

A Veteran Musician.

On March 17 last Manuel Garcia, universally known as the greatest teacher of singing of the past century, celebrated his 99th birthday.

In the strictest retirement, but in full possession of his wonderful faculties, he lives at his picturesquely named house, "Mon Abri," in Cricklewood, England.

Since 1848 Mr. Garcia, who was born in Madrid, has lived in England, and it is by our usual titles of "Mr. and Mrs." that he and his wife are known to their friends. Most people, however, persist in Italianising his name to Signor Garcia.

His host of pupils number among them such favourites as Jenny Lind and Chas. Santley. The last pupil he taught after his retirement from active work as a professor of the Royal Academy of Music was Mr. Sterling Mackinlay, the son of his old friend and pupil, Mme. Antoinette Sterling.

His two sisters—the famous Malibran and Pauline Viardot—achieved great distinction in opera. They were the first to give grand opera in America. The latter is still living in Paris, and is about 10 years younger than Mr. Garcia.

The venerable musician comes of a long-lived family, his mother living to a great age. Mrs. Garcia attributes her husband's long life to the fact that he has always been engaged in congenial work. He has also been always blessed with that priceless boon, a sound digestion.

Three years ago he wintered in Egypt, and since this visit he has been very little beyond his garden.

His last public appearance was at a meeting of the Laryngological Society last year, when he made a speech. Fifty years ago he invented the laryngoscope primarily for the purpose of studying the mechanism of the human voice. It has been the means, however, of opening up a great advance in surgery.

By the mirrored image of the throat and windpipe it has been possible for surgeons to accomplish that which before necessitated an incision being made in the front of the throat.

Among various gifts which has been presented to Mr. Garcia is a silver tea service, which many eminent doctors gave as a slight recognition of his services to surgery by this simple invention.

Mr. Garcia was present at Cambridge in 1877 on the occasion when Brahms and Joachim were presented with honorary degrees. He remembers the delight with which he heard Brahms' "First Symphony" there for the first time. He also remembers the first performance in England of Bizet's "Carmen," when Minnie Hauk, the American soprano, took the part of the wayward gipsy.

Mr. Garcia still has the greatest affection for everything Spanish, and loves to be read to in that musical tongue. He is a capital chess player.



MISS ALICE KIRBY (of the Lyric Theatre, London). Who may come to the colonies under engagement to Mr. J. C. Williamson.



THE VISIT OF THE KING AND QUEEN TO CHATSWORTH—THE HOUSE PARTY.

The group includes the King and Queen, the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, Consuelo, Duchess of Manchester, Countess Gosford, Earl Percy, Earl and Countess Howe, Princess Henry of Pless, the Hon. Mrs. Keppel, Mr. Leo Trevor, Count Menadorff, Sir Hedworth Williamson, Lord Elcho, Mr. F. Midway, M.P., the Earl and Countess of Mar and Kellie, Lord H. Vane Tempest, Mr. W. James, Lord Stanley, and Mr. A. Sussan.

(The Duke and Duchess again entertained their Majesties this month at Llamore Castle, Ireland, a picture of which appears in this issue.)