

## Fate of Grand Opera

(Concluded from previous page.)

fishers, asking what they thought about operatic affairs, generally; and the answers had in the main afforded rather unpleasant reading. The three great opera houses of Milan, Rome, and Naples were in the same boat as the 24 other first-class opera houses in Italy; for 'all these theatres, although in the past they have never made great profits, are now run at a loss.'

"The causes of this common deficit were said to be various; yet the explanation was practically the same in every case. Expenses were largely in excess of income, thanks to the high fees that had nowadays to be paid to artists, the heavy cost of mounting new operas which did not attract the public, the costliness of the mise en scene generally, and the Government taxes on entertainments, and the counter-attractions like the cinema, the wireless, etc.

"The remedies proposed were, like the grievances, 'various.' But as 'The Times' leader pointed out, 'Genius is not to be commanded,' and composers like Verdi and Puccini, who can fulfil their own artistic aspirations while proving that they merit the big expenditure, are not forthcoming very often either in Italy or in any other country.

"The composers of to-day have 'little or no sense of responsibility toward their audiences'; yet they claim their right of a hearing where there is really no right in the matter."

The remainder of this sensible article was devoted to an appeal for further subscribers in support of Sir Thomas Beecham's Imperial League of Opera; nor is it to be denied that the two branches of the subject—opera abroad and at home—have enough in common, despite their different conditions, for us to be able to profit by the mistakes of others. Financial difficulties are being encountered at the great operatic establishments of Berlin, Vienna, and even Paris. The only country that escapes entirely, because it can afford to spend what it pleases, is wealthy America.

## Children's Sessions

### FROM 1YA.

**TUESDAY.**—Uncle Dave to the fore again, with more of his interesting stories, Cousin Rita singing, and Cousin Dorothy reciting.

**WEDNESDAY.**—Uncle Tom will begin the Children's Session with his usual happy chorus, and Cousin Jean will contribute piano solos.

stories and send birthday greetings.

**SUNDAY.**—Children's Song Service, conducted by Uncle Leo and assisted by Beresford Street Sunday School.

### At 2YA.

**MONDAY, MAY 26.**—Uncle Jeff is bringing the Kelburn Boy Scouts

## A 3YA Alphabet

A for the Aunts, so clever and bright,  
B for the Birthdays, called every night.  
C for our Cousins, so winning and fair,  
D Ditties Delightful, sent on the air.  
E Earnest Endeavours to please every one,  
F stands for our Fairies, their work never done.  
G for the Gifts they have carried unseen;  
H Happy Homes where these fairies have been.  
I the Industry shown by our family band,  
J the Jest and Jokes as they come to hand.  
K Kindness oft shown, for which grateful we are.  
L Little Listeners-in, near and far.  
M for our Microphone, best of its kind;  
N for Nice Notices, dear to our mind.  
O stands for those Others, now gone from the station:  
P is "Aunt Pat," who is voted a jolly relation.  
Q is the Question that we love to ask you;  
R is the Riddle that has to be answered.  
S for our Stories, grave, fairy, or true;  
T for our Time, with more we could do!  
U Uncles Unequalled, none like them before;  
V our Visitors, and we'd welcome more.  
W their Wonder at all that they meet;  
X for eXcellent eXtras we give as a treat.  
Y all You Youngsters, so ready with laugh;  
Z our great Zeal. We do nothing by half!

—G. Colborne-Veel.

**THURSDAY.**—Puzzles, stories and jokes from Peter Pan. Pat will sing and Dick will play the piano.

**FRIDAY.**—The Happy Hour to be spent with Nod and Aunt Jean, while Cousin Catherine will provide piano solos.

**SATURDAY.**—The pupils of Miss Sale are providing this evening's programme, so an interesting hour is assured. Cinderella will tell

with him to-night. There will be much laughter, fun, music, stories and puzzles.

**TUESDAY.**—To-night the 2YA Children's Chorus will be here with Uncle Jim, and a charming little programme has also been arranged by the pupils of Miss May Walters.

**THURSDAY.**—Uncle George is bringing with him a band of performers, who are pupils of Ethel Mackay. Cousins Marjorie, Freda and Dolores will also be here.

**FRIDAY.**—Our Story Book Lady and Big Brother Jack have arranged to bring the pupils of Miss Maisie Deck with them to-night. There will be violoncello and violin solos, duets and songs.

**SATURDAY.**—Our Revellers, with Uncle Toby conducting the session, are providing the programme for to-night. There will be bands, instrumental duets, songs by Cousins and stories for all.

**SUNDAY.**—To-night the Children's Choir from St. Mark's Anglican Church will be here under the direction of Mr. Small. Uncle George will conduct the session.

### FROM 3YA.

**MONDAY.**—Here comes Scatterjoy with her Garland of Girls to make this Bedtime hour a time of delight to all the little ones. You will hear more about the doings of Binky the Bantam the Monday night mascot.

**WEDNESDAY.**—Wednesday brings Uncle John, with his bright and breezy voice. Cousins Victor, Molly and Gwyneth, coming along with songs and recitations to help.

**THURSDAY.**—Ladybird has flown home again, so we will all have a happy hour listening to her songs, and hearing Uncle Frank's stories.

**FRIDAY.**—This is the night "Chuckie" sings you the "Hums of Pooh," while Aunt Pat tells you the story of Pooh, Piglet, Eeyore, Kanga, Tigger, and all Christopher Robin's friends.

**SATURDAY.**—To-night Miss Gilder is bringing along some of her pupils, and we are having a little talk on Hockey and Football for the boys, and the girls, too!

**SUNDAY.**—Children's Song Service, conducted by Rev. J. F. Coursey, assisted by some scholars from the St. John's Sunday School.

## Music and Dramatic Committee

**AT** the monthly meeting of the 1YA Musical and Dramatic Committee there were present: Mr. T. T. Garland, Auckland Savage Club; Mr. C. B. Plummer, Auckland Choral Society; Mr. John Tait, Society of Musicians; Mr. J. F. Montague, Auckland Comedy Players; Mr. L. E. Lambert, Bohemian Orchestra; Mr. E. Blair, Workers' Educational Association; Mr. V. Trask, Aethopian Club; Miss R. Walker, University Students' Association; Mr. L. C. Barnes, Station Director at 1YA; Mr. O. M. Pritchard, Programme Organiser at 1YA.

In the unavoidable absence of the chair, Mr. McCallum, Mr. Lambert presided.

A report from the sub-committee set up in connection with the inauguration of a song-writing competition was presented. It was decided to forward it to the company, with a strong recommendation that it be carried out, in order to foster local composers.

Many valuable suggestions came forward with regard to future lectures and programmes, and these, it was stated, would be carried into effect as early as possible. A discussion took place with regard to the proposed Music Week to be held in August, and it was decided that every help possible be given to make this week a success.

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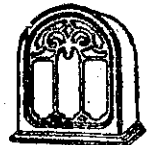
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