

GREATEST TEACHER OF VOCAL MUSIC

A Glance at the Life and Success of
Mme. Marchesi Who Died at
the Age of 85

At the age of 85 the Marquise Cavallere de Castrone della Rajata died in London. Under this name she was known to a few people only, but as Marchesi she was world-famous, and was recognized as the greatest teacher of singing since the time of Garcia, who was, by the way, her own teacher. More famous singers have passed through Mme. Marchesi's hands in forty or fifty years than through the hands of any other three teachers. From all parts of the world singers flocked to Vienna, to Paris or to London, where at one time or another she taught. In her advanced years Mme. Marchesi somewhat relaxed her efforts, but it remains true that as an old woman she continued to teach, although she used sometimes to complain of the grind. Why she did not retire before, since she found the work very exacting, is not easily understood. She commanded what fees she chose to ask from her pupils, and while as a rule she did not have more than fifty at a time, she might have had a thousand had she been willing to receive them.

A Fine Voice

When she was quite a young girl business reverses made it necessary for the family to become self-supporting, and one of Mathilde's sisters became a governess. Mathilde was thought to have a fine voice, but it was uncultivated. However, it was felt that her voice was her chief asset, and the governess saved up enough money to have it trained. Her first teacher was Nikilai, and later on she went to Garcia. She studied under him in Paris for four years, paying her tuition fees by teaching less advanced pupils. Before this time she had appeared in concerts several times, and always with success. She had promised her parents that she would not sing in grand opera, and so this great field in which she would have shone brilliantly was barred to her.

Some Early Pupils

Marchesi's chief success was made in London, still the home of the vocal concert, and here she met her future husband, the Marquis, an Italian refugee, who was passing under the name of Marchesi, and who was also a professional singer. After their marriage they continued to sing together. They were in Vienna in 1854, and so impressed were the critics with Mme. Marchesi's methods that she was offered a position as instructor of singing in the conservatory. So Mme. Marchesi retired from the stage and settled down as a teacher.

Melba Her Favorite

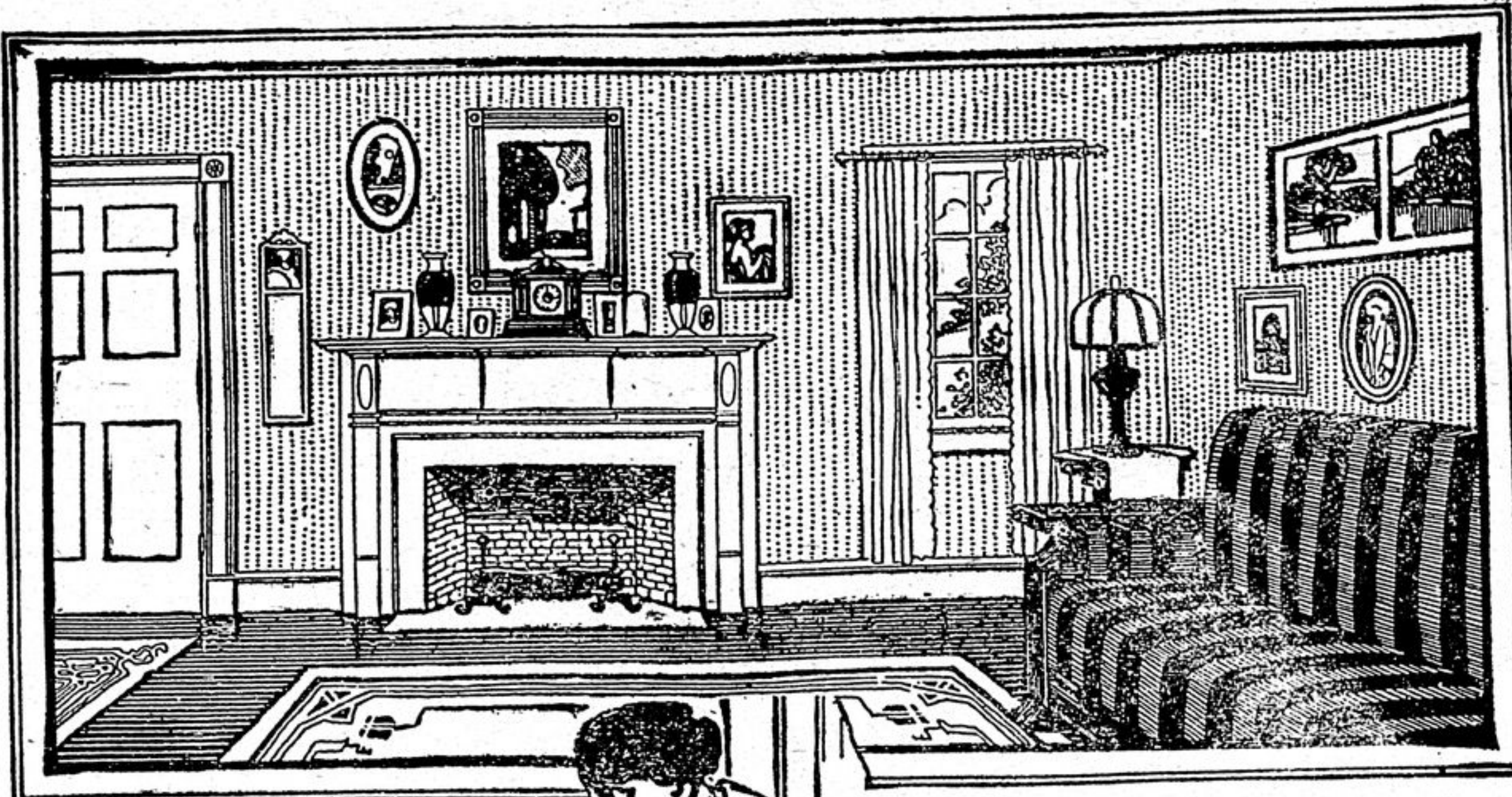
The fame of her pupils, the favorite being Melba, brought fame to Mme. Marchesi, and soon she decided to move to Paris. She limited herself to fifty pupils, and always taught them in classes, a practice which she continued as long as she taught, for she insisted that the only proper way to teach a girl to sing was in class. Her pupils were divided into little groups, being graded according to the quality of their voices and the length of their previous training, for practically all Mme. Marchesi's pupils were professionals when they went to her. Until the last couple of years of her life Mme. Marchesi rose every morning at 7.30, and at 8.30 received her first class. She gave lessons until noon, after which there was a recess until 1.30. Then until 5.30 she would teach. She was very fond of dining out, or of attending theatres and concerts; and now for fifty years she could work so hard in the daytime and enjoy herself so thoroughly in the evenings was one of the minor mysteries of Paris.

Rats in Plenty

There is said to be one rat to every acre of ground in England and Wales, causing a loss to farmers estimated at \$73,000,000 annually.

If exposed to extreme or rough weather, and wet or numb, undress in a warm room, rub off with a rough towel until the skin glows. Then go to bed and stay there several hours.

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Electricity in the Arctic

The first electric plant within the Arctic circle will be erected at a mission at Point Hope, Alaska, the power being supplied by a windmill.

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A Philadelphia electric company has made a novel advertisement by turning a powerful searchlight upon the streamers of steam that pour from the tall stacks of its centrally located power plant.

"Fashion Among Thieves

A man who was charged with house-breaking and stealing clothing at East Sussex Sessions, threw a dress-coat away because it was no use to him, being out of fashion.

"Damage by Rodents

Rats and mice in Great Britain do damage of \$100,000,000 each year.

Death acts as a sort of magnifying lens through which we focus the virtues of the departed.