Woes of a Woman"

**LOTHROP** 24th and Lothrop.  
**MADGE KENNEDY**  
in  
"Through the Wrong Door"  
Sennett Comedy Pathe News

**APOLLO** 29th and Leavenworth  
**JACK PICKFORD**  
in a comedy drama of smiles and thrills, entitled  
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And a second special comedy that brings the laughs.

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