

B.B.C. FOR 10 YEARS.

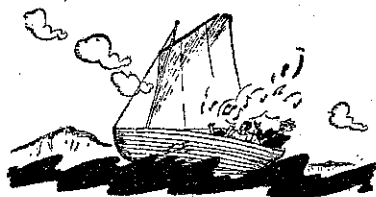
STANFORD ROBINSON may be said to have been cradled in the lap of Orpheus. Born in Yorkshire, the son of a well-known Leeds organist, he played the piano from his fifth year and later began to teach himself. Whilst still at school he decided to make music his career and organised an amateur orchestra in order to gain experience in conducting. Mr. Robinson joined the musical staff of the B.B.C. early in 1924 and in the same year was made responsible for the organisation and training of the B.B.C. National Chorus, a body of 250 singers selected from ten times that number of applicants. He also conducts the B.B.C. Wireless Singers and the B.B.C. Theatre Orchestra, which is the envy of every broadcast station in the world.

LAST WORD

OF all the lieder singers of the present day, Elena Gerhardt is surely the greatest. Her parents were enthusiastic amateur musicians and little wonder their daughter entered the Leipzig Conservatoire with the fixed determination to become a great singer. She soon found that she had remarkable talent in the interpretation of the classic songs of Schubert, Brahms, Schumann, Hugo Wolf and others. Arthur Nikisch, the famous conductor, was so enthusiastic about her genius that he played her piano accompaniments at her first concert. She made her first debut in England at Queen's Hall in June, 1926, and were we never to hear her in the flesh, we would have in her glorious records sufficient warrant for describing her as the last word in lieder singing.

HIS OWN EXPONENT.

JOHN IRELAND, himself a pianist of note, frequently appears as the exponent of his own music. Early in his career he was recognised as a composer of rare and individual qualities, but as he burnt all the music he wrote before 1908, he has been his own sternest critic also. Known chiefly to the man-in-the-street as responsible for his song "Sea Fever," which, though excellent in its



ballad manner, in no way represents him as a composer. He has written much splendid orchestral and chamber music, and vocal works, including the notable song-cycle "The Shropshire Lad." The critical faculty no doubt is derived from his late father, who was once editor of "The Manchester Examiner."

"PARISHLESS PARSON."

DESCRIBING herself as a "parishless parson in petticoats," Margaret Macpherson, well-known journalist and radio speaker, says: "I like to preach at people. Perhaps it is because four generations of my family have been schoolmasters. It is a typical case

of the sins of the fathers!" Since she returned to New Zealand from London last year, Mrs. Macpherson has played the part of lecturer on many occasions, having spoken from such diverse platforms as the New Zealand Legion, the Theosophical Society, the Douglas Credit Association, the Methodist Church, the Friends of the Soviet Union, the League of Mothers, and the Council Against War. During her stay in London last year, she was offered the job of "ghost" for society people who like to see their names in print, but cannot write their own articles. The pay suggested was good, but, says Margaret Macpherson, "the whole project was based on mendacity and snobbery, so I turned it down."

MARRIED A SAVAGE.

THE West of England has given us many fine singers, of whom that splendid baritone, Percy Heming, F.R.A.M., is a good example. Born in Bristol, Percy as a boy sang in the school choir of the Bristol grammar school and in the Bristol Madrigal Club. When his voice broke he joined the Choral Society of that city. Friends induced him to seriously consider taking up music as a profession, and he has no cause to regret following their counsel. Tuition at the Royal Academy in London and under Frau Professor Grosse, and the late Sir George Henschel, made him the fine vocalist he now is. While at the R.A.M., he met his present wife, a daughter of Canon Savage, of the Isle of Man. Mr Heming's successful career on the opera stage and concert platform is a modern musical romance.

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