

## PARTY FOR PIANIST

ONE of the good things done up in small parcels was Miss Imelda Fama's brief performance when she was introduced to a party of Wellington people in the lounge of Hotel St. George last week. She played only three numbers, but all of them were thoroughly appreciated; and for good reason which had nothing to do with the serving of cocktails. A couple of friends of this distinguished young performer had organised this reception in Miss Fama's honour, and Signora Mario Dessaulles, wife of the Italian Consul, acted as hostess. The hotel management provided an appealing floral array.

The difficult Chopin Ballade in G Minor was played with remarkable alacrity—at a speed, indeed, which was little short of amazing for such work. Yet it lost none of its necessary accuracy or clearness. Her touch and emphasis were perfect, and her splendid control left no room for distortion of rhythm in any difficult passage. The entire structure of the Ballad was firmly and smoothly presented. Ornamentation was kept in its correct proportion and was unfailingly an enhancement of the theme. Judged by any critical standards whatever, this performance measured up to the quality of the best that has been heard in New Zealand within recent memory.

The manner in which Miss Fama played Schumann's Romance illustrated in another direction the adequate ability possessed by the New Zealand pianist. There was not in this composition so much of a test for technique, yet the very charming manner in which this morsel was interpreted made a definite impression on her musical audience.

The other composition was Liszt's well-known "La Campanella," which makes unusual demands on both performer and instrument. The upper and lower registers produced a satisfying brilliance of effect, comparable with Levitzky's popular recording of this piece, but with slight differences in interpretation. Throughout her short recital Miss Fama produced, when necessary, a volume of tone which was almost incredible coming as it did from a baby grand piano.

When he introduced Miss Fama to her informal audience Mr. O. N. Gillespie strongly deplored the persistence of a "small-town" complex in New Zealand's attitude toward Dominion artists, whether they be musical, literary or otherwise. During his connection with the recent Authors' Week he had realised as never before the seriously suffocating effect of such an attitude toward artists,

# TOPICAL TITBITS

## £40 No. 34 £40

### 2 ENTRIES FOR 1/-

This is a simple Picture Puzzle about THE HOUSING SITUATION. Each symbol or picture may represent ONE WORD OR PART OF ONE WORD ONLY. To help you, the opening words are given. Can you complete the paragraph? Much of the wording is given you, and that, together with the sense of the paragraph generally, will help you to solve the pictures as you come to them. If a competitor considers that this puzzle contains alternatives the minimum entry fee of 1/- will be sufficient for one or two solutions. Solutions after the first two 6d. each. When you have read the puzzle through write out your solution or solutions, together with your name and address, and post, together with entry fee (1/- for one or two solutions and 6d. for each additional solution) by postal note (unless unprocurable, when stamps 1/1 will be accepted), to Topical Titbits, No. 34, G.P.O. Box 627E, Christchurch, bearing the postmark not later than Tuesday, July 21.

REMEMBER—EACH PICTURE REPRESENTS ONE WORD OR PART OF ONE WORD ONLY.

**TOPICAL TITBITS No. 34 THE HOUSING SITUATION**

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#### RULES—THE FIRST PRIZE OF £40

will be awarded to the competitor whose solution of the paragraph is correct or most nearly correct. In the event of ties, the prize-money will be divided equally but no winning competitor shall receive less in prize money than the amount of his or her entry fee. Alterations cannot be accepted. Misspelt words and abbreviations count as errors. Post Office addresses not accepted. The decision of the adjudicators must be accepted as final. No competitor may win more than one share of the prize-money. No correspondence relating to Topical Titbits No. 34 will be entered into after one month from closing date. Prize-money and sealed solution have been lodged with "N.Z. Truth" as a guarantee of good faith but not so as to involve that paper in the liability of stakeholder or otherwise. Results will be published in this paper on Friday July 31, 1936.

RESULTS OF TOPICAL TITBITS No. 33 WILL BE PUBLISHED ON JULY 24 AS ADVERTISED. RESULTS OF TOPICAL TITBITS No. 32 APPEAR ON PAGE 43.

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