Bessie Abott, the Noted Prima Donna, Says She Is a Trilby and Attributes Her Wonderful Voice to the Svengali Influence of Her Sister Jessie

During Bessie's Hours on the Stage on First Visit Here Jessie Would Rise From Sick Bed in Paris for the Performance.

HER INFLUENCE WOULD BE THE SAME EVEN AFTER MARRIAGE.

So There Could Be No Possible Objection to Her Marrying if She Wanted To, Singer Says in Correcting False Report.

By Nixola Greeley-Smith.

EVER since George du Maurier's story of Trilby, the beautiful girl model who was made into a famous singer by the hypnotic control of the wicked Svengali, startled the reading world, musicians have disputed whether or not it was possible for one person to establish such mental dominion over the vocal organs of another.

Most of them were agreed that the feat could be achieved only in a novelist's fancy, but now comes Miss Bessie Abott, youngest and slenderest of prima donnas, who not ony asserts that such control is possible, but declares that it actually exists in the case of her own wonderful voice.

Her Svengali, however, is as different as possible from the queer and bearded beast with an aversion to bathing that made Trilby famous. She is Miss Abott's twin sister Jessie, a sweet and fluffy summer girl, whom I saw yesterday with Miss Abott at the Delaware Water Gap Hotel, where the noted singer is spending the summer.

PRETTY SVENGALI DEEPLY SYMPATHETIC.

These two young girls, for they are in reality nothing more, notwithstanding Bessie Abott's great success, have, according to their mother, Mrs. Pickens, always manifested a deep dependence on each other, and the bond between them has been closer even than that which ordinarily binds twin relatives. Miss Bessie Abott first made the announcement of her sister's wonderful influence over her singing when, questioned as to a report of the latter's engagement the other day, she was quoted as saying that she hoped Miss Jessie would never marry, as she could not sing without her.

"Jessie is never absent from any of my performances, unless she is kept away by serious illness," Miss Abott said to me yesterday while I dined with her, the demurely smiling Svengali in a white evening gown and their stately mother. "I can't explain her influence except by saying that she is marvellously sympathetic.

Jessie"—and Miss Abott smiled frankly at her hypnotic twin—"is queer, but even from a selfish motive I could have no objection to her marrying if she wished to marry, for the influence would be the same.

"You know, I first came to America alone with only my maid. Jessie had a severe attack of pleurisy and could not accompany me. I was very much frightened. I had never been away from her, and I knew she had this unusual power over my singing. It is a critical power, however. She tells me my mistakes and suggests improvements.

"She cannot be induced to take singing herself, although she has an exceedingly flexible voice. She will never sing for any one, not even for me, but I hear her in her room sometimes when she thinks no one is near.

"And yet when she is criticising me she will sing unconsciously the most difficult things—trills and cadences—though for herself she has not courage to sing a scale.

HYPNOTIZED ACROSS THE ATLANTIC.

"Jessie has always gone with me to my singing lessons," continued Miss Abott. "She attended all my performances in Paris. You can imagine that I was frightened at the idea of singing in America for the first time without my voice's better half. I tried to cancel my contracts, but found it impossible, so I came alone. After the first night I knew that my voice could stand alone, or rather that Jessie's influence did not depend on our being together."

"Bessie went on in New York when it was about 1 A. M. in Paris," interrupted Mrs. Pickens. "Jessie had never missed one of Bessie's performances until then. But every afternoon as late as she could she would go and burn a candle at Notre Dame des Victoires for Bessie's success. And every night at 1 A. M. I would wake her just as Bessie was going on, and she would sit up until the performance was over."

"A sort of hypnotic absent treatment," I suggested

"Yes," assented Miss Abott, "but of course I am not a Christian Scientist. I think it is just a sort of psychic sympathy. As it is not dependent on our being together, Jessie can get married as soon as she likes."

As to whether or not she would avail herself of this permission, Miss Jessie Abott insisted on maintaining a discreet, blushing silence.

PERSIAN CAT OBJECTS TO JESSIE'S SINGING.

"I have a Persian cat named Dodo," she said later, "who purrs whenever Bessie sings, but if I ever attempt the meekest little air she comes up to me and slaps me gently in the mouth with her paw. So, you see, I am really quite wise in remaining the silent partner in the voice."

I met this feline critic after dinner, as well as Miss Bessie Abott's pet Pomeranian Fife.

"Fife is quite mus[illegible] too," said Miss Abott, introducing her, "but she is not so good a critic as Dodo. I took her to a dress rehearsal of the 'Damnation of Faust' and she behaved beautifully until Plancon came on as Mephistopheles. Fife did not like devils, evidently, and began to bark. I took her also to a performance of 'Salome,' although a man told me it was a pity to corrupt the morals of one so young in that fashion."

"And what about your own reported engagement, Miss Abott?" I repeated finally.

"I shall marry," announced the smiling prima donna, "when I fall madly in love. At present I am writing a book. The heroine is named Muriel and she is a famous singer. I have written eight pages," she confided.

"And are you helping her hypnotically with the book, too?" I asked Miss Jessie Abott.

"Oh, no," said the fluffy Svengali, with smiling positiveness, "for I'm going to write a book of my own."

HARTJE'S SLEUTHS "PLANTED" NOTES, SAYS COACHMAN

Letters Purporting to Be from Millionaire's Wife Are Called Fakes.

PITTSBURG, July 31.—Almost on the eve of the trial of Millionaire Augustus J. Hartje, his next friend, John L. Welshons, the rich merchant, and his convict ally, Clifford Hooe, the negro coachman, on the joint charge of conspiracy, a new sensation has been written into the amazing story of the great Hartje suit. The arrest here of Tom Madine, the stable hand to whom Mrs. Mary Scott Hartje was alleged to have written love letters, provides the biggest climax in the famous divorce case—the most famous in this city of big divorces.

Madine, who had been arrested as a result of what he denounces as a fake fight among two men and two women detectives who were trailing him, declares that before he is through he will drive more nails in the coffin of social ostracism that Augustus Hartje has been building for himself ever since he first startled Pittsburg and the country, two years ago, with a monstrous array of charges against his beautiful wife.

Charge Madine with Larceny.

Augustus Hartje is said to have had detectives employed ever since he was denied a divorce last summer. These have been following Madine, and on Monday night one of the detectives, James O'Neil, went to the Hotel Duquesne rathskellar with Madine, and there they met John L. Raymond and Rose and Irene Haggerty, also detectives said to be in Hartje's employ.

The detectives had a sham fight, and Madine is said to have jumped in to aid O'Neil.

Then all three were arrested. The detectives gave bail, but Madine was held and yesterday fined $10. Meanwhile Mr. Hartje had secured a warrant through Alderman Stephen J. Toole, charging larceny against the former coachman, and at the office of the Alderman Madine is alleged to have been searched.

It is said letters purporting to be from Mrs. Hartje were found in his pockets, but he denies this, and says there was nothing but a song book and his money, and if any letters were found they were "planted" by the detectives before the fight.

Mrs. Hartje Not Worried.

Mrs. Hartje, who is at Ligonier Springs with her two children, said today: "They are welcome to all the letters they can find written by me. I have been through all this sort of thing once, but have confidence enough in the justice of the American people and courts to believe I could go through it again.

"I have been followed by detectives for two years, but I have nothing to fear. Two of their witnesses are now in the penitentiary."

Madine gave out a statement that he had been doing detective work himself, and knew the persons he was with in the rathskellar were detectives. They have been after samples of his handwriting for months, he says.

Madine also said that one of Mr. Hartje's attorneys offered him $10,000 to retract his testimony and leave the country, and when he refused increased it to $20,000, and that he had been offered $10,000 on Monday to leave the State and keep out.

The great Hartje affair, which started in a suit for separation, which has trailed into the penitentiary and out again, and which is still potent to turn out at least one sensation a month, dates back to 1905.

For years the Hartjes had been leaders in Pittsburg society. As head of a big paper manufacturing plant and director of several banks, the side-whiskered, cold-eyed little husband was a power in business life. His tall, handsome wife, a skilful horsewoman, a gracious hostess and a member of an old family, was a conspicuous figure in the doings of the most exclusive set.

His Charges Unprintable.

In the spring of 1906 the couple quarreled. Taking with her the two children, Mrs. Hartje went to her father's home. When she repeatedly refused to return to the great Hartje mansion the husband filed a suit asking for a divorce, in which he made charges of such a terrible character that some of the clauses of his petition have never been published.

The first co-respondent he named was Clifford Hooe, his coachman, an ignorant Southern negro. Then he amended his charges, giving the names of other men, whom he accused of intimacy with his wife. Chief of these was Tom Madine, the Irishman who had succeeded Hooe in the Hartje stables. The whole State stood aghast at first at the nature of the accusations. Then the reflex action came. Almost to a man the community arose in defense of the absent wife. Hartje deserted by all except a few of his most devoted friends, locked his thin lips and pushed the case stubbornly.

Rarely in the history of the divorce courts of America has a plaintiff suffered such a legal drubbing as Augustus Hartje got when the issue came to trial last fall. Hooe confessed to perjury and went to prison. Ten love letters which Hartje produced in court and which he claimed had been written by his wife to Madine, were branded as clumsy forgeries.

Hartje, his friend Welshons and the negro were indicted for engaging in a criminal conspiracy. William De Costa, a negro tailor, who was dragged into the court in a vain effort to bolster up the collapsing testimony of Hooe, got two years in prison for false swearing. Straub and Anderson, Hartje's hired detectives, who broke into Madine's room and who claimed to have found Mrs. Hartje's letters in a trunk, were convicted of larceny. Hartje was buried under the ruins of his own wife-trap. Mrs. Hartje came out of the trial, vindicated and victorious.

The trials of Hartje and the other two are scheduled to begin in a few weeks. Mrs. Hartje's suit against him for defamation is also soon to be tried. Just at this juncture Madine is seized and in his pockets Hartje's detectives claim to find another sheaf of love letters from the wife.

The adherents of the wife declare the latest discovery is of a piece with the other tactics of the husband's side.

SAVED WOMAN, BUT WRECKED HIS CAR

Two Injured in Collision of Trolleys at "Dead Man's Curve."

In trying to save a woman from being run down when she sprinted across the tracks in front of an eastbound Fourteenth street car to-day, the motorman brought his car to a stop, and the next instant a Broadway car, northbound, crashed into the crosstown car, hurled it from the tracks and injured two passengers.

The Broadway car, in charge of Motorman Henry Fitzsimmons, was at the south corner of Fourteenth street, before rounding "Dead Man's Curve." The Fourteenth street car was moving, and, apparently, the tracks were clear, when the woman took her run. Although he knew he was in the path of the Broadway car, James McGerald, of the Fourteenth street car, put on brakes, and the next instant his car was struck.

James Rawitzer, a salesman, of Pearl River, N. Y., and Jennie Hamowitz, of No. 187 Avenue A, received cuts and contusions. Both were attended by a physician from St. Vincent's Hospital, after which they went on their way.

BODY FOUND IN EAST RIVER.

The body of Antonio Pecallo, nineteen years old, of No. 217 East One Hundred and Fifteenth street, was found in the East River to-day at the north end of Ward's Island. The police of the East One Hundred and Fourth street station had the body removed to the Morgue.

FULLER'S SECOND WIFE DISAPPEARS

Friends Wonder If Alleged Bigamist Has Again Hypnotized Her.

Following the disappearance of Lyman G. Fuller, alleged bigamist, his wife No. 2, who was Miss Mary McLaughlin, of No. 41 Sheridan avenue, Paterson, has suddenly gone away, and the question agitating the Jersey town to-day is:

"Has Fuller again hypnotized the girl and taken her off with him?"

Miss McLaughlin's parents said at first that she had gone away to visit friends and recover from the shock of the exposure of her husband's averred perfidy, but later they declined to say that they knew her whereabouts.

Fuller has not been seen at Dumont, N. J., where he held a responsible post with the D., L. and W. Railroad Company, since his sudden flight. His father, a rich hay broker, with offices at the Hay Exchange, No. 653 West Thirty-third street, declared to-day he did not know where his son went. He said the whole affair was a mystery to him, and that his son would soon have been granted a divorce from wife No. 1.

OBJECTS TO ALIMONY FOR REMARRIED WIFE.

Elbridge Gerry Snow Has Referee Appointed to Determine Point of Allowance to Children.

Irving Washburn was appointed by Justice Dayton to take testimony and report his findings to the Supreme Court in an application by Eldridge Gerry Snow, jr., for a modification of a provision of the decree of absolute divorce obtained by Fannie P. Snow April 19, 1904, under which Mrs. Snow was awarded a monthly allowance of $416.66 for her support and the maintenance of their two children—Eldridge Gerry Snow III. and Dorothy Violet Snow—whose custody was given her under the decree.

Joseph Rowan appeared for Snow, and the former Mrs. Snow was represented by James, Elkus & Schell.

Snow alleges that his once wife has married again, and that, while he is willing to pay $2,500 a year for the support and education of their two children, he does not now consider he should be obliged to pay for her maintenance.

EARL OF ROSSLYN TO FIGHT WIFE'S DIVORCE.

LONDON, July 31.—The Earl of Rosslyn announces that he has instructed his attorneys to appeal against the decree of divorce granted his wife by the Scottish court. The ground for the appeal is not stated.

The Countess of Rosslyn was formerly Miss Anna Robinson, the stage beauty, of Minneapolis. She obtained her decree in Edinburgh July 30.

MAID FOUND MISTRESS LIFELESS IN BED.

ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS, N. J., July 31.—Mrs. Eulie Nellon, of Bevent Park, was found dead in bed at her home at midnight last night. A maid who went to minister to her made the discovery. Heart disease is given as the cause. Mrs. Nielon was formerly Mrs. Lapparaque. She was born in France.

HAD FIVE-ROUND BATTLE WITH A GIRL AS PRIZE

Harlem Rivals for Her Hand Decide Question With Bare Fists.

Pugilism is destined to become a popular sport in Harlem if all the young men take to settling their love affairs as did two last night.

Forty or more invited spectators gathered in a vacant lot at One Hundred and Thirty-ninth street and Mott avenue, the Bronx, to witness a five-round bout, bare fists, with a girl as prize.

The police were told the principals were Frank Jordan and Thomas Sullivan, of Harlem, very young men who are in love with the same girl, whose name the police refuse to divulge. They tried to outstay each other when they called on her, but this game was a draw, and they decided to settle the question Marquis of Queensberry rules, except for the bare fists.

The boys stripped to the waist, and with Michael Hurley as referee and Frederick Cope as timekeeper, went at it. Jordan is said to have won by a knockout in the fifth round. Sullivan shook hands with him and declared that while he loved the girl he would keep his word and give his opponent a clear track hereafter.

When the police arrived the spectators had just left on their return to Harlem.

MRS. MILLER VACATES AFTER STUBBORN FIGHT.

Jersey Woman Related to Goulds by Marriage Leaves Joe Jefferson Homestead.

RIDGEWOOD, N. J., July 31.—Mrs. Isabelle E. Miller, whose husband was a brother-in-law of the late Jay Gould, to-day vacated the old Joseph Jefferson homestead at Hohokus, which was sold under foreclosure by Sheriff Mercer at Hackensack last February for $17,000. She contested the sale and made a stubborn fight against leaving the place.

Deputy Sheriff Blauvelt and a constable appeared at her home on Wednesday last and ordered that she move her furniture before to-day and she finally gave in. Mrs. Miller received none of her husband's estate because she started divorce proceedings just before his death.

GIRL, 15, SAYS MAN TRIED TO KIDNAP HER.

John H. Stevens, a plumber, of No. 523 West One Hundred and Twenty-fourth street, was held in $2,500 bail in the Yorkville Court to-day upon a charge of attempted kidnapping preferred by Rosy Fossman, fifteen years old, of No. 72 Clinton street.

Her story was that on the night of July 21, as she was returning from Fort George in the company of two boys, Stevens dragged her off a car and attempted to get her into a hotel on Thirteenth street near Fourth avenue. Her two boy escorts, Morris Sohnitzer, of No. 113 Rivington street, and Abraham Lauer, of No. 190 Second avenue, ran after the man and had him arrested.

INSANE, SHE ASKS TO BE SENT TO ASYLUM.

TOLEDO, O., July 31.—Crazy on the subject of insanity and knowing that she is insane, Jennie Bickner, aged forty-eight, walked into the Probate Court yesterday and asked for Judge Merrill.

"Judge, I'm insane. I feared insanity and made a study of it. The more I thought of it the more insane I became. I am being persecuted and I am dangerous. You'd better send me out to the hospital."

Judge Merrill ordered the woman taken to the State Hospital.

AUTOIST BURNS GIRL ON CHEEK, SPEEDS AWAY

Runs Close to Car, Puts a Lighted Cigar to Victim's Face and Escapes.

Rolling about the city in a big red touring car driven by an expert chauffeur, a well-dressed man, whose name the police would like to know, is amusing himself these days by burning young women on the cheek with a lighted cigar.

The man was on Columbus avenue last evening, and after one young woman had suffered a severe burn his chauffeur put speed on the machine and he whirled away convulsed with laughter.

Evidently following instructions, the chauffeur pulled his machine close to a north-bound Columbus avenue car. The car was going slowly, preparatory to making a stop at Sixty-sixth street, and the automobile kept pace with it.

The car was crowded, every seat being occupied, and men were standing in the aisle. As the car came to a full stop the automobile also stopped, and the man in the tonneau, his eyes glaring with excitement and his expression tense, leaned forward, took a lighted cigar from his mouth and pressed the lighted end agains the cheek of the girl, whose back was turned to him.

The girl screamed with pain and impulsively knocked the cigar from the man's hand. Then, as his chauffeur started the machine, the man lolled back in his seat, his sides shaking with glee.

Half a dozen men on the car had seen the almost unprecedented attack on the girl, but so great was their surprise that they permitted the automobile to get far down the street before they made an effort to overtake it. The conductor alone realized what had occurred and made a dash for the automobile. Turning west at Sixty-eighth street, the machine stopped and the man was seen to light a fresh cigar.

The man's victim had suffered a severe hurt. The cigar had burnt deep into her flesh. She left the car, refusing to give her name or address.

The man is believed to be some new kind of degenerate, so many of whom have developed in New York since the present crime wave began spreading terror among the women and children.

"MOTHER" DOWD IS HELD BY MAGISTRATE

Proprietor of Outside-the-Fence Grandstand Awaits Action of Grand Jury.

Mrs. Margaret Dowd, best known as "Mother Dowd," the eighty-four-year-old woman who for years has conducted the ten-cent "grand stand" outside the fence of Brighton Beach race track, was to-day held by Magistrate Geismar in the Coney Island Court for the action of the Grand Jury. She is charged with conducting betting in her little stand. With her was held William Reilly, of No. 114 Lorimer street, charged with making a book.

Mother Dowd is known to many thousands who have paid their dimes to view the Brighton races there in preference to paying $3 in the big stand. Recently Archibald Hoffman, a real estate man, of No. 326 Schermerhorn street, took an afternoon off and went to the races. He paid a dime for the Mother Dowd stand, and during the running cried out that he had been robbed of $12. In making his complaint he charged the place with bookmaking, and detectives raided the stand.

The Magistrate at the first arraignment made caustic comment on law violation being a matter where a fence separated the right from the wrong, and suggested the police arrest some of the big race track owners. His suggestion was not carried out.

CHLOROFORM KILLS BANKER MAGILL'S WIFE.

CLINTON, Ill., July 31.—A partial report of the medical experts who made an analysis of the contents of the stomach of Mrs. Pet Magill, the first wife of Fred Magill, was received here to-day and State's Attorney Miller announced that the report is to the effect that Mrs. Mrs. Magill died from chloroform poisoning. A trace of arsenic was also found. The report will probably be given to the Grand Jury this afternoon.

Marguerite Magill, daughter of Banker Magill now in jail awaiting the action of the Grand Jury, has not been found. It is almost certain she is not in Clinton and that she will not appear before the Grand Jury.

HUSBAND AND WIFE HELD FOR MURDER OF OLD MAN.

BATAVIA, O., July 31.—Frank Storey and his wife, the latter being eighteen years old, have been arrested on a charge of murder in the first degree.

They are held for the killing of Storey's aged father late Saturday night at Goshen. The old man was shot and killed just outside the house, and it is claimed that the shots came from within the house.

To Think Well
Means Success
Grape-Nuts
FOOD
Makes Healthy Thinkers.
"There's a Reason"

WOMAN STARVES TO DEATH UPON BENCH IN PARK

Mrs. Plunkitt, Once Wealthy, Resident of Denver, Meets Sad End.

Mrs. Lizzie Plunkitt to-day died of starvation on a bench in Bryant Park, where she had been sitting for nearly a week. Policeman De Gore, of the old Tenderloin station, on post there, had observed the woman seated on the same bench on the Forty-first street side of the park daily.

To-day her sickly look caused him to speak to her and ask her if she was feeling well. She feebly asserted she was all right. A half hour later De Gore found her dead.

Dr. Harbeck, who came in the New York Hospital ambulance, said that the woman had died of neglect and starvation. Nellie McLaughlin, a Gilsey House chambermaid, who was passing, identified Mrs. Plunkitt and said that she was once a well-to-do Denver woman. Her money was run through after her marriage, and she had been living in a rear tenement on West Forty-first street, willing to take any menial work.

She was shabby and penniless at the time of her death. The body was taken to the Morgue and the police started looking for the husband.

MAUDE FEALY NOW WANTS HER MARRIAGE ANNULED.

DENVER, July 31.—Maude Fealy, the actress, who became last week the wife of Hugo L. Sherwin, dramatic critic, said to-day that she has not lived with him and will apply to have her marriage annulled; that she consented to the marriage only upon the agreement that it would be kept secret for a year or two, and that she absolutely will not see Sherwin for a year. Sherwin is preparing to demand that his wife live with him.

Upon leaving Denver yesterday Mrs. Carvallo, Mrs. Sherwin's mother, left a note that if her daughter lived with Sherwin, she, the mother, would never again return to Denver, and intimating that she might take her life through humiliation growing out of the marriage. She wrote:

"I wanted her married to a man who could support her, not to one who could barely pay his laundry and cigarette bills."

CUTICURA CURES BLOOD POISONING

Hand Cut With Lead Pipe—Arm Became Painful and Swollen—Sufferer Was In Despair, for Amputation Seemed Last Resort.

CURED IN A MONTH BY CUTICURA REMEDIES.

"A few years ago, while at work, I cut my hand with a piece of lead pipe and, as it was but a mere scratch, did not give it any attention. A few days after my arm began to pain me and became terribly swollen. I went to see a physician, who told me it was a case of blood poison, and if there were no signs of the inflammation leaving I should have to have my arm amputated. He treated me for a month or so, but did not help me. Another doctor told me it was inflammatory rheumatism, but his medicine seemed to do no good. I gave up all hope and was discouraged. At last a friend told me to try a good blood medicine. I used Cuticura Resolvent Pills for three weeks, when, to my surprise, the place where I had cut my hand began to fester and then broke out in a large sore. The swelling went down, and I applied the Cuticura Ointment and inside of a month my arm was entirely cured, and I owe my recovery to the Cuticura Remedies. I can never praise them enough, and recommend them to all my friends. Ben. Jenkins, 148 Washburne Ave., Chicago, Ill., Dec. 23, 1906."

SKIN-TORTURED

Babies and Tired Mothers Find Comfort in Cuticura.

Sleep for skin-tortured babies and rest for tired mothers is found in a hot bath with Cuticura Soap and a gentle anointing with Cuticura Ointment, the great Skin Cure. This treatment affords instant relief in the most distressing forms of itching, burning, scaly, and crusted humors, eczemas, rashes, inflammations, irritations, and chafings, of infancy and childhood, permits rest and sleep and points to a speedy cure when all else fails.

Cuticura Soap (25c.), Cuticura Ointment (50c.), and Cuticura Resolvent (50c.) (in the form of Chocolate Coated Pills 25c., per vial of 60). Sold throughout the world. Potter Drug & Chem. Corp., Sole Props., Boston, Mass. Mailed Free, Cuticura Book on Skin Diseases.

Best for 50 Years.

A big, substantial, responsible firm, with a record and a reputation. Five Registered Physicians, five convenient locations, two complete factories. Ability and to interest all Glasses Only If Needed. Always and Moderate Prices.

J. Ehrlich & Sons
ESTABLISHED 1857
Optician and Optometrist
223 Sixth Ave., Below 15th St.
350 Sixth Ave., Bet. 21st & 22d Sts.
12, 2, 4, 6, 8 P. M. Below 33d St.
Kaufman Color House Block.
New Store: 101 Nassau St., near Ann St.