## DOUBLE-CROSTIC NO. 723

Reg. U. S. Patent Office
By Elizabeth S. Kingsley

## DIRECTIONS

To solve this pazzle you must guess twenty. odd words, the defini. fions of which are given in the column beaded DEFINITIONS. The letters in each word to be guessed are numbered These numbers appear under the dasbes in the column beaded $V$ ORDS There is a dash for each letter in the required word. The key letters in the saluares are for convenience, indicating to which word in the deft. nitions each letter in the diagram belongs. W'ben cou bave guesied a word fill it in on the dashes. then urite each letter in the correspondingly num bered square of the puzzle diagram. When the squares are all filled in you will find (by reading from luft to rigbt) autation from a tamous wothor Read " lamond down the letters and nothing. The mean oures ing: The black duares indicate ends of cords; words do not necerartly end at the right When the oolumn beaded WORDS is filled in, the intid letters spei the name of the author and the title of the piece from which the quotation bas been taken. Awhor. ity for spelling and defi. nitions is Webster's New International Dictionary (second edition).



Solution of last weeks Double-Crostic will be found on page 17 of this issue.

ORECOIRDINIO
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## IMPRESSIONS

THE STEADY stream of Toscanini records which has freshened the fall output leaves dissatisfaction on one count onlynothing operatic, especially nothing operatically complete, is among them. The periormances of "Boheme," "Traviata," and "Othello" which have, literally, had America by the ears for the last three years are nowhere represented.

Given a little foresight, RCA might have done more about this than it has. A session to do "Traviata" was in fact set up last spring, but the illness of Licia Albanese caused a series of postponements, and finally abandonment of the enterprise. Now it must remain in abeyance till $\mathrm{Pe}-$ trillo disposes, save an act of God intervening before.

There are in existence, however, mechanically usable transcriptions of the broadcasts themselves, which might be utilized, subject to the following considerations: (1) They do not have the literal perfection of studio recordings; (2) they will probably have to be sold at a premium price.

The first factor is inherent in any actual performance, perfect as it may seem as it unfolds. The concert-hall noises - rustlings, coughings, pro-gram-crackling - which seem perfectly proper in a public place are infinitely magnified on discs. In addition, these performances are taken from the broadcast line, and therefore are subject to the kind of monitoring customary in radio, but out of place in contemporary recording. I do not doubt, however, that some of this could be eliminated by skilful processing.

The second factor has to do with the union itself. Since the broadcasts were not cleared for commercial reproduction, some special agreement has to be achieved before they can be put on the market. Company sources state that the inquiries to date have brought a union estimate of charges-on the basis of the number
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All prices quoted include Federal tax
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of sessions needed to duplicate the performances-far out of line with ordinary recording experience. If this estimate must be acepted as final, the charge to the public, on a cost basis alone, would be well above current record prices. Cost plus profit would be that much more.
Since these records are exceptional and of definite historic value, there is some special reason for considering these problems, ordinarily of no concern to the record buyer. Also it is understandable that Victor should be reluctant to plunge into a large oper-
ation involving several risks not ordinarily involved in record merchandising.
Recordings would value a sampling of opinion from its readers on these points. We all want these unique performances, probably not to be duplicated in our lifetime. Are they acceptable, in a documentary sense, with the blemishes they contain? Are they acceptable at a premium charge? A reply coupon will be found on page 54. Use it.

Irving Kolodin,
Editor, SRL Recordings.

