

THE MUSIC WORLD.

A Commendable Demand for a Course of Study in Harmony.

THE REAL OBJECT OF STUDY. What Constantin Sternberg Thinks Makes the Best Teacher.

AN INTERESTING BUDGET OF NEWS

One of our best music teachers said to the writer yesterday: "It is remarkable what a number of pupils have asked for a course of study in harmony this season. In past years it has taken coaxing on my part to get even a few to study harmony, and most of them would drop it as soon as they found there was any hard work in it. There seems to be a large growth in this direction of study."

Several other teachers from the recent experience of other local teachers show the blowing of quite a general breeze in the direction of real musical intelligence. Can it be that people are coming to distinguish between a player and a musician? What a curious thing it is, by the way, that the term "musician" is used so commonly to mean a player with special reference to those who earn their living by playing on orchestral instruments, and who, in most parts of the country, have to be busied most of the time with dance music and other of the lower grades of competition—the very persons whose daily work is least likely to bring them knowledge of the science and art of music in its broadest and most beautiful aspects. Yet this knowledge and its working out in one form or another is just what constitutes a musician. The others are prima facie only players; they may be musicians as well, but are much less likely to merit that honorable title than are the real musicians.

A General Misconception.

This side excursion into the question of terminology is, perhaps, over genuine to the topic at hand. It might be better to use the term "musician" to the class of persons that are professionally and peculiarly players and nothing else, does in fact, imply a general misconception of the nature and mission of music. The general belief that playing (or singing) includes music as the greater includes the lesser. It implies, further, a general notion that playing (and singing) have a sort of monopoly of what is best in music; that only those who can sing or play have the capacity to enjoy, or the right to hold an opinion about, the higher forms of music; that only those who can sing or play can give the "open sesame" supposed to be necessary to reveal the musical treasures that are really for us as air to all mankind, leaving ears to hear and hearts to feel.

Of course it follows that the methods and objects of musical study are in like manner misconceived. Here, too, we find a common misuse of terms, curiously parallel to that spoken of above. Every pupil learning to throw or to run an exercise or a tune is said to be "making a music lesson." That is certainly what they ought to be taking, but it is "making a music lesson" that is really the very thing that is being learned. Most of them are only learning to work their fingers or throats more easily, while little or no attention is being paid to the cultivation of the sensitive and receptive faculties and the discriminating intelligence, which are the main avenues to musicianship.

Utilizing Music Lessons.

The pity of it is that the very things which are being learned, "music lessons" are the ones least utilized after the year of study are past. That mechanical facility so laboriously acquired in youth—how rarely is it maintained, how frequently lost, when the duties and cares of mature years crowd in upon us. There is an appalling waste here, a fact that does much to explain the general belief that any music study is utterly useless except for intending professionals. But let music study develop fully in the direction pointed to above, the waste alluded to, let music in all its breadth and beauty become the true object of "music lessons," while technique takes its proper subordinate place in the desirable and necessary means whereby the pupil can go on by himself further into the wonderland of truth; then nothing will have been done in vain, there will be nothing to be wasted, though lack of practice in later years, but instead there will have been implanted in the pupil a living seed whose sure growth will produce happiness, enrich character, add to the content of life—in short, develop nobler manhood or womanhood.

From High Authorities.

Right in line with the above discussion come the following paragraphs from two articles in the current number of the first book by Mr. Constantin Sternberg, the first being read before the last meeting of the P. S. M. T., and the second from a series of articles by Mr. Edward Dickinson on "The Place of Music in a Liberal Education. Mr. Sternberg says:

It goes without saying that we cannot make a brilliant execution of every pupil, yet this is exactly what we should be aiming at. We should aim at all that we can. I think we ought not to do that, unless a pupil shows unmistakable signs of talent. It is not our business to teach such talent which craves utterance and in all other ordinary cases the teacher should regard higher "technique" as a serious danger for his pupil's interest and rather insist upon his producing musical beauty with the possibly simplest technical means. Musical beauty is not claimed to technical difficulty; there are many works of enormous technical difficulty which are devoid of beauty, and others important for their beauty, which are technically easy. If the pupil could be made to understand that beauty for musical beauty instead of the "finger," they would naturally keep their hands away from the keys of the piano, and instead they should try to hear the artists, instead of trying to imitate them. It is not the program of "Apprenticeship" that I played that has made me what I am today at the Ricketts Institute. Why should I imitate an unaccomplished pianist? This is a question of the soul results from fate. It is one of the saddest results from fate. It is one of the saddest results from fate. It is one of the saddest results from fate.

Mr. Dickinson's words put a good period to the whole topic.

I am often asked if I think that everyone should study music, and I answer emphatically, "Yes." Not that everyone that has vocal organs should try to sing. Heaven knows, not that every child ought to be made to play the piano or violin. Heaven knows, not that every child should be made to study music just as every one should study literature, not in order to become a musician or a poet, but in order to become familiar with some of the results of the human mind. There is a certain amount of power of music and to know its worth, should be the aim of every cultivated man and woman. There is very few that have not this power within their reach.

Crotchets and Quavers.

A concert will be given by Valley Forge Council No. 33, Daughters of Liberty, next Tuesday evening, in their hall on Federal street, Allegheny.

PROF. LERCHTITZEL, Vienna, the husband of Annette Eslopp, and one of the best of living piano teachers, has just been decorated with the King of Sweden with the Vasa order.

THE next "Soiree Musicale" under the direction of Mr. Theodor Salmon will be given at the Pittsburgh Female College next Friday evening, on this occasion Miss Blanche Noy will sing, a pupil of Joseph, at Berlin, will now be about to debut at a Pittsburgh audience. Miss Newcomb comes heralded as a vocalist of talent and culture. Other artists will assist in a choice program.

A CONGRESS is to be held this year at Milan, under the protectorate of the Pope, for the purpose of considering the present state of music in connection with the Catholic Church.

MARCELLA SEMBRICH, the great singer, is meeting with remarkable success during her tour through Russia. Both at Moscow and St. Petersburg she has been received with created immense enthusiasm.

MISS MARIE TEMPEST in "Dorothy"—composed by Alfred Collier, with whom W. S. Gilbert was to have collaborated after his flight with Arthur Sullivan—and "The Red Hussar," the latest production of Ed. Salomon, brings to Pittsburgh this week two of the most successful comic operas heard in London during late years.

On the 22d ult. at Rome, at the Sala Dante, a rare concert was given by Aristides Franze-schotti, aided by several prominent musicians who performed a number of old Hebrew compositions. The concert was given in a lecture on Hebrew music delivered by the Marquis Gino Monaldi, the music critic of the Popolo Romano.

HIGH WATER AGAIN.

The Rise of Rivers at Pittsburgh Causes a Wheeling Panic.

FIRE AND FLOOD AT PARKERSBURG

The Rivers Are Rising Again in Several Large Towns in Ohio.

WATER RECEDING AT OTHER POINTS

WHEELING, Feb. 21.—The water has been falling all day, but very slowly, and for several hours has been stationary at 33 feet. The hundreds of people on the Island and South Wheeling who were driven away and who were prepared to move back are surprised and anxious to-night over the news from Pittsburgh and above; that the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers are rising at all points and that it is raining at the headwaters. Another flood in the Ohio Valley is impending, and the inhabitants are hesitating whether to move into their homes or await the developments of to-morrow.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad resumed operations to-day on the Grafton and Wheeling Division, and the first trains for four days went out to Wheeling. The Ohio River, Parkersburg and Cleveland and Pittsburgh rivers are still demoralized. The greatest damage to railroad property has been done by the Ohio River Company and it will be weeks before the track is in good condition again. The damages to railroads alone amount to many thousands of dollars in this vicinity.

There is much suffering here among the flood victims, though no appeal for outside aid will be made, as Wheeling is abundantly able to take care of all necessities. The falling water here now indicates that the railroads have lost a great amount of money in the way of washed tracks, bridges, embankments and rolling stock. The Wheeling and Lake Erie track, extending along the west bank of the river from Martin's Ferry to Steubenville, a distance of 335 miles, is almost a total wreck, and will have to be very largely reconstructed, involving a loss of perhaps \$100,000. The Cleveland and Pittsburgh have one washout over 200 feet long, and other smaller ones, and other washouts in proportion. The Ohio River road will not be able to move trains until Wednesday next.

FIRE ALSO AT PARKERSBURG.

PARKERSBURG, W. Va., Feb. 21.—Last night a disastrous fire broke out in the flood district in the business part of the city. A large quantity of lime soaked by the flood in the warehouse of the W. H. Smith Hardware Company originated the blaze, which spread until 12 buildings were completely destroyed.

Seven small residences, a large livery stable used by Money & Mitchell, the warehouse of Thompson & Jackson and C. C. Martin were entirely destroyed.

AT MARIETTA, OHIO.

The Waters Came Great Inconvenience, but Are Receding.

MARIETTA, O., Feb. 21.—The flood has been a matter of chief concern here for three or four days. The river reached the height of 45 feet, but is now receding rapidly. There has been little loss to business men or river interests.

A number of people have been driven to the second floor, but there is no suffering, and the disturbance will be of short duration. The water lacks eight feet of the height reached in 1884.

Great Damage Done and Many Families Are Now Moving.

LIMA, Feb. 21.—The recent rains are raising all the streams in this part of the State, and they are higher than they have been since 1883.

Great damage has been done, and many families living along the Ottawa river, which passes through the city, were compelled to move early this morning to places of safety.

Flood News in Brief.

INDIANAPOLIS is in danger. The Ohio is booming at Cincinnati. The river is falling at Steubenville. The Ohio is rising again at Louisville. The Illinois drouth is broken by a heavy rainfall.

AT COLUMBUS, O., a house was washed into the river. The factory district of Muncie, Ind., is under water.

Very Convenient. The collection and publication of special rates on known days saves time and care for house-hunters. Mondays and Thursdays are the special days.

LAST week of our clearance sale. Call in now and see some of our bargains in furniture. Goods stored free until wanted. MICHIGAN FURNITURE CO., 437 Smithfield street.

IRON CITY beer is uniformly excellent. None but the perfect article is allowed to leave that brewery. Ask for it at your dealers.

Have You Found a House Yet? If not, you can probably get one to suit by consulting the To Let advertisements to-morrow morning. Mondays and Thursdays are special rent days.

TO-MORROW Kaufmann's store will close at 12 o'clock (noon).

Have You Found a House Yet? If not, you can probably get one to suit by consulting the To Let advertisements to-morrow morning. Mondays and Thursdays are special rent days.

Very fine French peas reduced from \$1 25 to \$1 00 per dozen.

Good string beans reduced from \$1 00 to 90c per dozen.

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HOUSES FURNISHED

Complete or in Part.

Advance Samples for Spring

Now Ready.

EARLY BUYERS

Can order goods delivered any time, preventing confusion and disappointment during the busy season.

Our Confirmation Suits will interest parents.

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

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