Dr. Caspar P. Koch.

Dr. Caspar Petrus Koch... city organist... whose Sunday afternoon recitals at Northside Carnegie Music Hall... have given pleasure to thousands... was born in Carrup, in the Rhineland, Germany... November 26, 1877... one of seven children... father was a merchant... there was no church in the village... and the family walked three miles to Alkenes... to attend services... the organist fascinated the lad... then five years old... and mother repeatedly ordered him... to face the altar... family came to America in 1881... settling at Alton, Illinois... there he attended grade school... and when 11... took his first music lesson... studying violin... and later piano and organ... under the church organist... a year later his teacher took sick... and the younger became church organist... no one else in town could play... when 16 he entered St. Francis College... to continue his musical studies... already had decided to become an organist... played baseball on the college team... an enormous outcurve making him the star pitcher... and during the season he played... the college didn't lose a game... music teacher made him give it up... fearing he might injure his fingers... completed the four-year course in three years... and at 19... on graduating... became organist of Holy Trinity Catholic Church... Pittsburgh... where he remained for 33 years... with the exception of two years in Europe... where he studied organ, piano and composition under noted masters... at the Rattmann School of Church Music... was named highest honor student... at 30... years of the school's existence... he came back to America... and was appointed Northside city organist... in 1904... the same year he married Myra Stengelberger... daughter of his college music teacher... whom he had met at St. Francis... has three sons and a daughter... joined the Duquesne University faculty in 1909... and taught piano and organ until 1914... when he accepted a similar post... at Carnegie Tech... holds an honorary degree of Doctor of Music... from Duquesne... and has a half dozen medals... presented in recognition of his services... as organist and teacher... has given 2,170 recitals at the Northside hall... has one of largest libraries of organ music in America... never plays the same composition twice in one year... unless by request... favorite composition is Bach's passacaglia... wrote "Book of Scales for the Organ..." "Bach's Symphony, Arranged as Organ Trios," and about 50 organ transcriptions of the classics... hobbies are music... collecting... and collecting... in a bolleym in the "daily dozen"... and takes bending and breathing exercises every morning... smokes stories... a half dozen a day.

POST-GAZETTE

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