

## RECALLS GREAT DAYS OF OPERA

Christine Nilsson Retired in  
the Full Possession of Her  
Powers—Compared to Jen-  
ny Lind.

The news of Christine Nilsson's death, says the London Times of November 23, can stir personal memories only among the older generation of music-lovers, and in those who remember the great days of opera in London 40 years ago. The younger generation knows her only as a name—one of those names that elders use in order to prove that there are no great singers today comparable to those of their own youth. Christine Nilsson is a more distant memory than many of her contemporaries, and a peculiarly quaint one, because she had the courage to retire while in full possession of her powers. She left the operatic stage in 1881, and only a few concert performances in the years immediately following prolonged her career. Since then she had lived in retirement, chiefly in Paris.

Her voice was of delicious quality, for its sweetness was never cloying, as there was always in it an element which in the hands of a less consummate musician might have become shrill. Her sterner critics said that, while her art was wonderful in the more serious types of music, she was ready occasionally to lower her standard for the sake of popularity. There are few singers who have never laid themselves open to this charge. It is certain that Christine Nilsson made her reputation by singing great music greatly, and did so at a time when the palm of greatness was not handed to every soprano able to show a technique a little above the average. She was sometimes compared with her more famous compatriot, Jenny Lind, whose favorite part of Alice, in "Robert le Diable," was one of Christine Nilsson's most brilliant successes early in her career. Here was, in fact, an independent art, which won her a place among the great memories of the old and now long-vanquished opera.

She was born on August 20, 1843, in the district of Wederslof, in Sweden, her father being a small farmer on the estate of Count Hamilton. Beroness Lehnusen, who was an accomplished singer, gave her her first vocal instruction, and, after the girl had some lessons of Berwald, the baroness took her to Paris to study with Wartel. She appeared in a variety of La

Traviata at the Theatre Lyrique, Paris, in 1864, and soon afterwards added the Queen of Night and Donna Elvira to her repertory. The second of these parts was one of those most closely identified with her in England, where her Marguerite in Faust made her great fame. For this her type of Northern beauty was perfectly fitted, and as she was a highly accomplished actress, she gave to Goun-



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became another of her almost exclusive parts. In the wonderful performance of Don Juan in 1869 she sang the part of Elvira to the Donna Anna of Titiens and the Zerlina of Patti. In Figaro she sang at various times the part of the Countess and Cherubino, and was, of course, required to "create" the principal parts in various operas—good, bad and indifferent.

From June 8, 1867, when she appeared at Her Majesty's Theatre in La Traviata, she was a prime favorite in London; she sang in various oratorios at Exeter Hall in 1869, and went to America in 1870-72. Soon after her return to Europe she married M. Auguste Rouzeaud, in Westminster Abbey on July 27, 1872. It was in America that she first essayed the part of Elsa, in which she made one of her most striking successes. Another production in which she was seen to greatest advantage was that of Boito's Mefistofele, first seen in England at Her Majesty's Theatre in 1880.

Her husband died in 1882, and in 1887, after various tours in different parts of the world, she married the Count Casa di Miranda, who died in 1902. She took leave of the profession on June 20, 1888, at a concert in Albert Hall, but re-appeared there for Sims Reeve's final concert in May 11, 1891.

## PRENTICE BOYS' CHRISTMAS FAIR

Auspicious Opening in West  
End on Saturday Evening  
—Proceeds For Renovation  
of Hall.

The Christmas Fair of 'Prentice Boys' Lodge, No. 30, which will be continued until next Saturday evening, was opened last Saturday evening in the lodge hall, Guildford street, west end, with a fairly good crowd in attendance to take advantage of the fun afforded and the opportunity to win some excellent prizes. An official committee, under the patronage of Clifford G. Price, had planned very carefully and every indication is that their efforts to raise funds for the renovation of the hall will be crowned with success. A door prize will be given nightly, the final prize next Saturday evening being \$25.

The other members of the supervising committee, besides Mr. Price, are W. Donohue and Alfred Belyea. The advertising is being looked after by Edwin Rolston and the ticket and door commit-

tee is composed of John Hersey and Charles Dykeman. John Phillimore, Ed. Clark, and D. A. Duffy are in charge of the games. Refreshment committee is William Neale and W. Porter. The decorations committee is Ross Melvin and W. Belyea.

In charge of the games are the following members: Tenpins, Fred Wilson; ninepins, Gordon Smith; excelsior, Percy Nichols; bean toss, Harry Moffat; air-gun, William H. Price; bean board, William Daley. The candy wheels were in charge of E. Clark and William Smith. The groceries wheel was in charge of John Phillimore and D. A. Duffy. House-houses were run by Fred Campbell and Charles Campbell. The ladies have a fancy both and an ice cream and candy booth in charge of the following: Mrs. W. B. Nier, Mrs. Alfred Evans, Mrs. George Merryweather, Mrs. C. Cooney.

The following are the prize winners for Saturday night: Tenpins, a silver pickle dish, C. Campbell; air-gun, shaving set, F. Campbell; ninepins, a silver casserole dish, Fred Wilson; gent's bean bag, safety razor, C. Dykeman; ring toss, nickel hot water bottle, C. Campbell; bagatelle, aluminum kettle, Miss L. Donohue; excelsior, electric reading lamp, William Porter; floodgate, a kidie kar, D. A. Duffy; door prize, half barrel of flour, Mrs. Edwards.

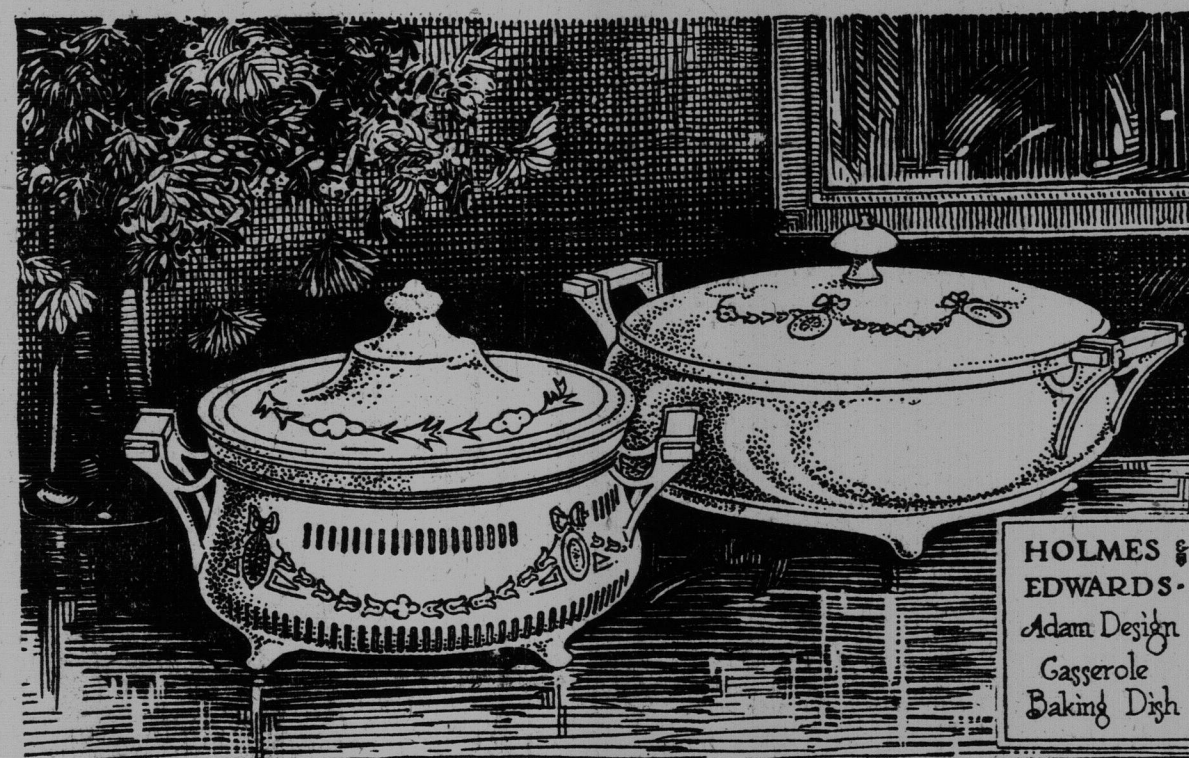
## COBB PLANS HOME FOR TIGERS DURING THE SPRING TRAINING

San Francisco, Dec. 12.—Ty Cobb, Detroit American League club manager, wants to establish his players on their Spring training trip in a large home with excellent food and pleasant quarters. Many players, Cobb says, complain of living conditions in the Spring camps, and their dissatisfaction shows itself in their work. Cobb, who is leading the San Francisco Club in the California Winter League, leaves late this week for New York, where he will meet Frank Navin, President of the Detroit Club, Dec. 14. He says he will present his Spring training plan to Navin and ask for permission to try it out.

The plan, as advocated by Cobb, is new in baseball and will be watched with much interest. The Tigers are to train at Augusta, Ga., where Cobb makes his home.

## MISSION FOR MEN

A mission for the men will follow the women's mission which is to be concluded on Wednesday evening in St. John's Baptist church, Broad street. Rev. Father Basil, provincial of the Carmelite Fathers, of Englewood (N. J.), is conducting the mission.



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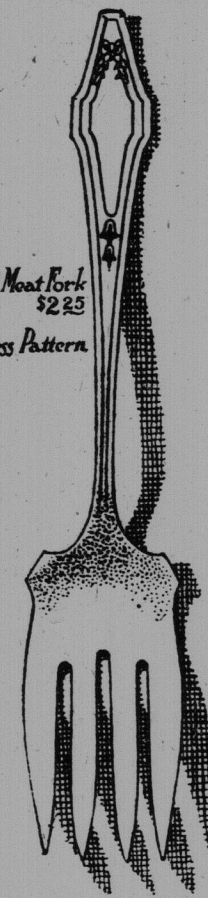
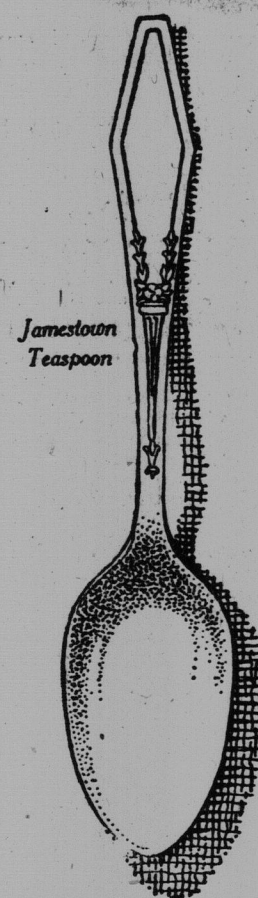
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By "BUD" FISHER

