

**THERE WAS PLENTY OF MUSIC ABROAD**

(Continued from Page Two)

accustomed. Grandeur was present but lacking in depth and the effect of the whole orchestra in fortissimo was something like the shattering of much glass. The Scots have the word "slithering" which might describe it. No doubt this is due in part to modern French orchestration, but I heard five or six of these concerts during the winter, at some of which Beethoven and Schumann symphonies were well played and the same impression always recurred. They seem to have a conception of tone which does not conform to standards to which we are accustomed. I noticed that the organ in Notre Dame was voiced so as to give the same effect when the organist "stepped on it," as the doughboy said. This difference in tone is caused by small bore brass instruments which they would not use unless they liked their tone. It seemed to me that their trumpets could hardly be improved. I believe that French trumpets are used in our orchestras. In spite of these things which are after all matters of taste—and ours no doubt has been formed on German models—the Lamoreaux orchestra is a wonderful organization, equal, if you can except their idea of the brass section, to our best orchestras. I heard them repeatedly and although the orchestra is badly placed in a hall not particularly advantageous for such concerts, my admiration increased with each hearing. Shall I ever forget a performance of the "Fifth Brandenburg Concerto" by Bach! Maybe there is more beauty somewhere in some form than was revealed on this occasion but at the time it did not seem possible. I had come in from the cold and wet of North Finistere, where we had been playing for the aviation camps along the coast. It is not lovely there in the winter months. No doubt the contrast sharpened the effect and heightened my appreciation, but Bach has to be well played and when the inspiration is present to the musician it is a labor of love as it was to these artists that afternoon. By the way, they did lots of Bach, Beethoven, Haydn, Mozart and Schumann at these and other good orchestra concerts in Paris that winter and the chamber music recitals were past

enumerating. At the latter the classics and modern French went about fifty-fifty on the program. Modern French compositions rather predominated on the orchestral programs.

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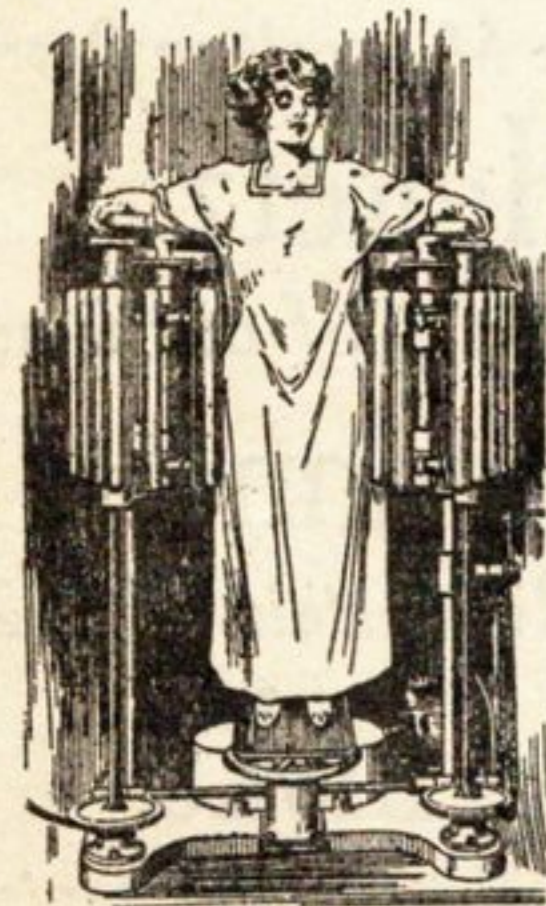
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