

melodies, arranged in modern manner, which are known and appreciated outside Iceland.

Of other now living composers who have won appreciation within the country's frontiers the following may be mentioned: Bjarni Thorsteinsson, Arni Thorsteinsson, Sigvaldi Kaldalóns, and Páll Ísólffsson (the composer of a cantata for the millennial festivities 1930). — Jón Leifs has for a number of years lived in Germany. He has made a close study of Icelandic folk melodies, on which he has written a good deal. He has also composed a few orchestral pieces.

*Dramatic Art.* About dramatic art in Iceland there is not much to say, for up to the present day it has only existed in school and amateur theatricals. The first play, so far as known, was acted by the boys of the Reykjavík Grammar School about 1791. These activities of the school boys came to an end some ten or fifteen years later, and were not resumed till about the middle of last century, from which time and to the close of the century it was usual for them to perform some piece or other in the Christmas holidays. From about the 'fifties comedies began to be acted by the younger members of society in Reykjavík, and in 1897 the *Leikfélag Reykjavíkur* (the Reykjavík Dramatic Society) was formed. The society has during the greater part of its existence enjoyed some pecuniary support both from the State and the municipality. It has laid great stress on producing plays of acknowledged literary merit, and on the whole done good work, considering the difficulties with which it has had to grapple.

There is no national theatre in Iceland; but since 1923 a 10-20 per cent. tax has been placed on entertainments, and set aside as fund for which a theatre is to be built in the near future. At the beginning of the present year this fund amounted to some 400 000 kr.