

# Young Composers Helped At Tri-State Symposium

by Edith M. Keller

Miss Keller, "America's First Lady of Music Education," was for thirty-five years state supervisor of music in Ohio. She has long been a trustee of this library. The latest of her many honors is the Award of Merit for Outstanding Work Done for Music Education and for the Ohio Federation of Music Clubs, recently presented to her by that Federation.

**O**HIO AGAIN has been in the lead in sponsoring a musical event of national significance. In cooperation with Michigan and Indiana, the other members of the Great Lakes District of the National Federation of Music Clubs, Ohio originated and presented the Tri-State Orchestral Composers symposium, March 23-25, designed to encourage and support American music. It aimed to bring to the public the orchestral music of promising young composers who have not had the opportunity of hearing their music performed.

Mlle. Nadia Boulanger of Fontainebleau, France, world-renowned teacher and conductor, was the symposium guest and visiting critic. Young composers from the three states were invited to sub-

mit manuscripts for reading to obtain the benefit of the suggestions of Mlle. Boulanger. An orchestra of 60 selected players under Evan Whallon, director of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, was financed by a grant from the Recording Industries Performance Trust Fund.

Forty-three manuscripts were submitted, from which a committee of judges chose 14 for reading. Six were then selected for a concert in Mershon Auditorium at which time the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, awarded *in absentia* to Mlle. Boulanger at the Winter Quarter Commencement, was presented in person by President Novice Fawcett of this University. Seven Ohio composers had their works read.

They were Walter Halen, Hamilton, a graduate student at Ohio State University; Howard Whittaker, Cleveland, head of the Cleveland Music School Settlement; Arthur Hunkins, Athens, graduate student at the University of Michigan; Eunice Lea Kettering, Ashland, now living in Santa Fe, New Mexico; Paul Brink, graduate student at Ohio State University; John White, Kent, teacher of composition at Kent State University; Robert Haskins, Springfield, graduate student and teacher at Wittenberg University.