

Caruso and Alda In First 'Manon' Of Opera Season

By Spictester Rawling.

MASSENET'S "Manon" got its first presentation of the season at the Metropolitan Opera House last night. The performance was a good one, not, perhaps, after the approved French manner, although it was sung in French, but rather in the modern Italian fashion. Nevertheless it was strongly cast and well sung, and it was enjoyed by a large audience. Frances Alda, in the name part, looked, acted and sang charmingly. Why shouldn't she? She had been coached by Massenet himself. My memory is treacherous, but I think, some two seasons ago, when some other opera was substituted for "Manon" because Geraldine Farrar was indisposed, I protested in this column that there was another Manon in Mr. Gatti Casazza's company fully competent and well worth hearing—Mme. Alda. Once last season the chance was given to her to show her worth, and she did. The same thing was true again last night. Her coquetry was well expressed; her farewell to the table was a choice bit of singing, and her death scene was well-nigh irreproachable.

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impersonated admirably. He was in fine voice, if a little too prudical in the use of it. Don't do it, Mr. Caruso! That voice of yours, so beautiful, so rare, you should conserve; for only the very young women and men of our time—if even they—may hope to hear its like again. Some people prefer "The Dream" as sung by a distinguished French tenor, as daintily a bit of singing as ever was; but not I. Des Grieux may have been only nineteen and a fool over Manon, but he was a man, and virile.

Altogether worthy was Leon Rothier's Count Des Grieux. Through him we got the real French atmosphere. To his fine impersonation was added good singing. Antonio Scotti's Lescaut was familiar and effective, as were Andrea De Seguro's De Bretigny, and Albert Reiss's Guillot. Besides in the cast were Lenora Sparkes, Sophie Braslau, Maria Dubouché, Maria Savage and Robert Leonhardt, an excellent ensemble. Over all presided Mr. Polacco, who conducted incisively and with sustaining grace. The orchestral accompaniment was "velvet," an Italian admirer of his remarked to me.

The intermissions were unaccountably long. We were nearly half an hour behind the record when the last curtain fell. Whose fault? I have only one guess; but she's a friend of mine!

Katharine Dayton gave a talk and song recital at the Punch and Judy Theatre yesterday afternoon something after the manner of the peerless Kitty Cheatham. Miss Dayton is young. It was her first appearance, I believe. She showed remarkable ease, a fine speaking voice and a daring as to her singing voice that compelled admiration. Most of her programme was humorous. A Kipling story, perhaps, was the most ambitious of her efforts, and her children's songs were charmingly done. Miss Dayton will be worth hearing again.

Marie Caslova gave a violin recital at Aeolian Hall yesterday afternoon. We have heard her before, but, like Miss Dayton, she still is young and will have time to grow in artistic stature. She has a good foundation upon which to build. Her playing is sweet and she was effective in a sonata by D'Ambrosio and in a group of our own Cecil Burrell's characteristic sketches. A Bach concerto and a Beethoven romanza seemed a bit beyond her.

Maude Fay, the American prima donna of the Munich Royal Opera, has been granted leave of absence to sing guest performances with the Chicago Opera Company early in the New Year. Miss Fay has sung at Covent Garden, at the Brussels Opera House and at many other opera houses in Europe. She is a Californian, and a beauty. Time, of course, works wonders; but three or four years ago, in Munich, Miss Fay vowed to me that she would never make a public appearance in America until she had sung on the stage of the Metropolitan Opera House. Here's a chance, Mr. Gatti! Miss Fay has a voice.

The Orpheus Glee Club of Flushing, L. I., with a chorus of fifty voices, is to give its first concert of the season at the Flushing High School Building tomorrow evening. The club will be assisted by Salvatore de Stefano, harpist of the Royal Conservatory of Naples, and Louise McMahan, soprano. Edna L. Palmer is the accompanist of the club and H. Thompson Rodman conductor.

\$85,000 CAMPAIGN FOR THE Y. M. H. A. WINNING THE CASH

Earnest Bronx Young Men Are Converting Their Enthusiasm Into Money.

If enthusiasm were money the young men and women in the fifteen-day campaign for a fund of \$85,000 for the erection of a new building for the Young Men's Hebrew Association in the Bronx could easily finance a loan for the allies. They are converting the enthusiasm into cash very quickly, however, and to-day, the fourth day of the campaign, they report the total cash collected as being close to \$15,000.

At the headquarters in the Union Square Hotel and at No. 882 Prospect Avenue, the Bronx, the eager youngsters are darning in and out, turning in their collections and hurrying out for more. No attempt has yet been made to appeal to men of wealth and the money thus far gathered has come in five and one dollar subscriptions and in many cases in smaller amounts. Without being appealed to, Cleveland H. Dodge sent a check for \$1,000 to the committee, and Adolph Lewisohn contributed a like amount.

The sisters and girl friends of the young members of the association have become as enthusiastic about the building fund as if they were actually members, and a girls' committee of one hundred is assisting in the work. Banners have been spread all over the Bronx, and red buttons with the slogan, "\$85,000 in fifteen days," are in the coat laps of almost every young man in the county.

The Bronx branch of the association has grown in seven years from an organization of a few young men to an institution endeavoring to instruct and entertain several hundred. Since the start it has been housed in an old mansion at No. 1064 Easton Road, and in the past few years the quarters have been found utterly inadequate. "We simply had to get out for larger quarters or give up much of the work we had planned," Secretary Maxwell L. Heller said to-day, "and we decided the thing to do was to erect our own building. The members have gone into the campaign with wonderful spirit, and I have no doubt that by Dec. 25, the closing day, we shall have exceeded the amount we originally set. With the new building we shall go into greater social service work and thousands of young men in the Bronx will be benefited."

Since the start of the campaign the members of the Executive Committee have met with encouragement from all over the country. Among their well-wishers were Col. Roosevelt and Gov. Whitman, and their letters of endorsement have been extensively used in the appeal for funds. The Citizens' Committee supporting the fifteen-day campaign is headed by Felix M. Warburg, and the members are Adolph Lewisohn, Daniel P. Hays, Samuel Untermyer, Abraham I. Elkus, Dr. Henry Moskowitz, Rev.

Stepher S. Wise, J. Clarence Davies, Justice Joseph E. Newburger, Joseph L. Bottenwieser, Robert E. Simon, Justice Samuel Greenbaum, President Marcus M. Marks, President Douglas Matthews, Mrs. L. Untermyer, Justice Louis D. Gibbs, Rev. Samuel Schulman, Miss Ruth Morgenstern, Justice Otto A. Nowaksky and I. Edwin Goldwasser.

PENNELL PRINTS SOLD.

Also Mezzotints of Famous Paintings Go at Auction.

Twenty-three lithographs of Panama Canal scenes made by Joseph Pennell in 1912 brought \$231 to last night at a sale of prints in the Anderson Galleries. F.

Meder paid \$31 for Masson's engraving of Guillaume de Brissac, known as "the gray haired man." A colored reproduction of Morland's "The Garden" was sold to A. W. Williams for \$25. G. Arkerman paid \$45 each for Sidney E. White's mezzotints in color of Hopper's "Miranda" and Gainsborough's portrait of Mrs. Sheridan. A mezzotint of the Duchess of Devonshire, after Gainsborough, was sold to Alex. Williams for \$25.



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