

TEMPO

A QUARTERLY REVIEW OF MODERN MUSIC

RICHARD STRAUSS

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Dr. Richard Strauss, and we offer respectful condolence to his widow, Frau Pauline de Ahna Strauss, to whom he had been married for fifty-five years, and to his son and daughter-in-law.

Strauss celebrated his eighty-fifth birthday on 10th June, making his first visit to his former home at Garmisch-Partenkirchen for this occasion. He was in good health at the time and continued thus until two weeks before he died, when he suffered repeated heart attacks. Even so, the news of his passing came as a shock to many of those who knew him well. He had been ill before, fatally ill, as it seemed, and yet had made a miraculous recovery. Almost, a legend of immortality was growing up about him, to which he himself contributed by his continuing creative urge, and by the curious, serene detachment with which he viewed his own life and achievements.

Many of his obituarists have shown themselves singularly ill-informed about their subject, and we may be sure that the judgment of posterity will be more broadly based than theirs. It will be the task of the biographer to aid in the formulation of that judgment, both as regards the true character of the man himself and the place of his work in the musical history of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It is at least satisfactory to know that the fullest possible documentation is available to that end, and that in the circle of his immediate family and friends he was, to the last, unconstrained and self-revealing.

This issue of TEMPO is the first of two that will be devoted to Béla Bartók and his work. In the following pages we try to give a clear impression of the man—through his own words, through the words of people who knew him, through photographs (some of which have never been published before). We acknowledge gratefully the help we have received from Dr. George Buday, of the Hungarian Cultural Institute in London, who made available to us the invaluable “Bartók Béla Valogatott Zenei Irásai,”* published last year in Budapest.

**Selected Musical Writings of Béla Bartók*, edited by A. Szollosy, published by Magyar Korus, Budapest, 1948.