



Aufnahme um 1 Uhr nachts
Taken at 1 a. m.

Nachtsitzung im Haag
Night sitting at the Hague

very late in life. It is not everyone who plays a part in public life that has known from the very beginning that he would sometime play such a part. Such a moment came in the life of Dr. Salomon, when he suddenly realised the chance that was being offered him. This was, five years ago, the discovery of the intense light objective in photography.

When we consider the consequences of this invention, it is easy to understand why it was decisive for Erich Salomon's career. How unnatural and forced were the pictures made in the days of flash-light photography; how unnatural and forced the stares of the unfortunate subjects portraited from "left to right" with the eternally typical "photographic" expression.

Since the invention of the intense light objective, everything has altered. Photography has been freed from its shackles. Instead of being dependent upon the objective, the photographer seeks his own objects, independent of space and light. When we compare the pictures which Erich Salomon has taken on the basis of this new technique with those made "to order", that is to say, with the knowledge of the subjects, then the difference becomes most glaringly apparent. Let us take as an example, two portraits of Richard Strauss. The one shows him at a moment when he is not yet aware that the camera lens is fixed upon him. The other, several minutes later, is taken after he has put himself in position, in full consciousness of his official significance. The picture is not a bad one, but in contrast to the former portrait, it has that fixity of expression which always distinguishes posed pictures from snapshots.

Enough has been said to show wherein the remarkable, the original feature of the new photographic technic consists. It is the art of presenting the psychologically important and interesting



Dr. Wilhelm Furtwängler
während einer Symphonie von
Haydn in der Berliner Phil-
harmonie

Dr. Wilhelm Furtwängler during
the performance of a Haydn
Symphonie the Philharmonic
Hall, Berlin

