

in two respects his powers have become superior perhaps to those of any other violinist since Paganini and Joachim. He is a Pole and is 53. At seven he played a Spohr concerto and took part in chamber music. Brahms was in the audience when the boy played his violin concerto. Telling the young artist to come and see him next day and bring his autograph album with him, Brahms wrote in it a few bars from the work and added this most gracious inscription: "To the talented violin-virtuoso, Bronislaw Hubermann, in memory of his delighted and grateful listener, Johannes Brahms." Thus at thirteen Hubermann was called a performer of genius by a composer of genius who was very much disinclined to praise unduly, and usually had a holy horror of youthful musical prodigies. The next year the boy was appointed Court Violinist to the Queen of Roumania, an amazing distinction for one still of school age. A few years later Hubermann was invited by the municipality of Genoa to play on Paganini's violin at a concert in the city, a special law being passed to permit of its temporary removal from the Town Hall.

Reinstated

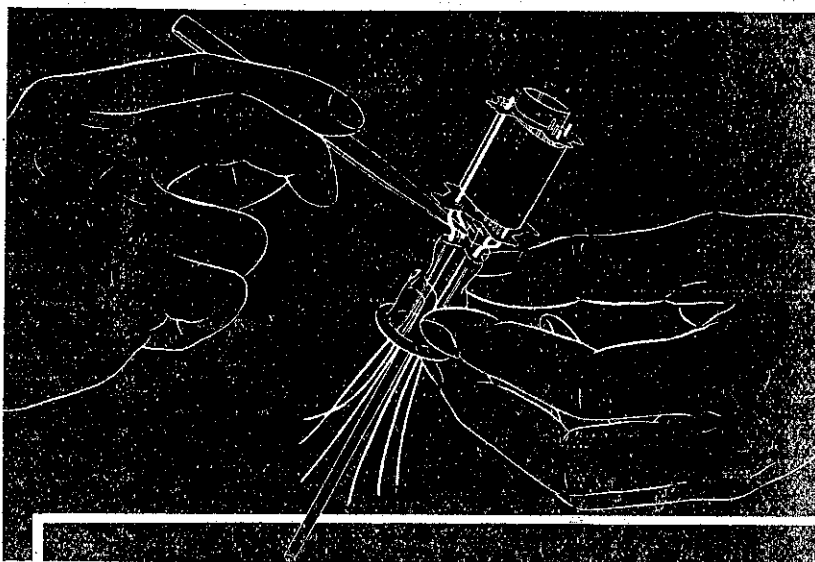
THE son of Professor Adolf Furtwangler, a German authority on archaeology, Dr. Wilhelm Furtwangler, the noted conductor, was born in Berlin in 1886. His training and general musical experience is second to none among even the most thorough and efficient artists of his native land.



He is a welcome "guest" conductor wherever he goes and is a favourite in London. In December he was compelled by differences of opinion with the Nazi authorities to resign his directorship of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra and the Prussian State Opera House. A recent cable reports that he has been reinstated and conducts the Philharmonic Orchestra forthwith. This able German conductor is also a composer with a symphony and an elaborate "Te Deum" to his credit.

Grainger v. Backhaus

WHEN Percy Grainger heard young Eileen Joyce, the Tasmanian-born pianist, his verdict was: "The most transcendently gifted child I have heard in twenty-five years," and he advised that she go to America. Then Backhaus heard her; he endorsed the verdict, but not the advice, voting in Leipzig. Leipzig it was to be. Through the good offices of a theatre manager, who organised a concert tour in the hope that it would secure the funds for the European expedition, the once penniless Eileen left Australia with £900 to her name. When the money was dwindling down to a little more than nothing she left Leipzig for London, where a number of friendly people assisted her to her present fame.



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