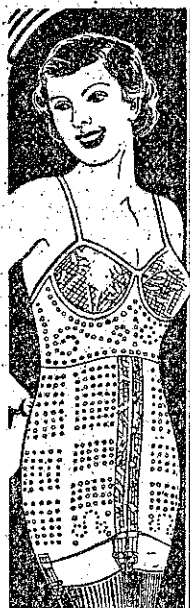


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"Golden" Melodies" POOR COMPOSERS

(Continued from Page 14.)

much for a single performance of it as the composer receives in a whole year from all his work.

Remember, too, that there are hundreds, thousands of smaller men composing "acceptable" music who receive for it a mere pittance. Unable to subsist on what they make out of diminished royalties and performing rights, they are forced to seek patronage of publishing firms and "write to order" on a fixed salary. If unable to find one of those rare jobs, they simply give it all up as a bad job and turn to clerking or navvying to keep off the bread-line.

How many great musicians are being strangled by this unprecedented state of affairs?

How many people with great creative talent in music are discouraged from even beginning to develop it because music, the most profitable and generally used luxury of modern civilisation, is being blocked at its source by the short-sightedness of the users of music—who play with millions of profit and are content to throw pence to the people whose creative brains make that profit possible.

Figures talk, you tenders of music mills that deluge the world with sweet, canned sounds! Count the profits and then calculate how much you give to the men whose genius first conjured the haunting tunes your high-priced executants have played and your amazing machines have reproduced endlessly through the soundless ether. . .

Do you really think it is—even remotely—a fair division of the spoils?

No Rest For Bing

THE rest period between dress rehearsal and broadcast is no breathing spell for tireless Bing Crosby. That's when he holds open house for the "song pluggers," the men who peddle new tunes. In order to hear them, he declines to take time out for an evening snack and has his meal sent to him at the studios so that he can listen while he eats. It is then, and only then, that Bing lends an ear to brand new tunes with an idea of putting them on the following week's radio programme. The pluggers usually turn up in pairs. One plays the piano, the other sings the tune as Bing listens and munches a light snack. Sometimes Bing hums the second chorus, which delights the performers. It probably means an order! After swallowing the last bite, Bing goes to the piano, puts John Scott Trotter at the controls, and they try out the most promising numbers, one by one. Then the musical line-up is decided for the following week's broadcast.

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