

CALVE AT THE HELIG

By G. I. W.

Skepticism was removed perforce last night when Calve, woman, singer and actress, appeared on the Helig stage. In the language of George Ade, when you lay it on so thick, one wonders if you're going to be there with the goods. Calve certainly was.

For years she has been called queen of the operatic stage and in no measure has she lost that position. And though so often an operatic singer is at a disadvantage in concert Calve rose above the difficulty and made her hearers realize what her complete art is.

She is a consummate artist, a consummate actress. Acting in one and nature to her, and it is natural for her to make a whole chapter of romance out of her "Tommy Through the Hye" as if it were embodied in a complete opera. She emanates warmth and brilliancy. With every movement is borne the conviction that she is a live, breathing, human being. Full of rich, red blood; that her emotions are swift and changeable but true, and that she fairly sparkles with the ibanesque "joy of life."

Tone color is hers so rich and varied that her songs appear as beautiful paintings. More important to her than producing the tone just so every time with the same amount of sweetness, is reproducing through her tone the emotion that prompts it, and in a scene of brooding savagery her tone will be harsh as it should be, in a scene of cruelty it will be hard and cold. Yet she can emit the sweetest, warmest tones ever heard in song. It is this sacrifice that makes singing in opera seem compatible with the story it tells, that makes her rendition of human feelings in song sublime where sometimes it is only ridiculous.

The splendid "Le Mysoil" air showed her voice to better advantage even than her Carmen numbers. There the way she actually played upon her voice as though it were an instrument, turning it, and tossing it, and juggling it, brought the house to thrills of applause that burst out before the completion of her song. Her lowest tones are just as flexible and filled the house with the same ease as the upper tones always heard in such coloratura work. The brilliant timbre of her voice thrilled and vibrated through the house and put to laugh the criticism that her acting only has won her her great fame.

There is little need to speak of the Carmen excerpts. They were enjoyed—how could it be else—and everyone thrilled to realize that the only original Carmen was doing her act before them. Her acting was superb, but after all, though she was supposedly at an advantage at being at last in her own

sphere, she was hardly better off than in her songs. It needs the chorus and the orchestra to make the proper setting for her work, even though it be solo work. The excerpts, which incidentally, did not represent the entire second act, but bits of two scenes from the first and the second, were not chosen happily for the tenor, but he was there after all merely for Carmen to act about.

That tenor, by the way, while a sad looking Don Jose, is a pleasure to hear in concert work. He has a charming voice of smoothness and polish, not necessarily a big voice or a fiery voice, but one thoroughly pleasing and satisfactory. He would not be as successful in opera as in concert for his acting is not inspiring. But one has heard worse tenors in opera who were ungraceful actors.

Miss Renee Chomet, violinist, won the audience easily. Her first number, the Bruch adagio, was the most pleasing, but the Loin Rondo showed the swiftness of her work, and her mastery of the technical difficulties. She plays with warmth and with a certain force and decision that lends strength in spite of the rather sweeping tone that displaces the clear-cut tone.

She won favor easily and responded with familiar encores. Her violin accompaniment to "Le Mysoil" was excellently done and at the same time served to show the absolute truth and purity of Calve's voice as it rose above the instrument every time.

One wondered why when all the other artists had two appearances on the program, the pianist Monsieur Decours was not heard. His one number was played with brilliancy and ease and musical feeling that showed him worthy of attention. His accompaniments throughout the evening served in a measure to show his musical understanding and were always in perfect sympathy and accord with his soloist.

It is not often that a star carries with her so many and such excellent counter-attractions as Calve did last night. But she was in no way eclipsed or even approached by them though they all received hearty encores. Her acting, by the way, outside of her singing and her playing, as could be imagined, her life before the footlights has made her art, and when she shivers and wrings herself in the scant sleeves of her gorgeous jet gown, or trips off to come back with her magnificent sables about her, or when she drops her music and flicks it up lightly with a glance at her pianist's back like a child caught in an error, or when she stumbles over the unwonted English of her encore, watch everyone in the house know so well, and taps her pianist's shoulder for sympathy and support, she is just as natural and unstudied as her art has made her in that greatest of her triumphs, Carmen.

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easy task, but it is one which may be most appropriately undertaken at the Christmas season. In a large suburban church, a committee of young women was appointed whose duty was to ascertain the names of the destitute and lonely of the congregation and to report the result of their efforts to the president of the Women's Aid society. This work, which was started in the early fall, resulted in a large number of names being handed in, and on Christmas these persons were gladened by substantial gifts or money as their need required. Thus not only were the poor benefited, but the young women of the congregation became interested in church work, and were trained for future service.

In the same way almshouses might be visited, the sick and poor and lonely in hospitals and prisons found, until finally the true Christmas spirit would permeate the whole congregation.

Some Novel Appetizers.

The tray of bouchees seen on the serving table at some of the hotels during the afternoon tea hour as a concession to the masculine contingent attracts much feminine admiration.

The shiny black of the caviare is made the most of in the preparation of these bouchees, and with it as a background all sorts of riots in color are indulged in. For instance, on a circle of bread saute about the size of a half dollar is spread a thin layer of the caviare.

In the centre sits a fat olive, the stone, removed and the cavity filled with minced red pepper. This olive is cemented in place with a drop of bright red mayonnaise, and tiny dots of the brilliant mayonnaise edge the circumference of the bouchee. Another favorite morsel looks much like the familiar ivory domino, and is, in fact, hardly larger. Half the surface is covered with caviare and the other half with finely chopped pickled onions, very delicate in flavor.

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Little Gifts for Christmas.

Among the new, pretty things which may be made for Christmas are a dusting cloth holder, a linen traveling case, a lingerie ribbon holder, a simple laundry bag, a linen or leather bag for collars and a similar one for cuffs, or what is a little newer, flat cases for these, and children's clothes racks. Any of these useful presents may be made at two sittings, at the most, and many of them may be made in an evening.

Take the duster bag, for instance, Cretonne, inch-wide ribbon, and a square of cheese cloth with a few crocheted rings will make this attractive bag. Cover two circular pieces of cardboard, seven inches in diameter with the cretonne, on both sides and join them with the rings.

Through the rings run the ribbon and tie in a bow at the top where the bag is hung. Within the bag place three or four dusting cloths with feather-stitched hems. The laundry bag should be simple so that it will launder

easily. Conventional embroidery in a large pattern is in good taste, and one should hang them with washable cord rather than ribbon.

The traditional collar box with circular bottom is still in use for men's collars. Flat linen cases into which the freshly ironed cuffs may be slipped and fastened with a snap rather than a ribbon, will not appear too flimsy to the neat man.

The children's clothes racks are another class of novelties and give to the little man or woman an idea of neatness. Care should be taken that these are hung low in the closet so that the little people can reach them easily. The hangers may be of board, of metal or of padded cardboard, daintily scented and covered with linen work in cheerful, childish figures. The illustration from Mother Goose books may be utilized for a pattern. If made of board, the hanger may be elongated and little brass screw hooks fastened through. This will make for neatness and aid in self help, two things that cannot be too much emphasized in childish training. To make the ribbon holder, cover two pieces of cardboard of the same size as a bolt or ribbon, with flowered silk and place at either side of the bolt, with ribbons running through and fastening all together. This is also an applicable gift to a young mother who must run fresh ribbons in so many little garments.

Remember the Poor at Christmas.

From the Circle.

Nearly every church numbers among its members worthy persons who, while not absolutely impoverished, are nevertheless greatly in need of aid. Perchance it may be a fatherless family, an aged couple, or a lone widow who has seen better days, and whose pride forbids her from openly applying for assistance. To find these people and to aid without offending them is not an

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Loss of hair is caused by the scalp drying up, or losing its supply of moisture or nutriment, and when baldness occurs the scalp has simply lost all of its nourishment, leaving nothing for the hair to feed upon (a plant or even a tree would die under similar conditions).

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is laid a silver of green pepper, and a star cut from a green pepper decorates the center of each half.

The hostess in this idea is carried out in a little different combination of color, the white of a hard boiled egg mixed with mayonnaise taking the place of the chopped onion and slivers of bright red pickled beet or red peppers being substituted for the green.

Particularly the same brilliant color scheme shows a circle of bread saute almost entirely covered with a red star cut from a slice of impaled sausage. The stars are laid in log cabin style several tiny lengths of pickled gherkins, the whole topped with a sprig of water-cress.

On other little stars and circles of bread saute may be seen miniature fruit and vegetables fashioned out of Edam cheese and held in place either by a drop of colored mayonnaise or a little aspic. Cloves are stuck in as stems.

New Ideas for Entertaining.

It is not always necessary to spend a large sum of money or to give a large party to insure a good time at Christmas. Remember that the dinner of herbs and contentment therewith is better than the stalled ox and indigestion; so let laughter and simple joys abound. The dressing of the table may add much to the enjoyment of the Christmas dinner, and a novelty in this line is the suggestion of covering the table cloth with sheets of cotton wadding sprinkled with diamond dust.

A miniature Santa Claus, with cornucopias about him makes a good centerpiece. For a children's party attach narrow ribbon to the cornucopias and at the end of the feast let them pull the ribbon which runs to each plate. An addition to their enjoyment would be a little gift in the small end of each cornucopia.

Fishing for gifts instead of having them distributed from a tree creates merit and can be easily managed. The hostess in tying up the packages should put a wire loop on each one so that the fisher, from his stand on a chair, may meet with success. The gifts to be fished with are piled upon a prettily decorated table. For all such decorations the holly crepe paper is invaluable and held in place either by a drop of colored mayonnaise or a little aspic. The prettiest sort of a table covering.

Here is another suggestion, from the Ladies' World. It is called an animated album, and the idea is a reproduction of the family photograph album, common some years ago. This would be a suitable entertainment for the Young People's society or the Sunday school to give, and requires but little drilling.

Each person who is to take part in a proposed performance of this kind should, under the oversight of the committee entrusted with the management of the affair, choose for imitation, in dress, general appearance, speech and unusual conduct, one of the types of character represented in such a collection, which would include interesting specimens of humanity of assorted ages, sizes, callings and circumstances, from a ministerial country grandfather down to a long-frocked city baby.

Not only photographs presenting single subjects should be depicted, but plans should be made to have two or more individuals keep together, forming a living portraiture of an old man and his wife, side by side, a picture of two

quaintly-garbed children going hand-in-hand, a family group of the last generation, or an illustration of a case of four contemporaneous generations in one line.

Part of the program for the evening should be made up of contributions from the people present. For instance, a supposedly sentimental young woman, with long flowing curls, might warble a solo or recite a ballad or a scrap of poetry; two men or two women might engage in a dialogue concerning farm or town matters of church or domestic doings; some pretended school children might speak pieces in a baneful, awkward style, or sing some of the school songs of the period under consideration, or some of the musicians in the assembly might be prepared to render

some of the glee choruses of that day, or to draw a melody from the harp, the flute or the violin.

For further amusement, some of the old games, such as "Stage-Coach," "Spin the Platter," or "Going to Jerusalem," might be played by the whole company, and a spelling match might furnish one of the attractions of the gathering.

If the refreshments are to be served on a long table, after the fashion of a New England tea party, they should consist of tea, fresh biscuits and butter, chipped beef, baked or boiled custards in tall cups, pickles, preserved quinces or preserved ginger, fruit cake and several other kinds of cake, custard pie and apple pie. If the refreshments are to be passed around among the guests, there may be a simple collation, composed of doughnuts, crullers,

cookies, nuts and apples, or a more elaborate one, comprising creamed or fried oysters, chicken salad, sandwiches, cake and coffee. The party should break up with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

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