

Sunday Evening, October 25, 1936

MARJORIE GULLAN

Subject:

"Choral Speaking"

(a Lecture Recital)

Miss Marjorie Gullan, the author of many books on Speech Training, is Chairman and Director of Studies of the Speech Fellowship and Institute, London, England, and formerly Lecturer in Speech Training at the University of London. She has also lectured at most of the leading universities in the United States.

A correspondent who attended the Festival of Spoken Poetry at Oxford writes in the *New Statesman and Nation* (September 5, 1936) as follows:

"The speaking of poetry, that fitting accompaniment to the making of it, has long been neglected in this country. Perhaps the Puritan tradition has had something to do with this, or maybe our characteristic English shyness of rhetoric and gesture. It is a pity, for poetry has suffered. It has become a sort of poor relation whom we meet privately. How different from its position in France or in Russia. I recently heard three Russian poets, entertained by the Russian Embassy, who came over here to speak their verse to a number of English poets. And what a revelation it was; an art as perfect as the Russian ballet; every syllable a considered production. No wonder that poetry is so popular in Russia. The sales of one of those three poets are two and a half million! A modern English poet today has to make his reputation on a few hundred copies. . . . But that bad state of affairs is passing. Verse speaking is reviving, as one would realize had he been at the Festival of Spoken Poetry held at Oxford two weeks ago. Organized by three of our poets who believe that verse is music to be heard rather than print to be read."