

The Thousandfold Thrill of Life

horny-handed and sin-seared skipper, a A horny-handed and surscared property a lawless soldier with a light-o'love in every port, a cattle keeper on shipboard, an engineer amidst his oily engines, are put before us in Kipling's stories and poems-says the editor of The Warner Library-so that we recognize them as lovable fellow creatures responsive to the thousandfold thrill of life.

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By the Way

A MAN had his pockethook stolen and, unfortunately, it contained a good deal of money. One day, to his great surprise, he received a letter from the thief inclosing a small portion of the stolen money. It read as follows: "Sir: I stole your money. Remors is

nawing at my conshuns so I send sum of it back. When it naws again I will send sum more."

"Is it true, mother, that sheep are the dumbest of all animals?"

"Yes, my lamb."

Major Pompous: "Well, sir, I drew a bead on that lion, pulled the trigger, and there fifty yards ahead of us lay Mr. Lion, dead."

Bored listener: "And how long had he been dead?

A single department store in New York City reports the sale of 75,000 corsets in one day. And corsets are supposed to have gone out of style.

Traffic cop (taking out his note-book): "What's your name?" Motorist: "Aloysis Alastair Cyprian."

Traffic cop (putting book away): "Well, don't let me catch you again."

It was a fashionable wedding. The bridegroom had no means of visible support save his father, who was rich. When he came to the stage of the service where he had to repeat:

"With all my worldly goods I thee endow," his father said in a whisper that could be heard all over the church: "Heavens! There goes his bicycle!"

No man works quite as hard as he would like to have his wife believe.

A caption beneath a picture in the London "Sphere" reads:

"A trainload is seen above emerging from an aeroplane hangar in Lakehurst, New Jersey, one of the New England States which has contributed its quota of troops for China."

Chairman of the banquet: "How long

will you talk, old man?" Next speaker: "Oh, about five minutes." Chairman: "You couldn't make it ten, We want to clear the room for could you? dancing!"

Yet another local libel, says the Manchester "Guardian:"

"How is it," the big tobacconist asked the manager of his Aberdeen branch, "that you

can sell so few cork-tipped cigarettes?" "Weel," his manager replied, "folk here dinna like the taste of coarrk burnin'.'

"I don't need any speedometer on my car. I can easily tell the speed," said the one.

'How do you do that?" asked the other. "When I go ten miles an hour, my lamps rattle; when I go fifteen miles an hour, my mudguards rattle; and at twenty miles an hour my bones rattle."

From an exchange:

The sergeant sang out at company pa-ade: "All those fond of music step two rade: paces forward!"

With visions of soft jobs in the regimental band, half a dozen men stepped for-ward, smiling broadly. "Now, then," yelled the sergeant, "you

six chaps get busy and carry that grand piano in the basement up to the officers' new quarters on the seventh floor!"

Foreman: "Here now, Murphy, what about carrying some more bricks?" Murphy: "I ain't feelin' well, guvnor;

I'm trembling all over." Foreman: "Well, then, lend me a hand

with the sieve."

First attorney: "Your honor, unfortunately I am opposed by an unmitigated scoundrel."

Second attorney: "My learned friend is such a notorious liar"-

Judge (sharply): "Counsel will kindly confine their remarks to such matters as are in dispute."

From "Boys' Life:"

"Willie," said his mother, "I wish you would run across the street and see how old Mrs. Brown is this morning.'

A few minutes later Willie returned and reported:

"Mrs. Brown says it's none of your business how old she is."

Those who pester us with the advice, "Don't worry," which is seldom accom-panied by any helpful suggestions as to the escape from the causes, usually mean, "Don't worry me."

"Some one sick at yo' house, Mis' Car-ter?" inquired Lila. "Ah seed de doctah's kyar dar yestidy."

"It was my brother, Lila."

"Sho'! Whut's he got de matter of him?"

"Nobody seems to know what the disease is. He can eat and sleep as well as ever. He stays out all day on the porch in the sun and seems as well as any one. But he can't do any work at all."

"He can't-yo' say he can't work? Law, Miss Carter, dat ain't no disease. Dat's a gif'!'

From the Louisville "Courier-Journal:"

"Chief," asked a visitor in Fort Mink, can you tellum where I buy some of those Indian beadwork?"

"I got mine from a mail-order house in Rochester, New York."

Grocer: "What was that woman com-

Grocer: "The long wait, sir." Grocer: "Well, some people you never Well, some people you never can please, nohow. Yesterday she com-plained of the short weight."

From "Life:"

First movie magnate: "We just got a wire that Lindbergh won't sign that starring contract we offered him."

Second Crœsus: "He won't, eh? Who does he think he is? Don't he know we're giving him a chance to make a name for himself?"

The little girl had a new dime to invest in an ice-cream soda. "Why don't you give your dime to mis-

sions?" said her minister, who was calling. "I thought about that," said the little

girl, "but I think I'll buy the ice-cream soda and let the druggist give it to missions."

Can you transpose the following letters into the names of American cities? Answer next week.

Antshowing, Boilme, Divorcepen, Hairleg, Higcoca, Keapot, Kernaw, Luspat, Koron-lyb, Longstave, Lybnaa, Mail, Meals, Rot-tide, Mitorable, Noobst, Rathdorf, Sublocum, Silliloveu, Tatalan, Trescrowe, Torpewn, Wornkey.

Answer to last week's anagram: "Paste," "a step," "peats," "as pet," "tapes," "pates," "a pest."



T would be out of place in this department to include among the reviews mention of a privately issued set of records. But perhaps my readers will forgive me if I should mention it separately as an interesting example of the progress of recorded music in this country. The set in question is César Franck's "Prélude, Choral, et Fugue," played by Marion Roberts and issued by the Chicago Gramophone Society. The edition was limited to, I think, 200 copies. The recording was made in the Columbia laboratories, under similar conditions to the recordings which the Columbia Company puts out under its own label.

Any one who is familiar with this work of Franck's need not be told that a set of discs of it, if the pianist has done justice to it, is something to be prized. Marion Roberts, a gifted young musician from Chicago and a pupil of Cortot's, has made a remarkably beautiful performance of it. There is a tragic note in this performance; for less than two weeks after she completed the recording she was killed near Paris.

In two respects this recording of the Chicago Gramophone Society's is worthy of mention. It has caught in permanent form a performance which would otherwise have been lost to the world forever. It has also started a precedent. It has shown that a comparatively small group of people, by subscribing in advance, can have music made to order for their phonograph libraries. As long as this procedure is possible, the public need never be wholly dependent on what the monthly record lists offer.

Phonograph Records

IBERIA-Images Pour Orchestre, No. 2 (Debussy). Played by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Paul Klenau. In five parts, on three records, the sixth part being L'ENFANT PRODIGUE: Cortège et Air de Danse (Debussy). Columbia.

Because of the historical importance of "Iberia," there may perhaps be a tendency to-day to lose sight of its full intrinsic to-day to lose signt of its full intrinsic beauty. Yet this tone painting of Spain needs no pioneering claims to lift it to a secure place in the library of music. It is impressionistic music in its most easily recognizable form. As Monet uses pig-ments, Debussy uses *timbres*. Although in "Iberia" the score never penetrates far beyond sense impressions, it develops them to such a high degree that no feeling of inadequacy results.

Throughout there is a bewildering array of tone colors; flutes, harps, oboes, muted trumpets, shimmering string accompaniments, rise and fall in a restless, ever-changing sea of sound. In some rare details the tonal coloring in this performance of Klenau's does not reproduce quite accurately. But, considering the chromatic in-tricacies of Debussy's instrumentation, it would seem beyond the powers of a tiny groove of wax to catch every breath of tone; and the fact that the recording has come as near to perfection as it has in recreating the kaleidoscopic beauty of the great impressionistic Frenchman makes it deserving of a generous portion of praise. Paul Klenau proves to be a fortunate choice for conductor. He brings to each solo passage an expressive phrasing which individualizes it, and at the same time keeps a thorough sense of unity. He is as successful in the second movement, with its drowsy, incense-laden atmosphere, as he is in the third, with its onward sweep and sharply hurried rhythms. Incidentally, this set offers an interesting opportunity

Rolls and Discs By LAWRENCE JACOB ABOTT

for study side by side with Mengelberg's performance of Schelling's "A Victory Ball" (Victor). Without attempting to rob Schelling of any credit for his vivid symphonic poem, I feel quite sure that if De-bussy had not written "Iberia" Schelling's musical thoughts would have been ex-

pressed far differently. The excerpt from "L'Enfant Prodigue" is an interesting example of the early Debussy. Even in 1884 one can clearly see in what direction his harmonic and orchestral ear was leading him.

LOHENGRIN—Bridal Chamber Scene, Duet (Wagner). Sung by Emmy Bettendorf and Lauritz Melchior. In five parts, on three records, the sixth part being DIE MEISTERSINGER— Act III, Quintet (Wagner), sung by Emmy Bettendorf, Michael Boinen, C. M. Ochmann, W. Gombert, and M. Lüders. Odeon.

Until we have entire operas, or at least entire acts of operas, recorded for the phonograph, opera records will continue to be excerpts, and for that reason cannot be taken quite as seriously as symphonic or chamber music recorded in its entirety. Even a whole opera on the phonograph would be in one sense incomplete, for by its very nature opera takes into account the eye as well as the ear. But the usual opera selection is in a far different class from such a recording as this "Lohengrin" duet, which has enough continuity to recreate the atmosphere of the opera through the phonograph as no single-face selection can ever do. Except for four cuts, which omit 61 measures, the recording covers the entire second scene of Act III. On the whole, it is an exquisite performance. Melchior's closing passage is sung to perfection. Emmy Bettendorf's voice is of a most pleasing quality. Her interpretation in the early part of the scene is a little too sentimentalized to suit my taste; but how can I object? The recording was made in Germany, so must be authentic! The orchestra is subdued-too much so-but it has a fullness and a sonority that is pleasing in contrast to the meager orchestral accompaniments we usually run up against in opera recordings. The quintet from "Die Meistersinger," while not an epoch-making performance, is a successful one, both from an interpretative and a recording standpoint.

NVITATION TO THE WALTZ (Weber). Played by the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra, con-ducted by Leopold Stokowski. In two parts, on one record. Victor.
 MARCHE MILITAIRE (Schubert); FUNERAL MARCH OF A MARIONETTE (Gound). Played by the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Alfred Hertz. Vic-tor

Stokowski has the most extraordinary knack of taking a composition that has been played until it is threadbare and translating it into something fresh and vivid simply by the brilliance and sweep of his performance. His "Invitation to the Waltz" is as successful a *tour de force* as his "Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2." Soon we shall be looking for such performances as matters of course. The recording-which is absolutely top-notch-features impressively powerful massed string effects. In comparison with this record, the San Francisco recording necessarily suffers. Yet it is good-the first one by Hertz, as I recall, to include the acoustic properties of a concert performance. Gounod's march is one of the few "light classics" which bear up under repeated hearings. It is conducted with due gravity.

MALAGUEÑA (Albeñiz-Kreisler): CANCION POPULARE (De Falla-Kochanski). Played by Fritz Kreisler. Victor. WALTZ IN A MINOR (Brahms): MINUET (Mo-zart). Played by Albert Spalding. Brunswick. With the assistance of rather more in-

teresting musical material than he often draws upon, Kreisler has recorded two beguiling performances. Note the clearness of his harmonics in the "Cancion Popu-lare." I have heard Spalding record in better fashion than his newest record indicates, but it is nevertheless enjoyable.

- PAGLIACCI—Serenata d'Arlecchino (Leoncavallo); MANON—II Sogno (Massenet). Sung by Tito Schipa. Victor.
 FAUST—Avant de quitter ces lieux (Gounod); TRAVIATA—Di Provenza il mar (Verdi). Sung by Giuseppe Danise. Brunswick.
 FRA DIAVOLO—On Yonder Rock Reclining (Auber); BOHEMIAN GIRL—Then You'll Remember Me (Balfe). Sung by Mario Chamlee. Brunswick.

An admirable example of a voice under perfect control, yet far beyond a mere machine, is Schipa's in his two selections. He never overtaxes either his voice or the phonograph. He sings "Harlequin's Serenade" delightfuly and "The Dream" beautifully. Danise has also recorded two excellent performances, in view of which it is a pity that the recording gives his upper notes a slightly strident quality. The "Fra Diavolo" air is a particularly good tune, spiritedly sung.

RIGOLETTO-Paraphrase de Concert (Verdi-Liszt). Played by Alfred Cortot. In two parts, on one record. Victor.

Lisztian pyrotechnics on a rather drab musical foundation, saved by the excel-lence of Cortot's playing. The piano tone is superlatively fine, except for sustained notes in the middle register. I am beginning to believe that this fault is impossible to remedy-that it is the result of a slight wavering in pitch or tremolo, due to the fact that one must always expect the grooves of a record to be some tiny fraction of an inch eccentric to the axis of the turntable, and that the ear is delicate enough to detect this quality as something foreign to the absolutely true tone of a set of taut piano wires.

MINUET (Boccherini); SPANISH DANCE (Al-beñiz). Played by the New York String Quartet. Brunswick.

An ever-popular and charming minuet and a harmless Spanish dance, not excitingly, but suavely and agreeably played.

Piano Rolls

DANSE RITUELLE DE FEU (De Falla). Played by Alexander Brailowsky. Ampico.

by Alexander Brahowsky. Ampico. A highly unusual piece of music, pungent in its savage fierceness, yet palpably the composition of a skilled musical techni-Its primitive qualities overshadow cian. everything else. The insistently repeated chords at the end remind one of Berlioz's "March to the Gallows." The Ampico sup-plement is right when it says, "Brailowsky has played it superbly."

PRÉLUDE--La Fille aux Cheveux de Lin (De-bussy). Played by Benno Moiseiwitsch. Am-pico.

Simplicity, haunting appeal, and musicianly qualities are enough to recommend this Girl with Her Flaxen Hair to al-most anybody. This "Prélude" of Debussy's does not grow tiresome, as much modern music is apt to do. Moisewitsch gives it an extremely satisfying performance.

AM MEER (Schubert-Liszt). Played by Desider Vecsei. Duo-Art.

A beautiful song, played with a pleasurable softness and sonority, but without an entirely convincing interpretation.

ON THE MALL (Goldman). Played by Leith and Addison. Duo-Art. This glorification of Central Park is

worth mentioning because it is performed with finesse, piano practically throughout. I should like to hear more marches played four-hands like that.