

At the Sign of the Maple

A DEPARTMENT MAINLY FOR WOMEN

Madame Benita le Mar

MME. BENITA LE MAR came to Canada from London a few weeks ago—already with an enviable and thoroughly distinctive reputation as an art singer. Her leaving England was made the occasion of a very outspoken tribute in the Academy, which concerns itself with nothing that is not of the highest order of merit. Mme. le Mar's first appearance before a Canadian audience in her recital at the Toronto Conservatory of Music during the last week in May, not only bore out the reputation given her by the critical London press, but as well gave many a chance to hear Debussy really sung. To the average concert-goer the modern French impressionist, who never seems to stay on the key he had a bar or two before, is quite unsingable. That is largely because so few are able to sing Debussy. Mme. le Mar proved that she has the art and the voice and the rare sort of interpretative gift necessary to make the despair of most singers a real delight. To one who has never heard the songs of this famous Frenchman it would be difficult to describe in language their native character. There is nothing subtler or more vocally taxing in all vocal literature. When done indifferently well, nothing could be more dismal. Done as Mme. le Mar did them at her recital, it would be hard to imagine anything more aesthetically delightful.

In her renderings of a group by Hugo Wolf, who in his day was as much of a conundrum as Debussy is now, the Madame was not less successful. The same can scarcely be said of her singing of the older and more obvious melodies on her programme. Her voice lends itself peculiarly well to the rare colour and charm of the ultra-modern; and it would perhaps be necessary to hear her in a greater variety of less technical and subtle forms of art, to be sure that she is equally at home with them. Mme. le Mar's recital was the occasion of her appointment on the staff of the Toronto Conservatory, where she will prove to be a real accession to the exponents of the true art of vocalism and interpretation.

To Address Institute of Journalists

MRS. GENEVIEVE LIPSETT-SKINNER, a member of the Winnipeg branch of the C. W. P. C., has been invited to address the members of the Institute of Journalists of London, England, on July 10. Mrs. Lipsett-Skinner was commissioned by the Canadian Government, last February, to lecture in Great Britain on the opportunities for women in Canada. The interest that the men of the Old Land take in the Dominion is evidenced by the fact that fully fifty per cent. of the large audiences which greet Mrs. Lipsett-Skinner are composed of men.

Recent Events

A FUNCTION important to Brandon from both business and society standpoints was the ball marking the opening of the new Prince Edward Hotel, the property of the Canadian Northern Railway. The adequacy of the splendid rooms was famously advertised by the iridescent assemblage of elegantly-gowned women, together with irreproachably habited men. The occasion was the most brilliant of the social season in Brandon, and the proceeds went to the local General Hospital.

The Count and Countess de Lesseps were recently guests of honour at a reception given by Sir William and Lady Mackenzie, at their beautiful home, "Benvenuto," Toronto. The guests, including Sir John and Lady Gibson, formed a harmonious and distinguished coterie. "Baby" de Lesseps held

court among the guests on his own account

The "ill-wind" that blew a Royal Duchess peritonitis is busy now blowing the proverbial "good" in quickening public interest to Her Highness' late appeal on behalf of the scheme of the Royal Victorian Order of Nurses. As the superintendent (Miss Mary Ard Mackenzie) outlines the plan, nursing will be available to the outlying country



MME. PAVLOVA,

The renowned Russian Dancer, entertained her friends at a garden party at her new home, Ivy House, Golder's Green. She is here seen in an exquisite gown of white and palest pink, standing on the steps of the verandah receiving her guests.



MME. PAVLOVA'S GARDEN PARTY.
Mme. Pavlova's Troupe Dancing on the Lawn.



MME. BENITA LE MAR,

Who has lately come from England to Canada with an enviable reputation as an art singer. She is to join the staff of the Conservatory of Music in Toronto.

districts by means of local nursing associations. The need is felt to be urgent and the "Lady Grey Nursing Scheme" should find many prompt and practical sympathizers.

Perhaps no young woman whom hymeneal June has invested with the matrimonial title has had so romantic a past as has Miss Hjordis Ingebrigsten, who has just been married to Mr. John Ramberg, Regina. Mrs. Ramberg is the daughter of a Norwegian whaling captain, and was the only woman member of the whaling fleet.

Decidedly it is a matter to "think about and purr" that Ottawa society has utterly put the ban on the turkey trot, the bunny hug and similar "savage" dances, in vogue in some of the leading American cities. The said vulgarities will have no place in the capital city's Terpsichorean schools. A pat on the back for Canadian decorum!

The savage breast of Victoria, B.C., is in a fair way, as it seems, to be subdued. Anyway, the Victoria Ladies' Musical Club is announced, its raison d'etre, the promotion of musical literature and the fine arts and the provision of a source of musical entertainment. If the said "savage breast" does not promptly succumb, the Poet will be at fault, not the Musicians.

The Women's Wentworth Historical Society held its annual meeting, with a full attendance, at Hamilton, on June 14th. Col. Sam. Hughes gave an imperialistic address which won the hearty approval of everybody. And officers were elected. The new Honorary President is the Duchess of Connaught, and the President, Mrs. John Calder.

An Elizabethan tourney is proclaimed to be held in England somewhere about the middle of July. Lords and ladies will be the participants, and so great is the power of (literally) the noble example that Canada may soon awirl with jousts.