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MUSIC & THE DRAMA

THE Montreal judges appointed to act in the theatrical part of the Governor-General's musical and theatrical trophy competition have decided in favour of the University Dramatic Club, which will give a presentation of Mr. Bernard Shaw's "Arms and the Man." There was no entry for the musical trophy.

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Montreal has enjoyed a musical sensation in the concert recently given by Miss Ellen Ballon, a nine-year-old pianiste, in the Convocation Hall of the Royal Victoria College. The "Standard" publishes an interesting photograph of the small genius and also of the audience which became so enthusiastic during her performance. Miss Ballon has gone to New York to take a two years' course in piano tuition under Joseffy, on the conclusion of which she will go to Europe for further study. We may yet hear great things of this small Montrealer.

* *

Canada always has a warm welcome for her clever comedian, Mr. Reuben Fax, who appeared last season with Miss Eleanor Robson in a Jerome play which most of us have forgotten by this time. But we have not forgotten Miss Robson's appearance as "Merely Mary Ann" and consequently read with interest of the doings of that delightful actress as "Nurse Marjorie," another Zangwill heroine. Mr. Pollock places this later comedy far below "Merely Mary Ann" but he has a few good words to say about Mr. Fax.

"I have left Reuben Fax until the last because I remember the Biblical injunction that the last shall be first. Mr. Fax, who is one of the few good actors in America, is first—not only the first actor in Miss Robson's company, but the first actor of this season. His characterisation of the plebeian shipbuilding father must be seen to be appreciated. The only two performances of recent years in New York that have excelled Mr. Fax's are David Warfield's 'Von Barwig' and Frank Keenan's 'Jack Rance.'"

* *

The return of Mr. Digby Bell in the delightful Thomas comedy, "The Education of Mr. Pipp," is an occasion for rejoicing. No better production of the class has come to Canada in recent years. Perhaps it was all the more pleasing because it was a surprise. We went to the theatre in the autumn of 1905, wondering what sort of drama could be manufactured out of a series of Gibson drawings, in which everyone took a deep interest about seven years ago. But we had not been in the company of the masterful "Mrs. Pipp" and the hen-pecked "J. Wesley" for a quarter of an hour before we realised that here indeed was such stuff as laughter is made of. Mr. Digby Bell's characterisation of the gentle, bullied and yet adroit husband is one of the cleverest bits of drollery on the modern stage. His support is excellent but the one memorable figure is the dejected, yet not destroyed little man who goes despondently upstairs or nimbly de-



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