

PERSHING ACTS TO REFORM AMERICAN MILITARY MUSIC

(Continued from page 1)

the mill," and it must be a severe ordeal for those young fellows—for the majority are in the twenties. One band remains there, probably the best of the number, and as the conductor appears, he takes the baton and calls for a beginning.

I was there yesterday and it was a most interesting séance, with our boys in khaki, the leader a bit abashed at first, and Damrosch looking on, sometimes interrupting the conductor to give a quiet bit of advice as to how to handle the stick, what the use of the arm indicates, and there appears to be as much technique in the use of the body when leading as there is in moving across the stage or in securing the best results from hands and arms in the drama. After he has given sufficient time to the leader Dr. Damrosch copies the observations he has made and later sends a report to headquarters.

Reaching the Leaders

The aim of the school is to reform the entire army band system, by first of all getting at the leaders. Every band will be or is being increased from twenty-eight to fifty pieces, and the leader appointed by General Pershing will examine applicants and put them where needed. New leaders may be chosen, some not quite up to the mark dropped and put into training to be called to conduct later. There are many fine musicians in the army, men who have given little time to band leading, and these will be invited to enter the field and study the methods adopted by the best conductors. As mentioned before, the model or pattern band has been or will be chosen for headquarters, and the musicians as well as leaders will listen to the ensembles. Auxiliary schools will be created at which bandmasters can get what they are lacking. This band institution will be similar to an officers' camp, created to train young men for military service.

The name of each bandmaster sent by Pershing is written on an examining sheet, then the rank and organization is filled out. The second question to be asked is, "Where and with whom have you studied?" The third, "What instrument do you play?" Then the musician takes his stand, the band strikes up and Damrosch's piercing blue eyes are on the man. This is one of the reports and Dr. Damrosch says, is an average estimate: "Talented musician, but lacks experience and needs instruction in technique of conducting. Orchestration fair. Manner good."

After the examination and while the report is being made out, the leader goes to the medical office and to the military office to be examined in case there should be an impediment that would prevent him undertaking such an important position. If considered eligible for the duty of bandmaster, "school" for him begins, and for at least two months he is to work eight hours a day. Returning to his men, or rather to any post assigned by the army, he puts the soldiers through rehearsing from four to six hours a day. These men will not do fatigue duty as the other soldiers, but when military training hours are over, they go to the hall and study with their master.

The band I listened to yesterday was composed of young college fellows, with the exception of one, all born in Iowa. The master proudly informed me that each man was a real American, the parents of all having been born in America (he spoke of it as "God's country"), and some of the boys have a long line of American ancestors. The soldiers were bright, smiling, anxious to please, and they love music passionately. They sit in this dingy room all day, and playing does not seem to fatigue them. The "Oberon" is a favored piece, and each soldier seems to play without score. The leader, spry, intelligent, full of ambition, about twenty-five years of age, is one of the best bandmasters and, no doubt, he will be taken for the "prize orchestra."

"I am more than pleased with the work," said Damrosch to me. "All the men need is bucking up, and to know that someone is interested in them and what they are doing. Some are full of talent, some have not great talent, but will make good students and, after all, perseverance in anything wins half the battle. How grateful they all are, and they want me not to keep back any criticism, no matter how severe. They are

Caruso and His Bride Spend Honeymoon in New York



Mr. and Mrs. Caruso, "Snapped" by the Photographer on the Roof of the Hotel Knickerbocker, New York

THE marriage of Enrico Caruso to an American girl, Dorothy Park Benjamin of New York, adds two more names to the long list of notable international marriages—although the illustrious tenor asserts that he is already "seven-twelfths American."

The wedding, which took place at the Marble Collegiate Church, New York, on Tuesday, Aug. 20, as recorded in *MUSICAL AMERICA* last week, was a very quiet one, the only members of the wedding party being Mrs. John S. Keith, matron of honor, and Mr. Caruso's secretary, Bruno Zirato, who acted as best man. The ceremony was read by the Rev. Oliver Paul Barnhill.

pathetically eager to learn, and they will not object to giving the rehearsing the time required.

"Some of the men discovered by Pershing were first rate musicians back home, harmony and counterpoint teachers, etc., and these we put to examining the scores written out by bandmasters. It is a big work, but it is already showing fruit, and while my summer is different to what I had anticipated, the change is good for me, and I'm enjoying coming in close contact with our young soldiers. Like everyone else over here, I'm crazy over the American soldier."

French band leaders and players will act as instructors to the Americans. Cooperation has been authorized by the French Ministry of War, because of the influence of music on morale, and by the French Ministry of Fine Arts, because of the opportunity of introducing French band methods to the American public after the war.

I studied some of the scores orches-

trated by the masters. Many, many were exquisite in neatness and precision; you'd have thought the page had come from a music print; others were less small, but showed individuality of character, while one or two of the list were short, deserted after the "first round," for no doubt these came from young conductors full of music and good at certain instruments, but untrained to write music.

By the time the teachers here get through with them, they will print a good score, and they will conduct like a good master. Perhaps some of the young men never heard a good band of music, hailing from parts of the country far from music centers. But they are all on the *qui vive* to learn, and some day these now unskilled but talented ones will conduct big orchestras and be world renowned. So thinks Dr. Damrosch and so do others, for their future is only beginning.

LEONORA RAINES.

of the Italian Military Commission General Manager Gatti-Casazza of the Metropolitan Opera, Pasquale Amato and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt.

A telegram that deeply touched Mr. Caruso came from Ephraim Benguig, who said he was ill at St. Luke's Hospital, and dictated his felicitations. A basket of roses came from the Veterans Club and other gifts of roses were from Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt and Jess Lasky.

Mrs. Caruso was born at Hastings-on-Hudson and was educated at the Sacred Heart Convent in New York. She made her New York society debut four years ago. She is a member of the Junior League and an ardent sportswoman. Her father, Park Benjamin, is a patent lawyer and was once editor of *The Scientific American*. He is the author of "The Early History of Electricity" and "History of the Naval Academy."

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin are spending the summer at Spring Lake, N. J. A brother of the bride, Romeyn Park Benjamin, serving with the American forces, was wounded for the second time at Château-Thierry on June 7 and is still in the hospital.

Mr. Caruso and the former Miss Benjamin met at an afternoon reception at the home of a mutual friend about two years ago, it is understood. Although it was known that Mr. Caruso was a frequent caller at the Benjamin home there had been no engagement announcement, and comparatively none of their friends knew of the contemplated nuptials. In securing the marriage license Mr. Caruso gave his age as forty-five years, while Miss Benjamin's age was given at twenty-five.

The famous tenor has sung in this country every season since 1903 and is very warmly attached to the United States. This is the first summer that he has passed in America and the first vacation spent in New York, as he has previously been heard in Europe or in South America during the summer season. He is an ardent supporter of the cause of the Allies and is said to have given more than \$100,000 to Italian war charities, in addition to being a generous subscriber to all Allied war relief organizations.

By concerts last year in South America Caruso raised more than \$1,000,000 for Allied war relief.

BANQUET FOR GODOWSKY

San Francisco Music Teachers Entertain in His Honor

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., Aug. 19.—On Saturday evening Leopold Godowsky was the honor guest at a reception and banquet given at Hotel Whitcomb by the San Francisco Music Teachers' Association. One hundred and twenty-five guests were present. The first number on the program was the "Star-Spangled Banner," led by Estelle Carpenter. George Kruger acted as master of ceremonies, introducing Mr. Godowsky, who responded to the welcome given him. Among the other prominent musicians present were Alfred Hertz and Edwin Lemare, who, with others, responded to toasts given by Henry B. Pasmore. Mme. Emelie Tojetti was chairman of the reception committee and Florence Smart chairman of the committee on arrangements.

Mr. Godowsky has endeared himself to San Francisco, and it is hoped that his successful Master School will be repeated here next year. More than fifty pupils have availed themselves of the opportunity for study with this noted artist, who soon leaves for Portland, Ore., to give a four weeks' course in that city.

E. M. B.

Graveure to Open His Season with Recital in Burlington, Vt.

Louis Graveure, the baritone, will open his 1918-19 season at Burlington, Vt., in recital on Sept. 1. At the Maine Festival he will sing in Mendelssohn's "Elijah," after which he will appear in Scranton, Pa., on Oct. 10. His New York recital will be on Saturday evening, Oct. 26.

ORGANIST.—An experienced young woman organist and choir director would like position in or near New York. Address Box M. N., care Musical America.

Well-known conservatory, established twenty years, within an hour of New York City, for sale. Easy terms. Conditions prevent the owner from continuing. Regent's certificate. Beautiful location in thriving town. Apply, "Conservatory," this office.

NICELY FURNISHED MUSIC STUDIO TO RENT. PART OR FULL TIME. EXCELLENT LOCATION. 133 EAST 60TH ST., NEW YORK. (PLAZA 9190.)