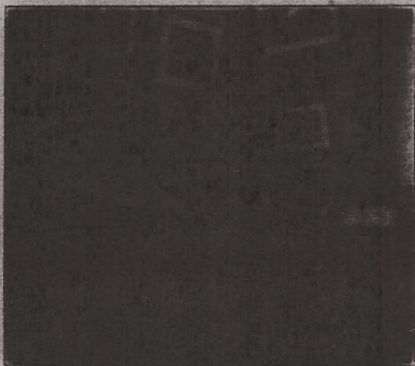


"Berenice," Magnard's opera now playing at the Opera Comique, has caused more talk than any work that has been given here for a long time. When it was first an-

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Alberic Magnard, Eugene Ysaye, J. Giry Ropartz.  
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nounced there was a howl because the composer had dared to set music to the "divine" verses of the "immortal" Racine. Magnard denied this charge, stating that the libretto was not taken from Racine but was his own. When the work was finally performed it was found to be musically magnificent and dramatically rather slow. Paris is now divided into two camps: those who fight for the music and those who object to this "dramatized symphony" occupying the stage. Magnard is a son of the former director of the Figaro and a great friend of Eugene Ysaye. Madame Merentie as Berenice and M. Swolfs as Titus have earned a well deserved success in the proposed roles. Finally it is worthy of mention that "Madama Butterfly," which was scheduled for last Thursday, was taken off "by request of the boxholders" to make room for "Berenice."