

Beethoven

(Continued from page 1.)

have different food from the master?

How many pounds of meat are to be reckoned for three persons?

What allowance per day do the housekeeper and maid receive?

How about the washing?

Do the housekeeper and maid get more?

How much wine and beer?

Does one give it to them, and when?

Breakfast?

Domestic worries of all kinds played a large part in Beethoven's correspondence, and most of them were due to

his constant change of servants. In order to realise the kind of agitated procession that went on we have only to glance at this extract from one of his notebooks:—

On April 17 the kitchenmaid came. May 16, gave notice to the kitchenmaid.

May 19, the kitchenmaid left.

May 30, the woman entered upon her duties.

July 1, the new kitchenmaid came.

July 28, the kitchenmaid ran away in the evening.

July 30, the woman from Lower Dobling entered service.

September 9, the girl entered service.

October 22, the girl left.

December 12, the kitchenmaid entered service.

December 18, the kitchenmaid gave notice.

No doubt there were some trying specimens among them, but it must be admitted that they started work under a heavy handicap, for there seems to have been a natural animosity between Beethoven and the genus. On June 8, 1818, he writes: "The new housekeeper arrived—troglodyte, inhabitant of Hell!"

As Beethoven was wont to be even more frank in speech than on paper we may imagine that the new housekeeper soon found herself called some thing far worse than a troglodyte. Nor did he stop at words. Hear what happened to a slut named Nany:—

The evening before last Nany began to jeer at me for ringing the bell, after the manner of all low people, so she already knew that I had written to you [Frau Streicher] about it. Yesterday the infernal tricks recommenced. I made short work of it, and threw at her my heavy chair; after that I was at peace the whole day.

But Nany was evidently used to assorted missiles:—

I have endured much to-day from N., but have thrown half a dozen books at her head as a New Year's gift.

He was no better off when he tried men-servants:—

Again unfortunate with a servant and probably also robbed. Already on the 14th I gave him 14 days' notice, but he gets drunk, stays whole nights out of the house, and is so bold and coarse that I would like to send him away still sooner.

Musical friends tell me that all these trials played their part in making Beethoven's music what it was; the angry explosions (say they) that are so frequent in his music are in part the result of the spiritual unrest brought about by his physical and domestic tribulations. It may be so. I dare not venture into regions where only musicians can tread with certainty. All I know is that to me (a plain man not without bowels of compassion for my suffering fellows) it seems incomprehensible that in order to make the Fifth Symphony the cataclysmic work it is, Beethoven should have had to spend half his working life in a state of muddle and torture indicated by such letters as I have quoted.

I have so far heard little of Beethoven's music, and that little with only a confused notion as to what all the turmoil was about; but I am ready to salute him as a great man. For only a hero—however untidy and unhygienic—could stand up against all squalid discomfort and do his life's work in such a way as to rank (as Beethoven seems to rank) among the world's greatest benefactors. (But I still maintain that marriage with the right woman would have enabled him to do his job even better than he did.)

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Chinese Lecturer

Broadcast from 3YA

DR. T. Z. KOO, of China, at present on a visit to New Zealand, is one of the really interesting personalities of this generation. He is making this visit at the invitation of the New Zealand Student Christian Movement, an affiliated body of the World Student Christian Federation of which Dr. Koo is the vice-chairman.

Dr. Koo has had a remarkably diverse university experience. He graduated Master of Arts at St. John's University, Shanghai, and within the last few years he has done post-graduate work at Oxford and at Oberlin, U.S.A. While at Oxford, Dr. Koo read philosophy under Dr. Lindsay, the Master of Balliol, and theology with Canon Streeter. T. Z. Koo is an honorary Doctor of Laws of Oxford.

For nine years Dr. Koo was in the administrative department of the Chinese Railway Service. In 1918 he joined the staff of the National Committee of the Y.M.C.A. of China, of which he is now the associate general secretary with special responsibilities for the student department. In 1923-1926 he was one of the travelling secretaries of the World Student Christian Federation, the first Oriental to be appointed to such a position. During those years he spent much time with the students of Europe and America on whom he made a deep and lasting impression. In 1925 he was one of three chosen by 34 Chinese organisations to represent China at the Second Opium Conference called by the League of Nations.

Four things impress those who are fortunate enough to hear Dr. Koo speak: his faultless English, his acute, analytical thinking, the practical nature of his religion with full social, national and international implications, and his passion for the higher education of his own people.

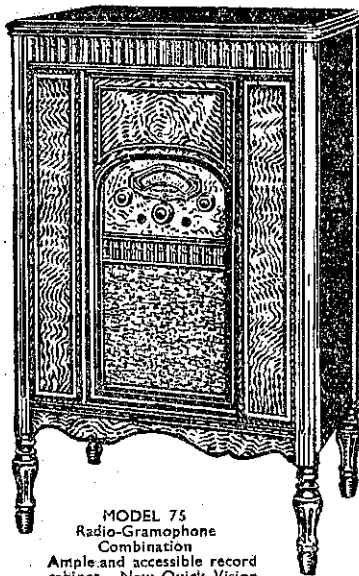
Dr. Koo will be heard from 3YA on Monday, May 18, and on the afternoon of Sunday, May 17.

"Ghost" Images

On Television Receivers

TELEVISION experimenters have frequently noticed two or more identical "ghost" images fading and shifting in the background of the strong image. The cause is attributed to the reception of the signal over two or more paths from the transmitter, one path being by the ground wave and the others by the sky waves reflected from various heights. Tests have so far revealed that the ghostly effect is noticeable only during the twilight period, possibly because the ground and sky waves are about equal in energy at that time.

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