

PLAYING THE PIANO.

MR. H. A. KELSO ADVANCES A VALUABLE NEW THEORY.

Study of Anatomy, Physiology and Knowledge of Acoustics and Psychology Necessary for a Thorough Mastery of the Piano.

(Chicago Letter.)



Mr. H. A. Kelso, of Handel Hall, Chicago, presents a new theory of piano playing based upon principles of anatomy, physiology, acoustics and psychology, and in an exhaustive article which he has published on the subject undertakes to show how piano playing may be reduced to a scientific basis.

Better modes of developing the power of memorizing and of preserving untouched the pupil's individuality are the result of psychical study. That we should study acoustics "goes without saying," as we cannot know too much of sound. Pedal management, tonal coloring and the science of harmony are all better understood through a knowledge of the properties of acoustics.

A development of the pronator muscles in the forearm renders possible a good position of the hand for playing octaves, arpeggios, scales, chords and triads with the fourth and fifth fingers.

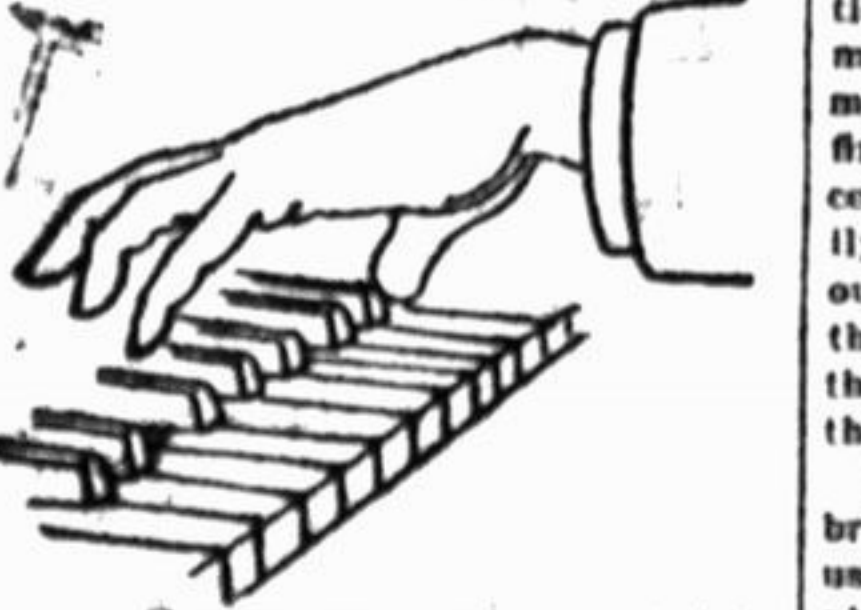


FIG. 1. MOVEMENT IN STACCATO OCTAVE PLAYING.

Piano and pronator muscles from those of the fingers. Speed requires the shortening of the latent period of the muscle, and this can be accomplished only by taking up the slack of the tendons. The principal muscle concerned in producing a crisp, staccato effect with finger action is the extensor, as upon this muscle depends the levity of tone.

The physiology of velocity playing is a subject of great interest to the practical piano teacher. In some persons rapidity of movement is natural. The muscular tissue is very irritable and elasticity of speed does not demand great effort.

The three attributes of tone are force, pitch and quality. Force is dependent upon the amplitude of the vibrations. Pitch is dependent upon the vibrations of number—the greater the number the higher the pitch.

Whenever we do wrong something goes on in our system. When we play with exhausted strength and exhausted breath, we are not waiting until a sensation of weariness is felt before renewing the energy, as we should no more play with exhausted strength than speak with exhausted breath.

intervals either in the accompaniment or melody, may be made to sound legato without the use of the pedal, by releasing the finger from the key slowly, thus damping the tone gradually.

All movements of the body are either natural, habitual or hereditary. In certain states of consciousness we bring into play certain muscles just as naturally as water seeks its lowest level.

In playing the piano habits will necessarily be formed, and movements based on the natural laws of expression of the body are more easily acquired, and when acquired enable us to express musical thoughts more clearly and more forcibly than habits formed

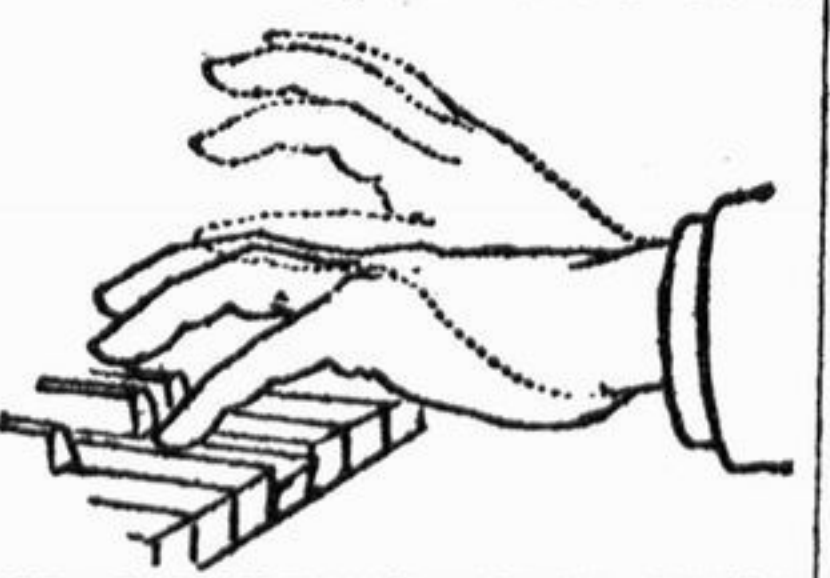


FIG. 2. MOVEMENT IN STACCATO OCTAVE PLAYING.

at haphazard. Technique, as applied to piano playing, is the power to express musical thoughts. This involves not only the ability to play the proper notes with correct fingers, but requires such control of the muscles and nerves that all gradations of tonal coloring may be expressed.

In piano playing the purely mental intellectual phrase finds its expression in the circumscribed movements of the fingers and hand, using the knuckles or wrist as the center of motion.

It is not always necessary that such broad gestures from the shoulder as are used in oratory should be used in piano playing, as the energy can be brought from the shoulder, the vital center, also from the mental or emotional centers or from various combinations of the vital, mental or emotional centers without "tearing passion to tatters."

I consider the wrist the distributing center of the energy of the upper and forearm. It is impossible for the nervous stimulus from the brain to be properly conducted to the finger tips when the many tendons that pass through the wrist are tense.

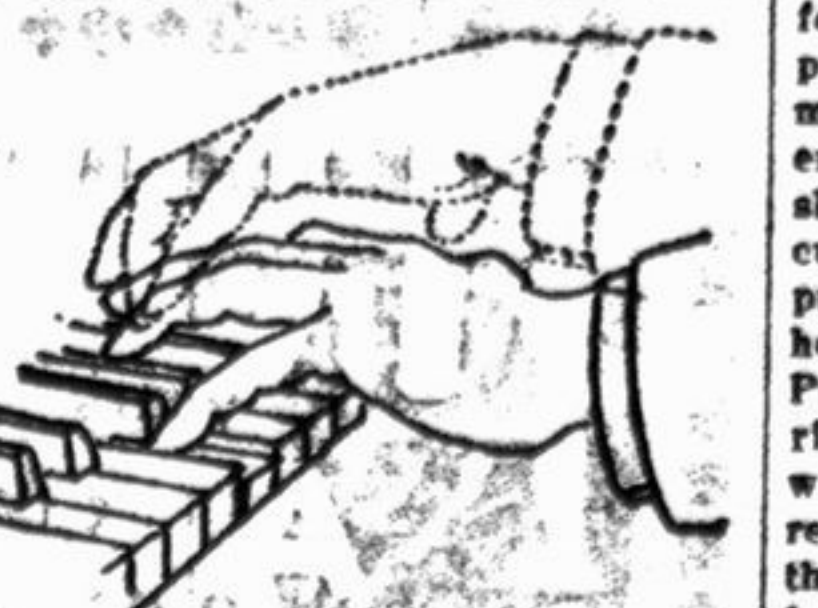


FIG. 3. MOVEMENT IN STACCATO OCTAVE PLAYING.

class known as relaxing or devitalizing of inestimable value to the beginner and advanced student alike.

We can utter so many words with one breath, and when that is exhausted we must draw upon the reservoir—the air—for another supply. We can play a rapid succession of notes with a given supply of nerve energy, and when that is exhausted we must draw upon the reservoir—the brain—for another supply.

MADE LESS HIDEOUS.

MINISTERING ANGELS ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE.

Noble Women Who Nursed Wounded Soldiers—Gen. G. O. Howard Writes in Praise of Their Devotion—They Showed Great Courage.

(Gen. O. O. Howard's Letter.)



It is the accepted belief that civil wars are characterized by extreme vindictiveness and cruelty. No doubt this is in general true; but the great civil war in our own country—notwithstanding some deplorable excesses—appears as a remarkable exception to this rule.

I knew personally a few of the 500 brave women who stepped out of the family circle and took a more or less public part in providing for the wants of the wounded and dying soldiers.

During the winter of 1862-63, I commanded the second division of the Second Corps at Palmyra. In front of my division, near the Rappahannock River, stood a large house which was

What Mrs. Harris brought to the front after several of our bloody engagements is exemplified in one of her letters from the Peninsula—a letter written in June, 1862, just after the battle of Fair Oaks. I speak feelingly, for I was myself recorded among the wounded. The steamer Vanderbilt, lying at the dock, was about to take the disabled from the "White House Landing," Va. Mrs. Harris writes: "When we went aboard the first cry we met was for tea and bread. 'For God's sake give us bread,' came from wounded soldiers. Others, shot in the face or neck, begged for liquid food. With feelings of a mixed character, shame, indignation and sorrow blending, we turned away to see what resources we could muster to meet the demand.

The graphic account of the way the wounded men received the relief thus speedily brought would fill a chapter. Many had been several days without a particle of nourishment. In delirium some took Mrs. Harris for mother, for sister, or other precious friend, and died in the happy thought that their own sweet home had actually come to them—and indeed the spirit of home was there.

From my own state, Mrs. S. S. Sampson, the wife of the lieutenant-colonel of my regiment, went out with her husband in the beginning of the war. What Mrs. Harris did for the ladies of Philadelphia, Mrs. Sampson did for the ladies of Maine. She devoted her whole time and talents to the interests of our soldiers.



then rather lonely, having been denuded by the devastations of war of all out-houses, fences and shrubbery. It was usually called the "Lacey House." I think we may denominate it at this time as a reserve hospital, for here were to be found many articles of food and medicine that the excellently organized field hospital could not furnish.

Her favorite field of labor was in the field hospitals of the Sixth Corps. To the suffering there she carried constant cheer and welcome—reliefs of every sort, sent by the generous women of Philadelphia. Her beaming face was a blessing and a benediction to every lonely and despairing heart in the hospital she visited.

One of the ablest Presbyterian clergymen now in ordination was a private soldier, I believe in a Maryland regiment. He was then rather a roistering young fellow. A soldier comrade of pronounced piety and correct life strongly urged him to go to Mrs. Harris' meetings. The result was his conversion; and as soon as the war ceased he studied for the ministry. Thus Mrs. Harris' heaven was increased.

Her Lover Understood.

A Lancashire lady has been relating a rather pretty story about a factory girl's way of answering a marriage proposal made to her.

"The young woman could not write or read writing, and one day she brought a letter to me to read for her. It contained an offer of marriage.

"I happened to know that the writer was a deserving young artisan, so I said to her: 'Now, you must consider this matter very seriously, and if you like to come to me when you have made up your mind I will write a reply for you.'

"A day or two afterward I met the girl and asked her if she wanted me to answer the letter for her. 'Oh, that is all right,' said she, looking radiant and pleased. 'I've settled it. I answered it myself.'

"Why, how did you do it?" I asked. "And then she told me that she could make a capital 'I' and that she stuck on the paper a piece of wool after it for 'wull'—'I wull.'"

STATE OF OHIO, CITY OF TOLEDO, LUCAS COUNTY.

Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is the senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of Hall's Catarrh Cure.

What a Farm Is. A Kansas girl was sent east to school this fall. "What do you know, my child?" the head teacher asked her. "Oh, farming," the new pupil replied. "Well, tell me what is a farm?" "A farm is a body of land surrounded by a barb wire fence," the little maid said.

Offers vast inducements for homeseekers, agriculturists and stockraisers. Fine soil and healthy climate. Send for pamphlet. "A new home in a new country" (mailed free). Low rate excursion to Texas October 26th via Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railway. For particulars apply to H. A. Cherrier, Northern Passenger Agent, 316 Marquette Building, Chicago.

Legal Point. Rivers—And so, if you caught a man in the act of robbing your chicken house you would shoot him, would you? How do you get around the commandment, "Thou shalt not kill?" Brooks—That was an ex-post-facto law. It is unconstitutional.

Don't Tobacco Spit and Smoke Your Life Away. If you want to quit tobacco using easily and forever, regain lost manhood, be made well, strong, magnetic, full of new life and vigor, take No-To-Bac, the wonder-worker that makes weak men strong. Many gain ten pounds in ten days. Over 400,000 cured. No-To-Bac from your druggist, who will guarantee a cure. Booklet and sample mailed free. Ad. Sterling Remedy Co., Chicago or New York.

Dr. Nansen is directly descended from Hans Nansen, who was burgomaster of Copenhagen in 1660. Just try a 10c box of Cigarettes, the finest liver and bowel regulator ever made. A Pasteur Institute has been established at Athens.

Faithful Item.

"What is the difference," the major asked, between puffs at his seed and Havana filler with the Wisconsin wrapper—"what is the difference between Mr. Bryan and Buffalo Bill?" "Give it up," replied the man with the winter overcoat and the tan bicycle shoes. "What is the difference between Mr. Bryan and Buffalo Bill?" "Buffalo Bill," replied the major, "has a show."—Chicago Times-Herald.

Several Grand Excursions. On October 20th there will be a homeseekers' excursion via the Missouri Pacific railway and Iron Mountain route to the west and southwest, at one fare, plus \$2, for the round trip, tickets good to return 21 days from date of sale, with stopover privileges on going trip. Write for particulars and leaflets. BISSELL WILSON, D. P. A., 111 Adams St., Chicago.

Kind of Him. She—Everybody says you married me for my money. He—But I didn't, dear. I know you look it, dear, but I didn't.—Indianapolis Journal.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY. Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All Druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. 23c. Telescopes were first invented in 1590.

Pure Hood's Sarsaparilla. Hood's Pills. The best—in fact the One True Blood Purifier. Hood's Pills are purely vegetable, carefully prepared. 25c.

AVOID BUCKET SHOPS! WE PAY CASH WEEKLY and we have everywhere in the U.S. STEADY WORK. PENSIONS, PATENTS, CLAIMS.

Dr. Kay's Lung Balm. A positive cure for all coughs and laryngitis without causing nausea. Price 25c. Sold by Druggists.

STEADY WORK. PENSIONS, PATENTS, CLAIMS. JOHN W. MORRIS, BUREAU OF PATENTS, 200 N. Dearborn St., Chicago.

OPIMUM and WHISKY habits cured. Thompson's Eye Water.

Battle Ax Plug. The ripest and sweetest leaf and the purest ingredients are used in the manufacture of "Battle Ax," and no matter how much you pay for a much smaller piece of any other high-grade brand, you cannot buy a better chew than "Battle Ax." For 5 cents you get a piece of "Battle Ax" almost as large as the other fellow's 10-cent piece.