

# MUSIC FOR CHARITIES

## Benefit Performances Which Are Bought.

### MANAGERS RUN RISKS

**Less Benevolence in Certain Operatic Benefits Than is Commonly Supposed—New Methods in Giving Concerts Out of Town—Women Managers and Agents.**

This introduction of businesslike methods into musical management has been productive of much good. Artists who have not the monetary value they claim for their services are compelled to take what they are really worth as the returns of the box office show it.

The fact that the German Press Club of New York, decided to give an annual benefit performance under the management of Oscar Hammerstein, rather than at the Metropolitan Opera House called attention to this manner of raising money for benevolent purposes. The Germans made their choice purely for business reasons.

Mr. Conrad wanted \$500 more for "Lohengrin" than Mr. Hammerstein asked for Carmen. As the club has to sell the tickets and wants to make as much money as possible, it was better business to take the cheaper show.

There is little benevolence in many of these operatic benefits so far as the opera house is concerned. They are just as commercial as the ordinary performance. The French Benevolent Society paid \$6,500 for a production of "Lakme" and managed to clear more than \$4,000.

The singers and players are paid just as they usually are and do not abate one cent of their fees. The management of the opera house counts on a certain number of these performances every year to use up the number of appearances guaranteed to the singers.

There are other features of the musical business of which the public knows very little. One hears for instance that Smith or Brown, one of the well known musical managers has given a concert in this or that city outside of New York. As a matter of fact the concert has been given so far as the financial responsibility is concerned by some manager of club local to the city in which it takes place.

The local manager or a club, usually composed of women hires a pianist or a violinist to play for a certain sum. The burden of raising this money is not shared by the New York impresario, who never leaves his office and merely arranges for his artist to be on hand at a certain date.

The clubs are the salvation of the musical managers. It is rarely possible for them to engage the very expensive artists, those that demand from \$1,500 to \$2,000 a concert, but they are easily able to engage in a season three or four musicians for amounts ranging from \$200 to \$500. Throughout the West and South it is principally to the efforts of these clubs that the cities owe the possibility of hearing the more or less well known artists.

The managers of these artists who are yearly brought from Europe find it much easier to handle with profit the business of a player or singer satisfied with \$300 or \$400 a concert and able to appear frequently. One popular contralto is able to sing seven times a week and travel between concerts. She has been known to give two song recitals in one day and to make a short trip to the second city between the matinee and the evening performances.

The singers in the \$2,000 class, of whom there are very few today, are rarely able to sing more than twice or three times a week. The manager who works on a percentage of the sums paid to the singer is generally able to earn more from seven concerts a week at moderate fees than from three at much higher prices.

A popular singer who is willing to give concerts at from \$300 to \$400 is profitable to a manager. There is much less difficulty in placing him on her. To mention the sum of \$2,500 to one of these organizations, however, is to precipitate a virulent attack of cold feet.

There are every year fewer managers in the smaller cities willing to guarantee a certain large sum for a concert. That fashion of doing business was popular several years ago, but there were too many unsuccessful outcomes of this kind of business during.

The prima donna came, had a good house, due to the hard work of the manager and went away with a fat fee guaranteed to her. Then the manager waste it to try to make up all the expenses and came out at the little end of the horn usually.

Rich men and women used to go to the rescue of the manager, but they grew weary, after a few years. The result of these losses has been to make the managers careful to the point of coyness when it comes to a matter of guarantees.

In the Northwest music in the most important cities is in the hands of a very active business woman who makes a good living for herself and brings the principal singers to this region. Most of the women agents have made the towns in which they are active known as the best kind of places for a musical attraction. — New York Times.

### COLLEGE OF CARDINALS

#### Majority of Members Have Always Been Italians.

In 1885 Pope Sixtus V. fixed the number of members of the college of cardinals at seventy, namely, six bishops, fifty priests and fourteen deacons.

The cardinals do not take their title from the color of their vestments, as is sometimes supposed, but the color is named after the title of the men who wear it, says the Youth's Companion. The word comes from the Latin cardo, a hinge. From the idea of dependence upon a hinge the word cardinal has acquired the meaning of chief, or prince.

Originally the cardinal bishops were bishops of sees in the neighborhood of Rome; the cardinal priests were the parish priests of Rome, and the cardinal deacons were permanent administrators of charities in districts of the city. As the organization of the church grew and became complex, the college of cardinals, the advisory body for the Pope, was enlarged by the addition of persons away from Rome.

For many centuries the college of cardinals has exercised the power of choosing the Pope. Always a large majority of the members are Italians, and for more than 500 years they have with a single exception, elected an Italian as Pope. Fifty years ago there were only eighteen non-Italians in the college. At present there are thirty-seven Italians and twenty-five foreign cardinals. There are two cardinals in this hemisphere—one in North and one in South America. There are also but two in the British Empire, one in Ireland and the other in Australia.

At various times the Pope has been urged to appoint some non-Italian, on the ground that it would make the Sacred College more fully representative of the church at large. The answer to the argument is that the college is not a representative body, that the members are chosen for their ability to advise the Pope.

### CONVERT FIBRE INTO FEAT.

#### A German Substitution For the Natural Wool.

At Duesseldorf has been discovered a means of using peat fibre. It is stated that a fibre has been produced capable of being spun which is absorbent and which can be bleached and dyed. The vegetable fibres were first isolated and treated with acids and alkalis, the result being a peat wool consisting of nearly pure cellulose. This turf wool is soft, elastic and capable of being spun in the same way as sheep's wool.

With the addition of cotton or sheep's wool, yarn can be spun which is useful for various clothing fabrics. The quality of absorption which it possesses renders it very suitable for summer wear, and the same may be said for its warmth in winter. The manufacturer uses it for the production of peat-felt hats. If the inventor is successful in reducing this peat yarn to a still finer thread it will perhaps find greater use in hosiery manufacture, for which, as it is a bad conductor of heat, absorbent, and cheap, it is especially suitable. Not only dress-stuffs, but carpets and other such like goods, which are capable of being bleached and dyed, are stated to have been produced. Peat wadding is said to be specifically valuable for sanitary and surgical purposes, keeping wounds clean and dry.

### Buy Oriental Rug Makers.

The carpet industry flourishes as never before in both Persia and Asia Minor. The market value of the carpets may be the same in the two countries, yet a great difference exists in the way they are made. This applies not alone to the various shapes and lines, but to the grouping of forms and colors as well, which enables even one unskilled in the business to distinguish between the make of Smyrna and that of Tabriz. The article which is sold in the world's markets as the celebrated Smyrna carpet is not made in Smyrna; it is a product of the vilayet of Aidin, of which Smyrna is the capital. The chief places of manufacture are the villages of Uchak, Koule, Gharlis, Makri, Meloson, Kirkagatsch, Axar and Demirdjil. The production of carpets in Asia Minor is essentially a home industry and the natives are exceedingly skillful in their handwork. The industry gives employment and a livelihood to thousands of needy people, especially women, who are obliged to do the work almost entirely, while the men spend their time in the coffee houses drinking strong coffee and smoking numerous cigarettes, all in true Oriental fashion. Little girls are compelled to take up the work early, at seven or ten years of age at the least, and they keep at it unceasingly until they go to their graves.

### Blue Pencils Still Plentiful.

Where do all the lead-pencils come from—\$10,000,000 of them a year? Mostly from red cedar, which is almost indispensable for the purpose, since no substitute for it has yet been found possessing all the necessary qualities. Pencil cedar is the only wood which is always sold by the pound, and it is getting scarcer while the demand for pencils increases rapidly. A fortune awaits the man who shall hit upon a satisfactory substitute.

### Metals in Bad Odor.

A German scientist has just declared that every metal has its characteristic odor. Not every one can detect the odor of cold tin, copper or aluminum, but when pieces of such metals are heated to a moderate degree they give off strong smells, distinguishable by anyone. At higher temperatures metals lose all trace of smell, but again give off an odor on being heated after a lapse of several hours in a cold state. Coined silver and gold often have a suspiciously faint.

### SCHOOLS FOR SICKLY CHILDREN

#### Result of Experiment Made in Center of German Forest.

In Germany the plan of establishing schools in the center of forests for children whose physical condition requires special care has been tried of recent years. Dr. Grac has given in the Centralblatt fur Gesundheitspflege an account of the results obtained at one of these establishments, at Gladbach, run on lines similar to those of the Charlottenburg school at the gates of Berlin.

The pupils, numbering 118, were for the most part scrofulous or anemic. No tuberculous patients were admitted. The daily instruction lasted two hours and three-quarters and was in three parts, with intervals of rest. The subjects to which the greatest amount of attention was given were natural history and gymnastics.

The children were made to lie down from 1 to 3 P. M. Most of them enjoyed refreshing sleep during this period. Their hygienic education was carried on with special care. There was a medical inspection every day.

The sanitary results of the first season's working, in the summer of last year, were most satisfactory. There was an increase of weight in all the pupils after a stay of four months. This increase was on the average about 1,200 grammes. It coincided with an improvement in their general condition.

The cost of the new institution was paid, partly by the pupils' parents, partly by the town of Gladbach and partly by the German Association for Holiday Colonies. Other establishments of the same kind are being planned in various parts of Germany.

### CHINESE AS SOLDIERS.

#### Experience of an English Officer Who Drilled and Trained Them.

One of the greatest assets possessed by Chinese as soldiers is their marching power, another is their ability to manage with the smallest amount of transport, owing to the hardy outdoor life and climate to which they are accustomed, and to the fact that they live almost entirely on rice, writes Major C. D. Bruce in the United Service Magazine. Two other points in favor are that they have no caste prejudices, and have already learned the virtue of discipline before they enlist. Drunkenness is practically unknown among them, but they have the national failings of gambling and opium smoking.

My own experience leads me to say that most native soldiers as grown-up children, and perhaps the most childlike is the Chinaman. All the traits which have to be studied in dealing with children are so many keys to open the door to understanding their nature. Most amenable to kindness, he is at times quite capable of taking advantage of it.

Firmness he not only appreciates but prefers, that is, once he realizes, as boys say, that it is no use "try on." Above all he admires and will do anything for those whom he realizes are trying invariably to be just to him. Whether gratitude is to be set down as a characteristic opinion may differ.

My own is that he has it, and would exhibit it more often did not the hide-bound conventions by which Chinese unwritten law surrounds him make it sometimes nearly impossible. Whatever feelings may remain in the hearts of those whose fate it was to go through the unique experience of serving his gracious Majesty as soldiers in the late Chinese Regiment of Infantry, I feel that I am on sure ground in saying that the memories of those who trained them will long retain the happiest recollections of the trials through which officers, non-commissioned officers and men passed together.

### Precious Plant Stones.

Among the many strange things to be found in the Phytolite islands are the so-called "plant stones" encountered now and again in certain vegetable growths.

The bamboo, for instance, according to Kultur und Natur, contains a stone very similar to the opal, but on account of the rarity with which it is found, much more costly than the opal.

In many thousand cane stalks cut down and carefully examined there may perhaps be one in which this beautiful greenish-pink scintillating stone has been formed from the minute particles of silicious deposit that imparts its intense hardness to the outer covering of the cane. The bamboo-cane stone is known as Tabasahis.

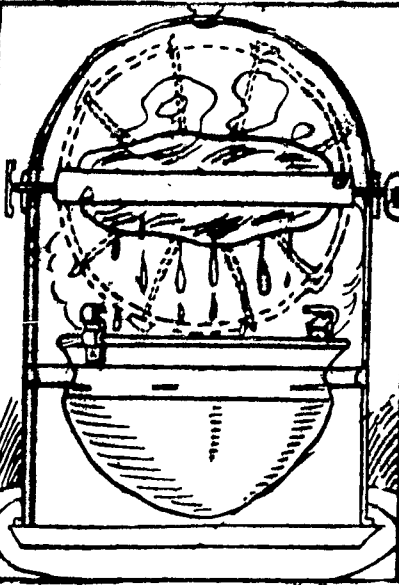
In the interior of some coconuts a stone-like secretion is found that is not inferior in brilliancy to the most beautiful genuine pearl.

A German scientist has just declared that every metal has its characteristic odor. Not every one can detect the odor of cold tin, copper or aluminum, but when pieces of such metals are heated to a moderate degree they give off strong smells, distinguishable by anyone. At higher temperatures metals lose all trace of smell, but again give off an odor on being heated after a lapse of several hours in a cold state. Coined silver and gold often have a suspiciously faint.

### IMPROVED MEAT BROILER.

#### Steaks Barbecued by Simmering in Their Juices.

A meat broiler, containing many improved features, has been recently designed by an Ohio man. It comprises a receptacle having means for holding the meat, and a pan to catch the drippings. The frame for holding the meat is perforated, being circular in form, and is journalled close to the top of the broiler.



After the meat is placed on the frame it is held in position by pins, which pierce the meat. In order that the meat can be turned, from time to time, to expose opposite sides equally to the heat, handles are secured on the outside of the broiler. The latter is placed over the fire, the heat entering through an opening in the bottom in the lower part of the broiler is a pan for catching drippings. Vapors, produced from this matter, which naturally becomes quite hot, arise and surround the meat, to be at once absorbed, so that the latter is practically cooked and barbecued by simmering in its own juices, which keep it moist and tender.

### HOME COOKING.

#### Egg Timbales.

Beat four eggs slightly, mix with one cup of milk or veal stock, season with salt and pepper. Add two cups of chopped ham, put into custard cups and bake in a pan of water until firm. This is a nice way to use up bits of boiled ham.

#### Clam Bouillon.

Chop fine two cupfuls clams and put in a saucepan over the fire in their own liquor. Scald and skim, then add two cupfuls of boiling water, one tablespoonful chopped celery, a sprig of parsley, a bay leaf and pepper to season. Bring to a boil, skim, strain through a cheesecloth and serve in cups with whipped cream on top.

#### Nourishing Bean Soup.

For a nourishing bean soup soak over night after washing them, a pint of black beans in four quarts of water. In the morning put on the stove and add half a pound of fresh beef and a scant half pound of pork. Then brown two onions and a large grated carrot in a little butter and add them to the beans. Boil this soup, after seasoning with pepper and salt, for three or four hours until the beans are thoroughly cooked.

#### The Girl in Business.

As a rule, the women who advance most rapidly in her trade or business is the one who talks the least when on duty. This does not mean being stupid when addressed, or monosyllabic, but, simply in knowing just when to stop, how to talk intelligently on topics connected with the business and to avoid personalities, which are banal and uninteresting.

There is a little lesson right here for the mother and father whose daughters are in business. Make the home circle attractive. Open your ears to the little incidents of the day's downtown. Let the home circle be a sort of safety valve through which your wage-earning children can give vent to their pent-up feelings.

She soon must sacrifice her youth on the altar of business, unless someone at home has wisdom enough to keep her young.

It takes a brave girl not to make conversation in business. It takes a wise mother to help that girl be brave and keep her young.

#### Items of Interest.

It takes 6,500,000 acres to grow the world's tobacco.

Florida has passed a law prohibiting diving for sponges, as the beds are injured thereby.

There has been a marked falling off in the Sunday school attendance in New York City in the last five years.

Australia, although in area 26 times as large as the whole of the British Indies, has a population smaller than that of London.

Divorces in This Country.

According to figures compiled by the Census Bureau at Washington a divorce suit is filed every two minutes during working hours of court officials, and a divorce is granted every three minutes in the United States. This has been the average for the last 20 years, and census officials say the number is increasing at an alarming rate.

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