

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE:

A Very Happy New Year our dear members and many successes. Next month our Society will be seventeen years old. After a long unavoidable slumber during the war the Society started again its activities, but naturally did not reach its pre-war level. But we are slowly but surely reassembling our resources and gathering strength. Our idea and principal aims are the same: TO INSPIRE AND GUIDE THE BEGINNERS (STRUGGLERS) TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT ADVANCED STUDENTS AND TO LISTEN TO AND ADMIRE THE ACCOMPLISHED VIRTUOSI! Most of our sympathy is directed towards the "strugglers" because they are our future and our progress! Before the war our late Hon. Secretary Mr. J. White arranged our programmes in such a way that as a rule the beginners played first, followed by the advanced players and the concluding items performed by accomplished artists. These things cannot be returned to at once. Accomplished artists in our midst are at any rate temporarily not available. One of them is handicapped by old age, as a guitarist, and others by family and business obligations. Several live in the provincial towns or even abroad and out of reach for us. But all these difficulties are only a temporary hindrance. We have renewed already our connections with France, Argentina, U.S.A. Italy and Portugal and we have in our midst also very promising guitarists. To prove that, I promise the Society, that in the course of this year I shall present one of our members, a Londoner, who will give a Recital at our Hall performing classical concert pieces, some of which have never yet been published. And I am quite sure that many other pleasant surprises are in store for us. The Society needs your patience and support.

B. PEROTT

OUR ANNUAL NEW YEAR PARTY.

THIS WILL BE HELD AT THE ALLIANCE HALL, PALMER STREET, WESTMINSTER on JANUARY 5th at 6 p.m. to 10-30 p.m.

Mlle. Alice de Belleruche and many other members have promised to take part. Several provincial members (including the Welsh representative and the Bulletin Editor) hope to be present. A great time is anticipated.

THE NOVEMBER MEETING

This was the first meeting at our new home the Alliance Hall. The Hall is suitable in both name and character, with its fine oak panelling and good acoustics. Mr. Fuller whom we welcome on his return from war service played "Studio Poeticus" by Fortea and several 'encore' solos. Julian Bream followed with "Rondoletto" (Darr), Etude No 7 (Carcassi) and "Fragment" a gem by Shand. Mr. Moy Thomas sang to his own guitar accompaniment. Mr. Bream and others continued until tea was served by the lady members in our own canteen attached to the hall.

THE P.S.G. LIBRARY

Mr. Bream and Mrs. Edwards have now re-organised the library and borrowing may start from Jan. 1st 1946. The list of compositions has been arranged alphabetically, generally by composer's names, and members may borrow up to 6 items at a time for ONE MONTH. The fee for use of the Library is 5/- (extra to the 10/- annual sub.), but members who paid this 5/- for 1945 will not have to pay again for 1946.

"B.M.G."

Commencing with the January issue there will be a regular Spanish Guitar column in this magazine.

ARGENTINE

The guitar came to this country with the first Spanish Colonists, Jose de San Martin the national hero and Liberator played the guitar. No wonder, then, that there are at least three Guitar Societies in Argentine. The Buenos Aires music firm, Antigua Casa Nunez, have over 3,000 compositions for guitar in their price list, including 17 by the British composer Ernest Shand.

The following biographical sketch of our President, Dr. Perott will, I feel sure, interest members of P.S.G., especially those who have joined recently.

BORIS A. PEROTT M.D., Ph.D., Arch.D., born in St. Petersburg, the capital of Imperial Russia, residing in London since 1920, naturalised British subject, started to play the guitar in 1890 and was a pupil of the most celebrated Russian guitarists: J.F. Decker-Schenk, (1825-1899) and V.P. Lebedeff (1867-1907).

His first public appearance was in St. Petersburg in 1904, when he was recognised by the musical press and critics, as an accomplished artist. The same year he played with V.P. Lebedeff and V.A. Ivanoff before the Imperial Court and was honoured with the presentation of a gold watch by the Emperor. After the untimely death of Lebedeff, his widow chose Dr. Perott as her teacher to complete her study of the guitar. It took two years. Several of the other of the late Lebedeff's pupils did the same.

The period of many public concerts and innumerable private recitals lasted for seven years (1904-1911). His programmes as a rule consisted of compositions by: Decker-Schenk, Lebedeff, Polupaenko, Klinger, Stockman, Rubinstein, Rossini, Durant, Chopin, Carcassi, Mertz, Regondi, Schubert, Zani-di-Ferranti, Guigliani Mauro and Emilio, Legnani, Aguado, Coste, Petteletti and many others.

In 1929 he founded in London the Philharmonic Society of Guitarists, which included such names among its members as Segovia, Louise Walker, Romolo Ferrari, Pujol, Matilda Cuervas, Alfonso, Sanchez Granada, Professor Ortner, Heinrich Albert, Professor Prat, Vahdah Olcott Bickford and the late Conchita Supervia.

BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Domingo Prat. Diccionario de Guitaristas. P.244 /in Spanish/. Argentina 1936. Der Gitarrenfreund. Nos. 5/6, May-June 1931, and Nos. 11/12, 1929, Page 227 and 95. /In German/. Muzika Gitarista. /The Music of a Guitarist/ in Russian, published in Tumen, Siberia. No.3, 1910, page 37. "B.M.G." June 1931, p.422 and May 1937, p.188. The Authors' and Writers' Who's Who. Shaw Publishing Co. 1935-1936. p.427. The Freelance Register. Street & Massey. 1936, p.48.

Also in many local papers and magazines in several languages during Dr. Perott's extensive travels in Europe, East and Far East.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Professor Domingo Prat. We regret to announce the death of this famous Argentine guitarist. A memorial Concert was held, at which his daughter and other guitarists played his compositions.

Congratulations to our member Mr. Maurice Ashurst whose wife has presented him with a bonny daughter.

Manchester. Jack Duarte and Terry Usher gave their second guitar recital at Manchester Ballet Club on Dec. 16th. They are both writing music for the guitar in the classical style. A Northern Branch of P.S.G. has been formed. The first meeting will be held after the holidays. There is an extensive library of guitar music in the Henry Watson Music Library, Central Library, Manchester. Under the Regional Library Scheme, this can be obtained on loan through other Public Libraries.

Cheltenham A "P.S.G." Circle has been formed and will hold its first meeting on Jan. 26th.

Do not forget to send any guitar news to the Hon. Editor:-

Wilfrid M. Appleby, 47 Clarence Street, Cheltenham. Glos.

A HAPPY and HARMONIOUS NEW YEAR.