

Whirls Through Foreign Circles

We are indebted to Miss Audrey Peppe for this account of the British Championships. "The British Championships on December 13 were most interesting; both school figures and free skating for men and women were held on the same day, as well



CECILIA COLLEDGE*

as the pairs. There were eight girls in the Ladies' event and they all maintained a very high standard in the school figures. Cecilia Colledge, the Champion for the fourth time, is now doing very small figures, but they are very well made. Megan Taylor, who was

second, does large circles with lovely turns.

"The men did their free skating first. Graham Sharpe, who won the title for the fifth time, did marvelous figures and got many points ahead of Freddie Tomlins, but Freddie's jumps are extraordinary and his spins are done terribly fast. He is easily one of the best free skaters in Europe and has been Graham's closest rival for years. Freddie was second and Geoffrey Yates, who was on the 1936 British Olympic Team, was third.

"In the Ladies, Megan skated first and did very well. The surprise of the evening was thirteen-year-old Daphne Walker, a pupil of Nicholson's. She did all the things her competitors did, and then some more, and she received higher marks than Megan. She was given six for performance and six for difficulty by one judge. It is safe to say that Daphne will one day be World's Champion. She finished third. Cecilia skated a flawless program, but her music was a bit too heavy.

"Mr. and Mrs. Cliff won the pairs for the fifth time, and Daphne Wallis and R. J. Wilkie, the famous English dance pair,

were second. It was all very exciting and I am very happy that I was able to see these championships."

Harrison Thompson of Montreal, who is now skating professionally in London, writes of these Championships along the same lines as Miss Peppe; a few excerpts from his letter follow: "The little Walker girl 'wowed' them! A real cheer rent the air as she finished. She is only thirteen but free skates as easily as the Caleys. An innovation—and a good one; while the marks where being re-added to make sure there were no errors in the lower places, the two champions gave the waiting public an exhibition of school figures—thus giving the uneducated a chance of seeing the mysterious 'figures' that count so much.

"I was in 'Rhapsody on Ice' which only ran a few weeks and now am in 'Marina,' which is doing splendidly. It has variety acts on the stage between ice numbers, this tends to break the monotony of too much skating; even the best skating gets monotonous—look at the championships. The setting for 'Marina' is very interesting, it is in a regular rink with large seating capacity and is placed lengthwise in the rink, only half the seats being used. The whole thing can be lifted to the ceiling when they have hockey games."

Emmy Andersen sends us news of skating in Paris. "Skating is flourishing here. The Pathe News and Fox Movitone have both taken films of skaters at the Molitor rink (the artificial outdoor rink where I am teaching). Fox Movitone is now showing the Sonja film, 'Thin Ice,' which is called 'Prince X' here. To advertise the film they arranged a competition at the Molitor for children under sixteen. We had a dozen competitors; some very good. My little pupil, Sibylle de Fuylen, who was first, is only seven but she is marvelous for her age.

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The third prize was won by another of my pupils, eleven-year-old Lucy Curtis. We are looking forward to the opening of the 'Mogador' show at Christmas. The 'Mogador' is a music-hall; the show will be in three acts with only the middle act on ice. Maria Belitta, who starred in 'Rhapsody on Ice', and most of the chorus from that show, will come over from London to take part in this revue. A new rink will open very soon; it is to be an open air rink but can be enclosed by a sliding roof when the weather does not permit outdoor skating. This will make four rinks in Paris, as we already have the Palais de Glace, the Palais des Sports, and the Molitor."

The following items on Austrian skating have been sent in by Mr. Harry Hirsch of New York. "The skating season in Europe is in full swing, skaters travelling from one country to another to give exhibitions. The Austrians and Germans are especially busy. The Weiner Eislauf Verein produced an ice

review, which was shown to packed houses for a whole week in Vienna and then sent to Prague to skate before 10,000 people in an open air rink. 150 club skaters participated. The review is scheduled to appear in Germany also. Not to be outdone the Engelmänn club also staged a revue called 'the Festival of the Nations'. In this, Erich Pausin did an Argentine tango, which critics raved about. Other numbers were a Chinese dance and the American Foxtrot by Wagner and Staniek, a pair which Karl Schaefer thinks has a great future; a Viennese waltz by eight girls including Emmy Putzinger, Hanne Nierenberger, Martha Musilik, and five others; a Dutch children's serenade; and the ice comedian, Franz Henhapel, as the 'Wonder from the Far East'. About six new outdoor artificial rinks have been built in Germany, all have the same piping system used in the rinks here and are so constructed that the rink can be used even if the temperature is about freezing. The seating capacity is usually about 10,000."

Willy Boeckl

on

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