

LARGE AUDIENCE HEARS WALKUERE

Opera Sung Here for First Time This Season by Best Singers Available.

MERIT IN PERFORMANCE

Wagner's "Die Walkure" was given at the Metropolitan Opera House last evening for the first time this season. The cast was the strongest the house has assembled at the present time and Mr. Bodansky was in the conductor's chair. The audience was large, as was to be expected, for this music drama is always popular. The performance was one of much merit. It had its moments of depression, but on the whole it moved on a high artistic plane. The general impression was created by a harmonious cooperation of all the forces engaged in the representation, and the principal singers are entitled to praise for their activities.

"Die Walkure" is a work which rests upon the shoulders of principal singers. Even its one choral number calls for a small choir of principals, and this the Metropolitan supplies with success. The present Valkyrie sisterhood is composed of Leonora Sparkes, Helen Warrum, Vera Curtis, Rita Fornia, Florence Mulford, Julia Henrich, Marie Matfeld and Lila Robeson. There is a brief quarter of an hour of glory, and they seldom get their names into the papers. The titular Valkyrie of the evening was that versatile singer, Mme. Maitzenauer, whose Bruennhilde is well known to opera-goers. It is therefore enough to say that it was as good as usual last evening. Mrs. Maitzenauer, who sang the part of the Valkyrie, was marvellously and fervent, and on the whole her performance was interesting. Carl Braun's stalwart Wotan was as it usually is, while Henri Scott, who sang Hunding, did not do so well at the Metropolitan, was entirely acceptable.

Mr. Bodansky's conducting disclosed the sterling qualities of the orchestra. This musical director continues to earn the gratitude of opera-goers by the nice adjustment of the orchestral and vocal parts and by interpreting the music without depriving the orchestra of its full share in the eloquent utterance of Wagner's thought he presents it from obscuring the voices of the singers. His attention paid full value to all that takes place on the stage.

PHILHARMONIC HEARD IN THE OPERA AUDIENCE.

Some of those at evening of Wagner at Metropolitan.

In the audience were Mr. and Mrs. Perry Belmont, who occupied the box of Mr. and Mrs. Ogden Mills. They had as their guests Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Jones, with Mr. and Mrs. James Lowell Putnam, Mrs. Miss Lora Robinson, Etienne Markowski and S. Gross Howard.

MME. CULP IN RECITAL.

Dutch Singer Makes Appearance First Time This Season.

Mme. Julia Culp was heard in a song recital yesterday afternoon. This was the first appearance of the distinguished artist in this form of entertainment during the current season, though she has been heard before with the Symphony orchestra in a large and distinguished audience was present and her performance followed much of the singer's performance.

DANCE IN BLACK AND WHITE.

Charity Entertainment to be Held at Sherry's on Jan. 11.

Arrangements are well under way for the Black and White ball to be held at Sherry's on the night of January 11 for the benefit of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Lincoln Hospital. The members include a few of the most noted entertainers and women who made their debuts two years ago. The patronesses, Mrs. Charles Bradley, Mrs. B. Ogden Mills, Mrs. William W. Astor, Mrs. Markoe and Mrs. Charles Steele.

THURSDAY SENIORS DANCE.

First of New Series Given at Sherry's—Next One Jan. 13.

The first of a new series of dances known as the Thursday Seniors was held last evening in the tapestry study at Sherry's. The members include a few of the most noted entertainers and women who made their debuts two years ago.

Christmas Fete for Eight Days.

The Chelsea Neighborhood Association has arranged for an eight day Christmas festival in Chelsea Park, Ninth avenue and Twenty-seventh street, for children living in Chelsea village. A forty foot Christmas tree, moving pictures nightly, Christmas carols and instrumental music will be some of the features. The "Christmas" was written in Chelsea Village by Clifton Clarke Moore in 1844, will be recited through a megaphone.

A PERFECT DISGUISE



Turks and Bulgarians to replace German spies.—News item.

PHILHARMONIC HEARD IN SMETANA'S CYCLE

Tone Poem in Full has First Hearing in New York—Kreiser is Soloist.

The fifth of the Philharmonic Society's Thursday evening concerts took place last night in Carnegie Hall. The programme comprised Smetana's symphonic cycle, "Ma Vlast" ("My Country"), Brahms's "E major concerto for violin and piano," and the "Tannhauser" overture of Wagner. The soloist was Fritz Kreiser.

PAWN GEMS TO BID ON NORDICA'S FURS

Women at Administrator's Auction Find Checks Are Not Acceptable.

Newark, Dec. 16.—Fancy prices were paid for furs which had been owned by Mrs. Nordica at an auction held at S. Academy street today by Charles A. Nitting for Senator Henry E. Ackerman, administrator of the estate of the late Mrs. Nordica.

WOMEN FORM THIMBLE CLUB.

Will Offer Prizes to Stir Interest in Needle.

The Needle and Thimble Club has been organized by a group of well known women to foster, according to the announcement, "a love for the needlework as applied to fancy needlework, including embroidery, crocheting, knitting, tatting, etc." The club painting is included.

ENGAGEMENTS ANNOUNCED.

The engagement of the Rev. Dr. John Jeffrey Johnston, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church at Huntington, N. Y., and Mrs. Gwendoline Hardyman, widow of Major Hardyman and daughter of the late Gen. Sir Edward Lechmere, was announced yesterday.

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51 Pearls 728 Grains \$125,000

MARCUS & CO. purchased this rare necklace from an old estate. It is being offered at less than its present value. This is an opportunity to secure a large, fine pearl necklace at the price prevailing years ago. On exhibition at the salesrooms of Marcus & Company 544 Fifth Avenue, New York

RECITAL A TRIUMPH FOR MISS TOWNSEND

Young Singer Emerges From the Amateur Ranks as a Worthy Artist.

SHE SHOWS GREAT TALENT

Ruth Townsend, contralto, gave her first song recital in this city in Aeolian Hall yesterday afternoon. Miss Townsend is a young gentleman whose singing has been known only among her friends. Like others with natural gifts she is a singer who has emerged from the seclusion of her private life to offer her art for the pleasure of a larger circle. Many such adventures have been made in the past, but few have ended, for the world of art is mercifully democratic and like love as described by the poet, "Townsends" occasionally certain precious gifts and genuine accomplishments. She brought to the platform the charm of a gracious young womanhood which pervaded everything she did. She introduced to her new hearers one of the loveliest contralto voices now before the public, not one of very beautiful quality, rich and smooth, and possessed of some serious warmth.

Miss Townsend has evidently studied singing seriously and long, and she did not believe in the "singing" with a slovenly or ill grounded technique. Her emission of tone was generally normal. What is called the placing of the voice at \$450 and was declared to have cost \$1,500. He also purchased a Russian sable scarf for \$425 and a Hudson seal for \$185. The scarf was appraised at \$450 and was declared to have cost \$1,500. He also purchased a Russian sable scarf for \$425 and a Hudson seal for \$185.

DIES IN HER 100TH YEAR.

Mrs. Ellen Ann Wade Bright recently left her home at 908 Green Avenue, Brooklyn. Mrs. Wade would have become 100 years old if she had lived until March 1 next.

Mrs. Annie Emery Pierce.

Mrs. Annie Emery Pierce, daughter of the late William P. Emery of Flemington, N. J., died Wednesday evening at the home of her son, Frederick E. Pierce, 297 Pearl avenue, South Orange. She was 90 years of age.

Mrs. Abner S. Brady.

Mrs. Abner S. Brady, a credit star at the Grand Opera House when it was under the management of James Fleck, died Tuesday evening at her home, 116th street, of a complication of diseases. Mrs. Brady was the sister-in-law of Adelina Pratt and the late Mrs. Anna Stronach. Mrs. Brady was 72 years old. She was born on Staten Island. On the stage she used her maiden name—Nally Flady. She was a singer and actress. Her husband was a member of the Grand Opera House when it was under the management of James Fleck, and she was a member of the Grand Opera House when it was under the management of James Fleck.

PAINTINGS OF THAILOW AND CAZINE

Each Bring \$1,250.

In the sale of American and foreign paintings last night in the Anderson galleries two pictures brought \$1,250. The pictures were "The Ripping Stream," by Fritz Thaulow, the Norwegian artist, which was sold to James Thompson, and No. 56, "The Bend in the River," by Carl, which was sold to John Levy.

AMBASSADOR SHARP A HOST.

Members of American Ambulance.

A special table d'hôte at the St. Nicholas Hotel, 16, Ambassador and Mrs. Sharp gave the first of a series of receptions to members of the American Ambulance to-day. The guests included the regular nurses, as well as the founders of the ambulance.

WILL OF AUGUSTUS PITON FILED.

The will of Augustus Piton, the playwright, who died December 4 last at Palm Beach, Fla., leaves all his house and contents to his wife, Mrs. Margaret J. Piton. She also receives one-third of the residuary estate outright. The remainder went to the testator's son, Frederick A. Cook.

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VAN WYCK'S WILL SEEKS TO BAR SUITS

Most of \$50,000 Estate Left to Widow by Cousin of Former Mayor.

TRUST CO. SOLE EXECUTOR

Col. William Edward Van Wyck, for nearly fifty years a familiar figure in military athletic and club circles and cousin of ex-Mayor Robert A. Van Wyck and ex-Justice Augustus Van Wyck, made his will which expressed his opinion on the effect of litigation over estates and took steps to prevent his own property from being fought over by attorneys.

TRUST CO. SOLE EXECUTOR

Col. Van Wyck, who was the first president of the New York Athletic Club, from 1868 to 1873, died on June 2 last at his home, 123 West Ninety-fifth street, but his will was not filed for probate until yesterday. He named the Title Guaranty and Trust Company his sole executor and trustee, and explained his failure to make any charitable provisions in his will by stating that he believed it better to add charitable objects during his lifetime, for which he had provided liberally. He also said he did not remember many nephews, and niece because he had assisted them for more than fifty years.

TRUST CO. SOLE EXECUTOR

Col. Van Wyck then instructs his trustee and executor "to keep my estate from legal interference, it being the desire of the testator that an estate is often considered the legitimate prey of those who practise law without conscience. My estate represents savings, accumulated one annuity race to his failure to make any charitable provisions in his will by stating that he believed it better to add charitable objects during his lifetime, for which he had provided liberally. He also said he did not remember many nephews, and niece because he had assisted them for more than fifty years.

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AMERICAN ART GALLERIES. Unrestricted Public Sale. This Friday and Saturday Afternoons at 2:30 o'clock. The Private Collection of Mr. Charles E. Locke. Antique Chinese and Siamese Porcelains, Japanese Pottery and Bronzes. OLD BRASS AND COPPER. The Sale Will Be Conducted by Mr. Otto Bernat, of the American Art Association, Managers 2, 4 and 6 East 23d St., Madison Sq. So.

The Log of the Ark Noah's Diary by Gordon \$1 net Pictures by Fruch The funniest book of the year at all bookstores or Dutton's 681 Fifth Avenue Near 64th Street

XMAS BOOKS CARDS NOVELTIES BRENTANO'S 5th Ave. and 27th St. New York

Dutton's An endless variety of Christmas Books Children's Books Christmas Cards 681 Fifth Avenue Near 64th Street

WILLS AND APPRAISALS. AUGUSTUS PITON OF CHATEAU, and his daughters, Able W. Morgan of 222 West 84th-street and Louise R. Wolf of 323 Central Park West. WILLIAM E. ECKERT, eldest son of the late Gen. Thomas T. Eckert, who last year won a court decision granting him a half interest in the many millions left by his father, transferred yesterday to the old Eckert home at 38 West Eighty-sixth street to his brother, Thomas J. Eckert, Jr., who was favored by his father with the transfer of the old Eckert home at 38 West Eighty-sixth street free and alleged to be the brother and not given an accounting of the rental from the property at 231 West Fifty-eighth street. The Eckert home, he claimed, was worth \$10,000 a year and the Fifth Avenue property \$15,000 a year. In his petition he asked that a receiver be appointed to have charge of the property until it had been partitioned.

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Hotel Knickerbocker Grille Mr. JAMES B. REGAN ANNOUNCES THE INIMITABLE LUBOWSKA Impassioned Character Dancer FLORENZ and MIZZI (Classic Dancers) In Special Exhibitions at the Dinner and Supper Dances Every Evening Also the Tea Dances Every Wednesday and Saturday Afternoon