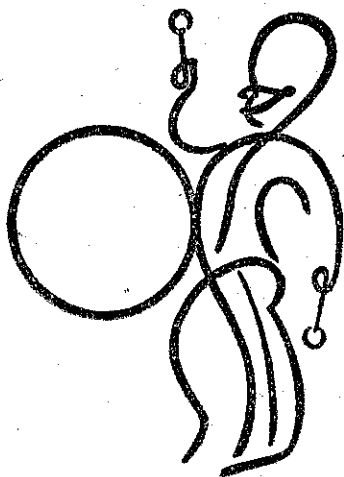


DRUM-MAJOR

"It was the dream of my childhood," Alexander Kipnis tell us, "to march at the head of a troupe as 'drum-major,' dressed in a smart uniform. In fact, I began to study with a view to becoming a conductor, at the Warsaw School of Music. But soon things changed. My voice became stronger, and one evening an impresario advised me to devote myself entirely to singing. As the possibilities



in Russia for this sort of study were at that time very bad, I took my leave and found myself with my large amount of luggage—I had a suitcase with linen and a vocabulary dictionary—on the platform of the station, not having made up my mind where to go, Berlin or Vienna. That had to be decided quickly. It just happened that a train was due for Germany, and I got a ticket and travelled to Berlin. I was never sorry for having made this decision."

FRIEND OF GRIEG

ARTHUR DE GREEF, best known to us as a brilliant solo pianist on the records, is also a composer of some distinction. Born at Louvain, he studied first at the Brussels Conservatoire, and afterwards was a pupil of Liszt at Weimar. Already at the age of 23 he was pianoforte professor at the same musical college, but his duties there have not prevented his undertaking wide concert tours, in the course of which he has not only achieved many notable successes, but has also won for himself the warm-hearted affection and esteem of musicians everywhere. Grieg, for example, was one of his staunch friends, and for many years de Greef was regarded as, above all others, the authoritative player of the Grieg Concerto. His own compositions include a Pianoforte Concerto in C, and works for orchestra.

ADAM IN PLUS FOURS

WHILE travelling to Bedford to sing in Haydn's "Creation," the suitcase of Keith Falkner, the baritone soloist, was stolen, so that he had to appear and sing the part of "Adam" in modern dress—plus-fours. Not many singers have played cricket for their county, but this distinction is enjoyed by Mr. Falkner, who plays for M.C.C. also. His tuition in his profession has been most thorough—his tutors include Sir Hugh Allen, Albert Garcia, Plunket Greene, Lierhammer in Vienna, Madame Dossert in Paris, and Gruze-

bach in Berlin. In 1917 he joined up and became a pilot in the R.N.A.S., from which he was demobilised soon after the war.

FLEAS

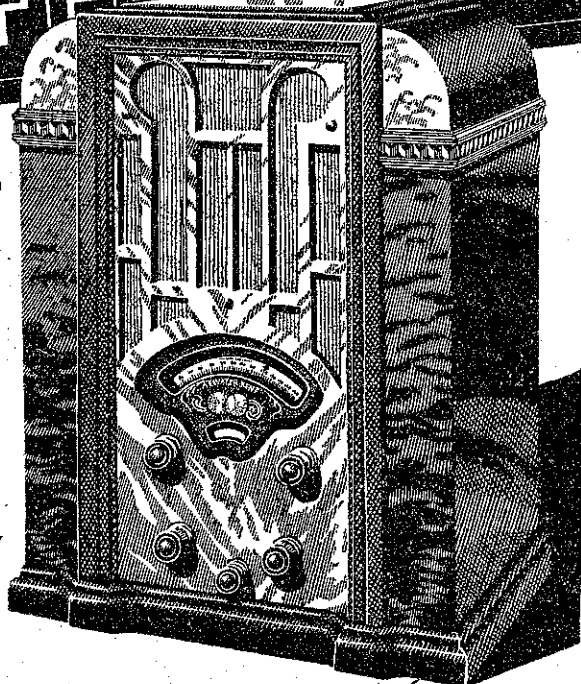
"I AM gaining more publicity over my talk, 'All About Fleas,' which I am giving from 2YA on December 7, than I have gained from all my other studies combined," laughed Miss Eileen Plant, entomologist at the Dominion Museum, when asked whether her fleas were cultured or uncultured ones. "I haven't any fleas at all, not even dead ones! Everyone thinks my talk is a huge joke. As a matter of fact, the subject is intensely interesting. Most people think that baby fleas are just miniatures of their parents. They're

not at all," and Miss Plant's interviewer received some most surprising information about these little customers, information that will doubtless provide a great deal of entertainment to listeners-in. Later on, Miss Plant is giving a talk over the air entitled, "Cockroaches." This dark-eyed and curly-haired little delightful lady is giving up her position at the Museum very soon, in view of her forthcoming marriage to Mr. E. C. Fussell, who is well-known as secretary of the Reserve Bank. Miss Plant intends carrying on with her career, which is already brilliant. She gained her M.Sc. degree at Victoria College, where she studied zoology and gained first-class honours and was awarded a scholarship.

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