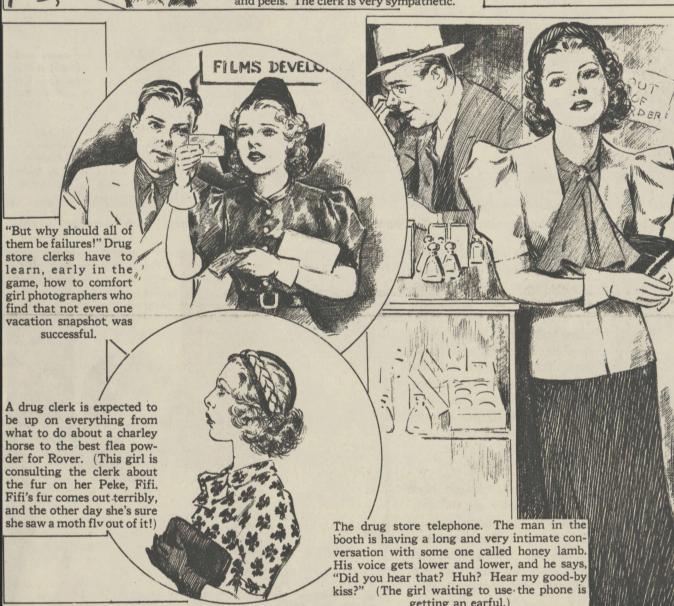
DRUG STORE PATRONS

By W. E. Hill







Prodigies in Music



The death of George Gershwin served once more to swing the spotlight onto those in the musical world whose brilliant careers have been made colorful by an element of the unusual. Most spectacular of recent debuts was that of Betty Jaynes when, in 1936, she stepped into the role of Mimi in the Chicago Civic Opera's production of "La Boheme." Then only 15, she had been studying music just two years. She was born Betty Jane Schultz, in Chicago.



So chubby and small that her piano had to be slung close to the floor, Ruth Slenczynsky in 1931 mustered all the precocious dignity her six years could provide and cast a spell over a packed Berlin music hall with the imagination and brilliance of her debut concert. Two years later, with all the poise of a diva, she was playing a normal sized piano, and demonstrating an amazingly mature understanding of her art.



Earlier this year Chicago critics hailed Ruggiero Ricci as a seasoned musician, a scintillating performer. It was a continuation of praise sung eight years before when as a child of 8 he startled the musical world with the poetic virtuosity of his playing. His later violin studies were sponsored for some time by the Frederick
H. Bartletts of Chicago.



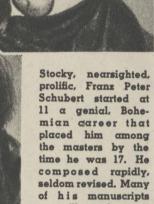
Husky, assured, wealthy, Yehudi Menuhin is resting in seclusion now on a California ranch after a career that packed his 20 years with honors. He had made his debut in 1924 when seven years old. At ten he played with the New York Symphony. With him here is his sister, Hephzibah, three years younger, herself an internationally known pianist.



In 1887 a modest, chubby fingered boy of 11 from Poland, veteran of six years of European concerts. toured triumphantly through 52 American piano engagements to the amazement of critics and the horror of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Barred from further concert work, Josef Casimir Hofmann studied under Russia's great Anton Rubinstein, and emerged at 16 a mature musician.







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Another modern, Jascha Heifetz, developed from a widely praised prodigy into one of America's top ranking violinists. When he was 9 he thrilled St. Petersburg, Russia, with his ability. At 16 he moved to America, launching his career in earnest.