

the form of a musical prelude. It is a very fascinating piece of music with an exotic, languorous atmosphere that no other composer has achieved.

We may consider this composer as the most poetic and original of present music writers, with striking cantatas and symphonic poems. He also wrote a few operas, besides smaller works.

Such modern composers as Tschai-kowsky (see THE YOUNG CITIZEN for July, 1941) and Debussy have literally created tonal coloring of the symphony orchestra of which Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven did not dream. The melodies of Wagner and Debussy are more exciting than the simpler patterns of Haydn, Mozart, and Schubert. But it is worth remembering that each kind of music was thoroughly satisfying to the public in its day.

There is realism as well as beauty in other orchestral works of Debussy such as *The Sea*, and two nocturnes called *Clouds* and *Fetes* which have been played in Manila by the Manila Symphony Orchestra. In the program notes of the concert given on September 9, 1941 by the Manila Symphony Orchestra, a critic has this to say regarding Debussy's composition *Clouds* (*Nuages*): "In this lovely impressionistic fragment, Debussy does not attempt to point a picture of clouds moving through the sea of heaven, but rather to evoke such a mood as might come upon one who gazes upon the slow and solemn passage of the clouds dissolving into a grey vagueness tinged with white."

And of the composition *Fetes*, these notes are printed: "*Fetes* is an unforgettable example of the quality in music that accomplishes meaning and suggestions quite beyond words. The music seems to come from the shadowy distance.

Swiftly dancing figures, whirling in complete abandon, crowd and jostle on the scene, lost in the joy of sensuous movement. Swiftly they disappear, and the scene fades."

In his piano music of a serious nature Debussy includes many picturesque titles, such as *The Girl with the Flaxen Hair*, *Goldfish*, *Gardens in the Rain*, *The Submerged Cathedral*, *Moonlight*, *Reflections in the Water*, *Evening in Granada*, etc.

It is Debussy who has given real individuality to French piano music, and his novel effects of tonal coloring, suggesting gray, cloudlike backgrounds and blurred outlines, represent something unique in music, thus far defying imitation by any other composer. He is primarily a composer of program music, and most of his pieces have descriptive titles such as those given above.

Debussy uses many dissonances in his compositions, but his music is now accepted as well written, and his original genius is unquestioned. In some compositions he uses the whole-tone scale. The modern whole-tone scale, as its name im-

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### THIRTY FEET! HOW MANY DO YOU KNOW?

HOW MANY of the animal's feet shown in the picture on the next page can you name? Try first, then check with the following list. In the first row from left to right they are: horse, elephant, eagle, newt, ostrich, camel; second row: chimpanzee, tiger, duck, shrew, lizard, beetle; third row: sloth, bear, locust, flamingo, platypus, crab; fourth row: peccary, spider, giraffe, frog, armadillo, ox; fifth row: kangaroo, tortoise, squirrel, iguana, mouse, gecko.

ELEMENTARY SCIENCE SECTION

THIRTY FEET! HOW MANY DO YOU KNOW?

