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EDITED BY *John C. Freund*

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CARUSO, IN THE SHADOWS, WINS BITTER BATTLE AGAINST DEATH

Crucially Ill After Unexpected Relapse, Great Tenor Fights Way Toward Recovery After Science Has Done Its Last—His Indomitable Will to Live Is Powerful Factor in Successful Outcome of Battle—News of Grave Illness Set Nerves of World on Edge—Cheered by Personal Messages from Rulers of Nations—Reported Making Satisfactory Progress

ENRICO CARUSO has again encompassed the miraculous!

After science had placed the issue in the lap of the gods, and a stunned world had resigned itself to the threatening inevitable, the great tenor won a toe-to-toe battle with death. At the time of writing he was reported in progress toward health.

Won His Own Fight

The beloved singer literally won his own fight, as the saying goes. How he was stricken by pleurisy on Christmas Day, how he was apparently brought past all danger, how with the suddenness of an untimely blast he fell, early last week, into an acute relapse—all this has even now passed into contemporary history. The corps of distinguished medical men that kept vigil at the tenor's bedside had shaken its collective head dismally and proclaimed that the outcome depended upon the patient himself. Priests had been summoned in the first dark hours, and the last rites of the church administered. A shocked and despairing world awaited the worst, its optimism severely shaken by the somber statements emanating from those in charge.

That the imperial singer was really in dire straits a visit to the Hotel Vanderbilt, his place of residence, made only too clear. The humid atmosphere of impending tragedy hovering over the great lobby; the army of reporters, on watch night and day, gleaning every scrap of potential "copy"; the curt bulletins from doctors' headquarters; the hourly arrival of sad-visaged friends, many bearing distinguished names—these were some of the outward tokens that a happening of first importance was transpiring high above where the sick man lay.

His Single Watchword

For three full days Caruso was in the shadows. And it was he himself who at length beat off the besieger. For he had set his mind with all the power spared by consuming fever upon the single thought—"I will not die!" Indomitable resolution carried away the victory. Science had done its last and utmost; the rest remained with the sick man. His rock-like will won.

The first crisis safely surmounted, the physicians refused to be lured into a re-



Photo by Campbell Studios

MERLE ALCOCK,

Eminent American Contralto. She Will Again Be Co-Star with Margaret Anglin in Euripides's "Iphigenia," at the Spring Festival in New York, Under Walter Damrosch's Bâton. (See Page 8)

Confirm Charges of Incompetence in New York Public School Music

IN one of the series of articles in MUSICAL AMERICA concerning musical instruction in schools, Dr. Henry T. Fleck, Professor of Music at Hunter College, told, in interview, how a young lady student was asked by an examiner to sing a melodic minor scale, and how, seized with the idea of testing her examiner, she sang a har-

monic scale instead, only to meet with the commendation of the person who heard her. The incident was specifically mentioned by George J. Smith, chairman Board of Examiners, Department of Education, in a letter to MUSICAL AMERICA dated Jan. 11, and published in the issue of Jan. 22.

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MUSIC PUBLISHERS OF BOSTON PLAN TO AID NEEDY GENIUS

Movement Launched at Suggestion of John C. Freund, Guest of Honor at Annual Banquet of Association—Editor of "Musical America" Accorded an Ovation—Termed "America's Foremost Musical Propagandist"—Move to Provide Scholarships for Talented Young Musicians of Boston

BOSTON, Feb. 11.—The Boston Music Publishers' Association, whose membership comprises some of the most distinguished firms in the country, at their annual business meeting and banquet held at the Hotel Bellevue, made the initial move for an organization to raise funds to provide scholarships for needy but talented young musicians resident in the city.

This came as a climax of an inspiring address by John C. Freund, editor of MUSICAL AMERICA and THE MUSIC TRADES, who received an ovation seldom granted a public speaker, and who was the Association's guest of honor. It was after he had made his address and at his suggestion that the Association took action which may have far-reaching results as other cities follow the example of the Boston Music Publishers.

It was the largest, most enthusiastic, and successful meeting ever held by the Association. Mr. Freund's masterly address held the rapt attention of those present for over an hour. At its conclusion, the whole company rose and applauded for several minutes.

About fifty members and their guests attended the dinner. At the end of the repast, a brief business session was held, presided over by President James A. Smith of the Oliver Ditson Company.

The following officers were then elected: James A. Smith of the Oliver Ditson Company, president; Ernest R. Voigt of the Boston Music Company, vice-president; W. Deane Preston, Jr., of the B. F. Wood Music Company, secretary-treasurer. A lengthy letter from Mayor Andrew Peters, regretting his inability to be present owing to important public business, was read.

President Smith presented Ernest R. Voigt as the man most fitted to introduce the guest of honor and speaker of the evening. Mr. Voigt said:

Foremost Musical Propagandist

"It is our great good fortune to have as our guest of honor to-night a man who is unquestionably the most outstanding figure in the musical life of our country to-day. He is not a singer who charms large audiences with his art, nor is he a virtuoso on the violin or piano. In fact, he is not a performing artist at all, nor is he even a member of the musical profession, as that term is commonly understood. But he is America's foremost musical propagandist in the finest sense. He has made it his life's work to bring the message of music to the people and we all know how well he has succeeded. The seeds he has planted during the half of century of arduous toil have taken root, the plants have sprouted, they have blossomed in profusion and the harvest of the fruit has been bountiful. Many of these

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