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The body of Marie Depressive, ill at Brockville, and died Tuesday, was conveyed to Gananoque for burial. Deceased was thirty-eight years of age.

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Music in the Home

The Sagebrush Orchestra. All missionary work brings results, for the plain reason that the person who bears the message is an enthusiast. He or she compels attention and by personality forces concurrence. A musical missionary went six years ago to Harney County, Oregon, where the sagebrush is a salient feature in the landscape. In the middle of the county is the town of Burns, a hundred miles away from any other settlement and not even provided with a railroad. Mrs. M. V. Dodge was the missionary. Boston had been her home, the violin had been her amusement and her delight, and teaching children had been her hobby. There were children in Burns. What she did with them is explained by Mrs. Pauline De Vin, writing in The Musician. "She proceeded, against all odds and prejudices to teach the little ones the kind of music that was worth while, to give them the message of the masters." Gradually her pupils became more efficient, and soon she was able to form them into a string orchestra of thirty members. Only the best compositions are used, and every child is required to memorize his or her part before being allowed to play in public. The result is that all the instrumentalists can keep a close eye on the conductor and give expression to the various "effects" desired. Kathleen Jordan, aged thirteen, is the star of the organization. She plays Brahms' Hungarian Dances and a dozen other solos with accuracy and distinction. Last month the band appeared in concert at five Oregon cities. Last Autumn it was heard in Portland and won the highest praise. At the State Fair in Salem a prize of \$100 went to the little folk. To describe the enthusiasm of the children is impossible. To bound the satisfaction and pleasure of the teacher and opened for them a new and delightful world need not be attempted by the most gifted writer.

A Remarkable Proposal. A remarkable theory has been enunciated by a distinguished operatic singer. He suggests that it may be wise for a vocalist to think about the song he is singing. Such a suggestion is revolutionary. It strikes at the very root of vocal practice amongst our people. It is well known that a singer must pay attention to his breath control, to the intonation, to the enunciation, to the phrasing. That is admitted. How then can he spare the time to meditate upon the idea of either the poet or the composer? Thinking, in any case, is an unpopular exercise, and if we apply the practice to our music there is no telling how far-reaching the silly practice might be.

The Careless English. Singing in Latin and Italian a student is seriously concerned about the words and particularly about the vowel sounds. He may not have a thorough knowledge of either language, but he knows enough to pronounce "Cum Causa Spiritus" as "Koom Sahnktow Speerettoo" and he "gets away with it." Let him pick up an English song and immediately his interest in correct vowels disappears. He "slovens" over his "ah's," "a's," "u's" and "o's" and pronounces his consonants only when he feels like it. He knows English. He speaks it continuously and carelessly. Naturally, enough, when he sings the habit of years persists. We have come a long way since Richard Brinsley Sheridan's father taught young gentlemen how to pronounce the English language, but the journey has been backwards. We are slovenly, slipshod talkers. We nip off the final "g" in "ing." We use flat "a's" instead of broad ones. We do not distinguish between "e" and "i," "p" and "b." For slouching the chief result of such habits is that they can succeed admirably in making themselves understood. Sometimes an audience can catch several words of a song, but more frequently it can catch none at all.

Perhaps, then, the first requirement of vocal instruction is to teach the student to read. Two months of daily practice ought to be sufficient for him to grasp the salient peculiarities of the tongue he presumes to speak. Then as he learns to produce an open-throated resonant tone and to pronounce his consonants clearly and instantaneously he is on the high road to achievement. If he "maintains his interest." Choralists and Christianity. Any small town may have a choral society, but its maintenance for more than one season may be difficult unless the most concerned are willing to make sacrifices to ensure its success. If there is need for "team work" in baseball or hockey how much more need in an organization of fifty or a hundred people of varying temper and temperament? Usually church choirs are the basis of such a society but for some reason there is difficulty always in getting them to co-operate. The slightest jealousy on the part of one choir-leader or organist toward another will make union impossible. Some man must lead and that fact must be groined into the singers even though their favorite leader is not the one chosen to wield the baton. Some man or woman must be the accompanist, though the one chosen may in the opinion of some singers have defects.

Tricks in Sight Reading. It is the universal testimony that a course in the Theory of Music is of the greatest advantage in the practice of correct and rapid reading. Yet few persons have grasped the reason for such increased facility. It may be said that the practice of recognizing the various chords as they appear in each major and minor key is the sole cause. It is more probably a secondary cause. The study of Harmony induces the pupil to read from the bottom up, instead of from the top down. All chords are named from the lowest bass note, whether 1, 3, 5, 2, 4, 7, or 4, 5, 7. As a general rule the whole reading system of the student is revolutionized by this fact. Children, especially if they are taught indifferently, take more interest in the "tune" than in any other part of the music. After the "tune" the right hand harmonies are more interesting. And this, despite the certain truth that the bass is the foundation of all concerted or harmonized music.

The physical constitution of the eye is such that it looks upwards about twice as rapidly as it looks downwards. In our ordinary reading of English we proceed by recognizing the top of the letters and rarely concern ourselves with the bottoms of them. Those who doubt this statement may find their answer by covering the upper half of a line of newspaper type and seeing whether or not they can read it. They may be able to do so without difficulty. But let them cover the bottom half and the line will be as plain and as easily read as if the letters were complete. This is reason, therefore, for the belief that it takes much longer to read a chord from the top



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in city or town or village, then a choral society is possible. AT CHRISTIE'S LAKE May Bell Marks Company to Give Outdoor Performance. Christie's Lake, Aug. 12.—The May Bell Marks Company is rehearsing "East Lynn." It will give an outdoor performance on Aug. 31st. Its regular season opens Labor Day, Ogdensburg, N.Y. W. J. Wern, A. Rinkle and Mr. Foster, C.P.R. officials, were the guests of R. W. Marks and wife of Red Cedar Villa. Miss Jessie Taylor and Herbert Wilson of Perth were guests of Mrs. Eardley Wilnot. Dr. Dwyer was called to attend Mary Marks, daughter of Mack Marks. Service was conducted on the verandah of R. W. Marks by Rev. Mr. Colles. The collection was for soldiers held prisoner in Germany. Mr. Greer of Waverly wrote to Mr. Colles asking for food. Church service was largely attended. Rev. Mr. Styles was among the congregation. Miss Rona Shaw and Gay Suckling gave a verandah party. Some of those in attendance were Cliff Fagan, Irving Zeller of Brooklyn, N.Y., Miss Mary Godwin of Perth, Mr. Gerald Suckling and wife of Montreal and Miss Marie Marks of Christie's. Morley White and George Smith caught the largest catch of black bass of the season. They invited Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Marks and family to an old fashioned fish dinner which was greatly enjoyed. Dr. Ballantyne with his wife, daughter and maid motored to Christie's from Ottawa. They now occupy "Sunrise". Mrs. Keld's sister of Chicago, is a guest at May Bell Point. Miss Mary Marks' health is improving rapidly. A merry party made the rounds of the lake in Mazie, the yacht owned by R. W. Marks. The members of the party were Mrs. Suckling, Miss May Bell Marks, Mrs. H. Taylor of Perth, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Suckling and wife, Guy Suckling, Miss Mary Ballantyne of Ottawa, May Bell Marks and Robert W. Marks, Jr. Mrs. Felix Shaw and Mrs. Eardley Wilnot made a trip to Perth today. This has been one of the best seasons we have ever had at Christie's. Richard Lester of Grey Gables is supplying dinners to campers. Mr. and Mrs. Carruth had week-end visitors from Smith's Falls. Mr. and Mrs. Phillips are getting ready to build. Christopher Allen has snapped some wonderful pictures around the lake. He is widely sought after.

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