

*Intermezzo* from *Cavalleria*. I hope that Columbia will give us some more of Mahler. We gramophone lovers are simple creatures, and we enjoy records like this.

L.1799. Beethoven's *Egmont Overture*. One disc, 6s. 6d. The same conductor and orchestra.

This is a magnificent record, and makes any fresh recording of the *Egmont Overture* superfluous for the present. Other companies please note.

9137. Coleridge-Taylor's *Christmas Overture*. One disc, 4s. 6d. Percy Pitt conducting the B.B.C. Wireless Symphony Orchestra.

Rather dreary jig-saw music.

9138. A. W. Ketelbey's *A Dream of Christmas* (Fantasy) and *Sanctuary of the Heart* (Meditation Religioso). One disc, 4s. 6d. Composer conducting the Court Symphony Orchestra.

Zoological Gardens music with effects.

L.1800-01-02. Saint-Saëns's *Violoncello Concerto*. 19s. 6d. W. H. Squire and the Hallé Orchestra conducted by Sir Hamilton Harty.

A beautiful performance by the soloist, and a fine piece of recording, but as a composition I am not very fond of it. Although an early work, it is spoilt by a kind of aridity, and it is all too slick. However, that may be a temperamental opinion, and my readers may enjoy it very much.

HIS MASTER'S VOICE.

C.1287-88. *Scheherazade*. Two discs, 9s. Eugene Goossens conducting the Royal Covent Garden Orchestra.

A splendid record from every point of view, and I hope that the support of popular prices is being such that H.M.V. will feel justified in persevering with this concession.

D.1129. Holst's *Jupiter*. One disc, 6s. 6d. Albert Coates conducting the Symphony Orchestra.

Splendid recording, of course, but I like it the least of *The Planets*, and at the present moment it seems superfluous.

D.1128. Debussy's *L'Après-midi d'un Faune*. One disc, 6s. 6d. Sir Landon Ronald conducting the Royal Albert Hall Orchestra.

I prefer the new Columbia records of this, though that is not to be taken as any criticism of the quality of this version.

C.1294-6. Schubert's *Unfinished Symphony*. Three discs, 13s. 6d. Eugene Goossens conducting the Royal Covent Garden Orchestra.

Nobody could wish for a better record of this main gate to good music, and once more please note the price.

D.1138-39. *Tannhäuser Overture* and *Dance of the Apprentices*. Two discs, 13s. Albert Coates conducting the Symphony Orchestra.

My impression is that the conductor said to himself "Hang it, I really cannot conduct the *Tannhäuser Overture* again," for this is Coates on an off-day. It cannot be compared with the Mengelberg record issued by Columbia.

D.1130-31-32-33. Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto in B flat minor*. Complete in album, 26s. Mark Hambourg and the Royal Albert Hall Orchestra, conducted by Sir Landon Ronald.

This record from start to finish is magnificent. Mark Hambourg, when he chooses, is a great pianist, but he is just as likely to give a bad performance for the gramophone as a good one. Here he is at his best the whole time. At last we have a piano concerto which shows what a piano concerto ought to sound like, and Sir Landon's handling of the orchestra is quite masterly. Personally, I should call it Tchaikovsky's greatest work. It never conveys an impression of exacerbated nerves, and while it is full of lovely melodies, it never degenerates into sentimentality, or into that odious whining to which the composer became so prone. I feel inclined to put this performance as the finest achievement of recording during 1926. But I hope people won't try to play it on a portable.

PARLOPHONE.

E.10498-99-500. Haydn *Symphony No. 13, in G*. Three discs, 13s. 6d. George Széll conducting the Berlin State Opera House Orchestra.

This is the same symphony as the one numbered 88 when recorded by Polydor. I have heard Koussevitzky conduct it magnificently, but even with that performance in my mind I got the keenest pleasure out of this recording, and if it is the Parlophone swan song of the old methods, as I imagine, it is a very lovely swan song.

E.10508-09. *Tristan and Isolde, Prelude, and Liebestod*. Two discs, 9s. Siegfried Wagner conducting the Berlin State Opera House Orchestra.

Electric recording springs like Minerva fully armed from the December bulletins of the Parlophone Company. I shall refer to it in some general remarks at the end of this article. But here is this marvellous music now at the disposal of every gramophone, new or old.

E.10510-11. Schubert's *Rosamunde Overture* and on the fourth side the *Serenade* played by Dajos Bela's String Orchestra. Two discs, 9s. George Széll conducting the Berlin State Opera House Orchestra.

There is no need for any other company to record the delicious *Rosamunde* music after this,