

BERLIN

Mrs. William Morris Davis, the wife of the Harvard Exchange-professor, gave an exceedingly interesting informal talk before the members of the Ladies' Union on Tuesday afternoon on the "Summer Playgrounds at Cambridge." Mrs. Davis gave illuminating insight into the good work done by those who are "taking hold" in this splendid effort to provide the children of the masses in Cambridge with grounds to play during the summer months.

Mrs. Davis gave her account of the summer playground movement in an entertaining, conversational manner, and was listened to with the greatest interest throughout. The President of the Ladies' Union, Dr. Luce, in referring to the philanthropic work described, made use of the quotation, "Never forget to lay emphasis upon the necessity not only of making a living but of making a life."

Professor and Mrs. William Morris Davis entertained about thirty-five American guests on Monday at their informal reception, held in the tastefully-decorated drawing-rooms of the Pension Steinplatz. Mrs. David Jayne Hill, the wife of the American Ambassador, Colonel J. P. Wissler, the American military attaché and Consul-General and Mrs. Thackara were amongst the many representative Americans present.

The American Woman's Club requests us to announce that Miss Barber will give a course of five lectures for the benefit of the Club on consecutive Thursday mornings, at eleven o'clock, beginning on Thursday, March 4.

- The subjects of the course will be as follows:— 1. Thursday, March 4. . . . "The French Salons." 2. . . . "Lady Mary Montague." 3. . . . "Vittoria Colonna." 4. . . . "Caroline the Illustrious." 5. . . . "Florence Nightingale."

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Sir Edward Grey, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in reply to a question put by Mr. Ashley, Conservative member for N. Lancashire, as to whether any steps had been taken by England, independently or in combination with the Powers, to bring about a peaceful settlement of the questions in dispute between Austria-Hungary, Serbia, and Montenegro, said that various communications had been recently exchanged between the Powers, including Great Britain, to bring about a peaceful settlement.—To a further question by Mr. Ashley, whether Sir Edward Grey could, without unfavourably affecting the negotiations, give the House any information as to the course which they had taken, the Secretary of State replied in a negative sense.

Answering a question in reference to a speech made by the Secretary of State for War on the 20th of February last on the subject of the Imperial army, the Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith, said: "What Mr. Haldane proposed, with respect to the defence of the country, was only to give a suitable organisation to material which had long been in existence and which was composed of Volunteer corps formed on the principles approved by Parliament."

Sir Edward Grey, in reply to a question about Persia, said the issue of an Amnesty decree was one of the suggestions that were under consideration, with the object of securing the pacification of Persia.

Mrs. Bennett's American Home. Bellevue Str. 12a, BERLIN.

The criticism in The Daily Record (No. 931) of Paul Juon's latest work, a trio the inspiration for which the Russian composer derived from the Swedish writer Selma Lagerlôf's "Gösta Berling," was evidently carefully read by one of our esteemed subscribers in Berlin who sent us a cutting from the New York Sun of February 11, containing a really amusing criticism of the same trio.

WEIRD MUSIC BY MR. JUON. AN ALARMING TONAL DISTURBANCE IN MENDELSSOHN HALL—MODERNISM RUNS RIOT.

Before giving the text we would remind our readers that progress is not always recognised as such, especially by musical critics. Robert Schumann, a musician of no mean order, laughed at Wagner's music and criticised it in the famous Neue Zeitschrift für Musik as rubbish.

The weather cleared up last night when the Hess-Schroeder Quartet came to town and gave its second concert at Mendelssohn Hall. It was fortunate that it did so, because if there had been a gale of wind outside while the tonal earthquake was going on inside Mendelssohn's walls would certainly have crumbled.

Mr. Juon acknowledges that the source of his inspiration was the "Gösta Berling" of Selma Lagerlôf. We have never read the work, but if Mr. Juon's tonal picture of it is a faithful reproduction it must be a harrowing tale. The trio is a direful concatenation of sounds, few of which seem to have any kindly feeling for one another.

This trio incited the three musicians to deeds of violence. The two gentlemen with bows whipped their instruments as with knouts, while Mr. Schelling, rising gloriously to the occasion, went at it with bare hands and pummeled the piano to the ropes in each of the three rounds.

Once in a while an image or an eidolon of a theme poked its innocent face through the blood red bars of the polyphony, but Mr. Juon is an iconoclast and he can slay any theme with one stroke of a chord of the infuriated Cossack ninth. In this trio he does it every time. There were only a few themes, but they all died the death. The three musicians seemed to revel in the chaste and general slaughter.

INDISPOSITION OF THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND.

Queen Alexandra was not well enough to be present at the Drawing Room on Tuesday, but was better yesterday. No bulletins will be issued.

THE UNION OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

At the annual meeting of the Union of Chambers of Commerce today, a discussion took place on a resolution proposed by the Belfast Chamber of Commerce, affirming that the country ought to free itself from the rigid system of Free Trade, and advocating a widening of the basis of taxation and reform of the financial system. The voting showed that 46 Chambers were in favour of the resolution and 31 against it, while 32 abstained from voting.

EUROPEANS IN ABYSSINIA.

The representatives of foreign Powers have urged the Ethiopian Government to make all due provision for the safety and protection of the Embassies and Europeans in case of a change of rulers. The Ethiopian Government, through the Minister of War, Fitaourari Apte Giorgis, has given a perfectly satisfactory answer; with the assurance that no disturbances nor other complications are likely to occur in Adis Abeba in case of a change of rulers, and that at all events the Embassies and Europeans would be effectually protected.

CHURCH SERVICES: BERLIN.

St. GEORGE'S CHURCH, Monbijou Garten. Second Entrance: Oranienburger Strasse 76B. Sundays: 9 a.m. Celebration of Holy Communion. 11 a.m. Matins and Sermon (followed by a second Celebration on 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday in the month).

Walter Norman, opera-singer, BERLIN, Barbarossa Strasse 23. Dramatic instruction. Plastic movements for the stage, mimicry, etc.

BERLIN CURRENT ENTERTAINMENTS.

Table listing current entertainments in Berlin, including Royal Opera House, Deutsches Theatre, Lessing Theatre, Berliner Theatre, and others with their respective programs and times.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMERCE AND TRADE IN BERLIN. Berlin W. 8. Friedrich Strasse 59/60. MOST COMPLETE COMMERCIAL READING ROOM IN Germany. Americans welcome.

THE NEAR EAST.

STATE BANQUET IN BELGRADE. SPEECH BY THE KING. Belgrade, March 2. At the State banquet given yesterday by the King in honour of the new Ministry, the King announced a pardon for all political prisoners, in a speech in which he first, as a Serb and as Sovereign, welcomed the rapprochement of all the political parties in Serbia of which the present Government was composed.

A BELATED DEMENTI.

Bucharest, March 2. The Agence Roumaine is officially authorised to contradict the report published in foreign journals (on Sunday last) of the mobilisation of an Army Corps on the Servian frontier.