

Chamber Music as a Means to Charity

The Enterprise of a Woman in Toronto, Which Not Only Has Soothed Many Civilized Breasts, But Will Also Complete the Furnishing of a Wing of the Georgina House for Girls

By M. J. T.



MISS CLARE STUART-WORTLEY, Granddaughter of Sir John Millais, Who Appeared as "The Huguenot" of That Artist's Famous Painting, at the Picture Ball Held Recently in London in Aid of the Invalid Kitchens Fund.

Raison D'Etre

A CHARGE that can certainly not be laid at the gates of many, if any, Canadian cities, is indifference to the lot of the working-girl. The wonder is that, in the maze of talk, anybody thought of "doing something." A number must have, certainly, however. For the evidence lives in numbers of hostels, albeit overcrowded, which beneficence has provided for her housing.

One such house in Toronto, the Georgina House, was originated by Mrs. Broughall, as a Church of England boarding-house for girls. Its support was generously contributed to by Mrs. Osler, wife of Sir Edmund Osler, during her life-time, and the sum of \$25,000 was bequeathed by this lady upon her death for the establishment of a new wing to the building. An able furnishing committee was appointed, the convener of which was Mrs. Burnett and the members, Mrs. Broughall, Mrs. Kammerer, Miss Brock, Mrs. Goldwin Smith, Mrs. W. Matthews, Mrs. Joseph Kilgour, Mrs. Eden Smith, Mrs. Arthur Meredith and Miss Grand, who estimated that two thousand dollars was the fund necessary for their purpose—forty being required to furnish a room.

Then came continuous and generous donations, forty dollars, and multiples of forty. The convener wished to give more than just money—to put herself into the enterprise, giving time and thought and the gain of concerted effort. Out of which wish, quite naturally, there grew the immediate means to gratify it.

A Transplanted Idea

MRS. BURNETT had frequently observed when in London how the doors of many of the great houses—Grosvenor House, Stafford House, Lansdowne House and others—were thrown open graciously for charity concerts, bazaars, and other events of kindred nature. The idea occurred to her that our hostesses are as gracious as the English, and as able to do the same for the public good. On broaching the subject to personal friends she found the co-operation she had hoped for. A series of musicales was arranged and prominent people, who expressed themselves willing to lend their drawing-rooms, were Lady Gibson, Lady Walker, Lady Mackenzie, Mrs. Warren, Mrs. J. J. Palmer, Sir Edmund Osler, Mrs. Phippen, Mrs. Herbert Cox and Mrs. Albert Gooderham.

The chamber system of hearing artists proved itself delightful, the audiences, on each occasion, limited to two hundred, the surroundings artistic, the programmes intrinsically excellent and tea served sociably as a wind-up.

The present is the second year of these esteemed

events in musical Toronto. Each series consisted of five musicales and five dollars was made the charge for a course. Last year the entire course was conducted by Miss Grace Smith and Miss Hope Morgan. This year the artists have been more varied and have represented three schools of music.

This Year's Programmes

THE season's first programme had for its feature a talk on Brahms by Mr. Von Kunits, of the staff of the Canadian Academy of Music. A Brahms trio was superbly rendered by Mr. Leo Smith as 'cellist, Mr. Kirschbaum as pianist, and Mr. Von Kunits as violinist. And Brahms songs sung by Mrs. Hicks-Lyne, delightful in German lyrics, completed a programme long by the clock but all too quickly sped by the gauge of pleasure. As for the profit, not a mind present but was disabused of the notion, if it had had it, that the dollar paid for the treat was a charity dollar.

The second and third of the entertainments were held in the fall when the Toronto Symphony Orchestra's concerts were in progress, and the widest use might be made of the educative programmes. The former consisted of a lecture entitled "The Genesis and Evolution of the Symphony," illustrated by the wood wind group: flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and English horn, and the latter was a talk on "The Orchestra," illustrated by four hands at the piano substituting for full orchestra. Both subjects were handled in a masterly way by Mr. Leo Smith, of the Toronto Conservatory of Music. A group of the lecturer's charming songs—whose work is much in demand, by the way, with Schirmir, the publisher, New York—were rendered by Mrs. John Macdonald, an advanced pupil of Signor Otto Morando.

Fourth in the series was the musicale in which the leading artist was Miss Leginska. This pianist, whose previous link with Toronto was the Hambourg Conservatory of Music, gave a brilliant talk on the development of piano music from Bach to Liszt—a talk supported by ample illustration.

And the final event was the illustrated talk by Mr. Walter Kirschbaum on his hero, Liszt.

Not only the Georgina House, but other charities also, are to benefit from the venture in chamber music. Three hundred dollars of the season's proceeds will go to the boarding-house already mentioned; fifty dollars to the Homewood House;



THE INCOMPARABLE PAVLOVA.

In Praise of Whose Dances Canadian Critics Again Are Waxing Ecstatic, One of the Number in Montreal Applying the Phrase of Swinburne to Describe Her—"As of old, When the World's Heart Was Lighter, Through Thy Garments the Grace of Thee Glows." The Miracle Performed, This Week, in Toronto.

twenty-five dollars to the social service work of the Bishop Strachan School Association; and ten dollars each to the Home for Feeble-Minded Girls on Belmont Street, Toronto, to the West End Creche, to the Victoria Creche, and, last but not least, to the Infants' Home.

The artists were paid for their services, the audiences more than received the worth of their money, so, except for the use of the drawing-rooms, the



MISS HELEN DINSMORE HUNTINGTON, Whose Engagement to Mr. Vincent Astor, Son of the Late John Jacob Astor, Was Recently Announced by the Young Lady's Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Huntington, of "Hopeland House," Staatsburgh, N.Y.

honour of making the above donations is exclusively Mrs. Burnett's—the success of her personal impulse and plan and endeavour.

Wheat and Woman

THE above is the title of a book, newly-completed, in which the author, Miss Georgina Binnie-Clark, emigration commissioner for the Canadian Gazette, successfully answers the storm of criticism aroused, in Vancouver Island particularly, by statements she very frequently made when speaking in public in England, some months ago.

The objection was that this exceptional woman who, although educated for a musical career, has herself farmed successfully there hundred and twenty acres, for the past seven years, at Fort Qu'Appelle, and has latterly instructed pupils in farming, had misrepresented the conditions which regularly await the woman farmer in Canada.

Miss Binnie-Clark's book, which will shortly be out, Bell & Cockburn producing it here, and Heinemann in England, tells how she, herself, an unassisted woman, made good in the wheat belt in spite of a vast "green hornness," limited funds, her woman's physique and all the hostility of wind and weather.

Her story consists of four divisions: "Harvest Home," which deals with the beginning and the ripe fields with which she started her venture, "Spring," "Summer," and "The Turn of the Tide," which deals with the bitter year of 1907. This book will not be out of the press until April.

Being much engaged with her literary effort, in addition to having her harvest to attend to, Miss Binnie-Clark limited her pupils to only one this season, a girl who proved a continual source of delight. This Miss M. Antonia Gamwell, of Aber Atro, Merionethshire, Wales, was slight in person with small extremities, albeit of excellent health and strength, as were most of the girls of the Roedean School at Brighton, which she had attended. Her age was the dauntless one of twenty-two.

After six months' training with Miss Binnie-Clark, at harvest Miss Gamwell stooked one hundred and twenty acres, managing one of eight teams of horses, and unloading her own load at the barn. She wore riding breeches most of the time, or leather boots and leggings, her teacher being strong in her conviction that circumstance, not sex, should determine clothes. Miss Gamwell, like her teacher, has sailed to winter in England, but intends to return and farm on her own account.