Music and the Home

New April Numbers of

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All That I Want is You. Henry Burr, A2863
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Paul Biese Trio

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About The Early Music of Our New as a humanizing element," he said to a Allies—The Czecho-Slavs group of school music supervisors in con-

The war has awakened a widespread interest in the Czecho-Slovak races. The little that is generally known of their music makes it worth while to read the information that is available. The first Bohemian tunes were of a religious character. Even away back in the early days music was on the curriculum of the University at Prague. The musician at the head of this department introduced a famous love-song and probably brought into vogue the dancing songs which became so popular for a time. Then we are informed by a writer in the London Musical News that "The Hussite Wars (1419-68) turned men's minds from secular music. Love-songs, drinking or dancing songs, did not accord with the grim struggles of conscience which then absorbed the Bohemian people. Hus himself was quick to realize the great power of music as a propagandist force. In his time the Latin hymns were eagerly translated into the vernacular. Hymns which are practically fierce war-songs were composed, or adapted to fresh words, and collected in finely illuminated manuscripts. Each religious party had its own hymns. A few of the sturdy hymns of this period have crept into English collections, where they are vaguely distinguished by the words "Prague" or Moravia!" The tunes are still familiar to the Czecho-Slovaks, and could be more appropriately used to welcome them in our midst than the Russian national anthem."

The same writer states that later on, imitating the power of their sovereign, Ferdinand I., the nobles began to set up their own private bands, the most famous of which belonged to the powerful house of Rosenberg. This family possessed also a superb musical library, representative of all the mediaeval schools of European music. An independent music school was established in Prague in 1616, and already half a century earlier Brother Blohoslav (1523-71) had collected the songs and hymns of the Moravian 'Unity,' and published his famous theoretical treatise, 'Musica.' Native talent was encouraged by a prosperous bourgeoise, who organized musical societies in the cities. Nor were the working classes excluded from this aesthetic activity. Musical education must have been fairly general, as the folk at this time found no difficulty in joining correctly in two-three, and fourpart church music. Instrumental did not lag behind choral music. Even small towns had their orchestras, and from the 18th century onward Bohemia began to supply other lands with teachers and executants.

College President Recalls Old-fashioned Organ In The Home Of His Boyhood

Dr. L. H. Murlin, president of Boston University is a man who stands up and gives music its due. "I believe in music father continually as a factor in building character, and made brighter.

as a humanizing element," he said to a group of school music supervisors in conference. "Against the conservatism of faculty and those who could not see the educational advantages of music to be as great as those of Greek and mathematics, who thought it absurd to give credit for music, we fought it out and won." Dr. Murlin also said that he had been greatly interested in the movement to get everybody to sing whether they can sing or not; because everybody can sing whether they can sing or not.

This college president also recalled that his father, who was a circuit preacher, bought an old fashioned melodeon out of a meagre salary of \$200 a year. There are those who would condemn that purchase as extravagance or an absurd notion; but that little old organ became the centre not only of the homelife but also of the community life and no person can estimate its influence for good.

A Father In Jail Wants Daughter To Study Piano

A term in jail does not always make a man better. Often he comes out a bigger criminal at heart than when he was sentenced. But with the humane ideas now being introduced into the treatment of prisoners some startlingly worth while cases come to light of where characters have been completely transformed in jail. One such instance was told recently of a party who instead of getting soured on the world and everybody turned over a new leaf, became a leader of his fellow convicts and came to the notice of his guards as an exemplary prisoner.

Wanting to do the right thing by his family, he has made arrangements for the warden of the prison to go to one of the local music stores to select a piano for his daughter, in order that his little girl might not miss the advantages of musical education. Pathetic, isn't it, to think of a little girl receiving a gift of a piano from her father in jail? And yet the nobility of the incident overshadows the pathetic side. The man told the warden that he felt he had wronged his family. His one desire was to make amends in so far as he was able. He knew the value of music in life. He even thought that, had he come under the refining influence of music and music loving friends, he might not have gotten himself behind the bars. But his opportunity had been lost. The blame rested somewhere, yet that mattered little now. Life was before his His own future was all wrapped up in her future. He could not, when it was in his power to prevent, add crime to crime. He would not withold from her the means of cultivating the enjoyment of music, which would follow her

through all her days.

So the little child got her piano, and the home with the cloud of the absent father continually overhanging, was

