

Music in the Home

AT THE CHOIR PRACTICE

DO NOT FATIGUE THE VOICE OR THE ATTENTION

Also Do Not Start at Page One of the Anthem and Hammer It In Page by Page.
Singers in volunteer church choirs

and choruses will be interested in some of the remarks made recently by Dean Lutkin of the School of Music of the Northwestern University in the course of the address on the work of the choral leader. Among other things the Dean said: "Many pursue the antiquated plan of beginning on page one and hammering the work into the singers page by page, so that the end is reached with a sigh of relief. This hammering process usually results in a metallic, angular performance devoid of charm and well-considered contrast. To employ it is a strategic blunder, for we injure voices by singing loudly all the time, and our singers grow restive under such a mechanical and ill-considered plan. We must remember that we are dealing with the human voice, which will not stand rough handling, and with the human temperament, which demands psychological treatment. The crucial points are to avoid fatiguing either the voice or the attention. "If you are undertaking a work that is stiff going for your singers and beyond their experience or un-

derstanding, be sure to start with the most attractive portion, so as to engage their interest and enthusiasm as clearly in the game as possible. When you have planned out the work for a given rehearsal, attack the most difficult parts first, while the attention is fresh. These are apt to be the climactic points. The habit of practicing backward is invaluable. It is discouraging to be constantly headed from the unknown and to see pages of uncharted music looming up in the distance. Get the climax first and then back up and lead into it and then the joy and satisfaction of the comparatively solid ground. The pedagogical principle of moving from the known to the unknown is here reversed. "It is a foolish and short-sighted procedure to allow the choristers to sing full voice throughout a rehearsal. This strains the muscles of the throat, and the loud singing tires the ear and gets on the nerves. Much fatigue and unnecessary tension notes of assimilation. Humming not only saves the voice, but improves its quality by cultivating relaxation which is so necessary to good intonation and correct voice production. If the words are eliminated, the entire attention can be focused on the music. Without being conscious of it, most singers obtain their pitch more from choral suggestion than from staff relationship; the soft singing permits the accompaniment distinctly, and this helps them amazingly in getting their parts. They are also free to listen to the guiding and warning remarks of the conductor. "Lastly, singers rarely hum out of tune. Of all the time-saving and nerve-shielding devices in chorus rehearsing, humming easily takes first place.

home from a week's stay with friends in Ottawa, Messrs. Elliott, Denny and Greenhorn have purchased a corn cutter and are filling their own silos. An auto load of visitors were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hamilton on Sunday.

Mrs. Albert Spenceley, Peterboro, dropped dead while playing cards at a Veterans' party.

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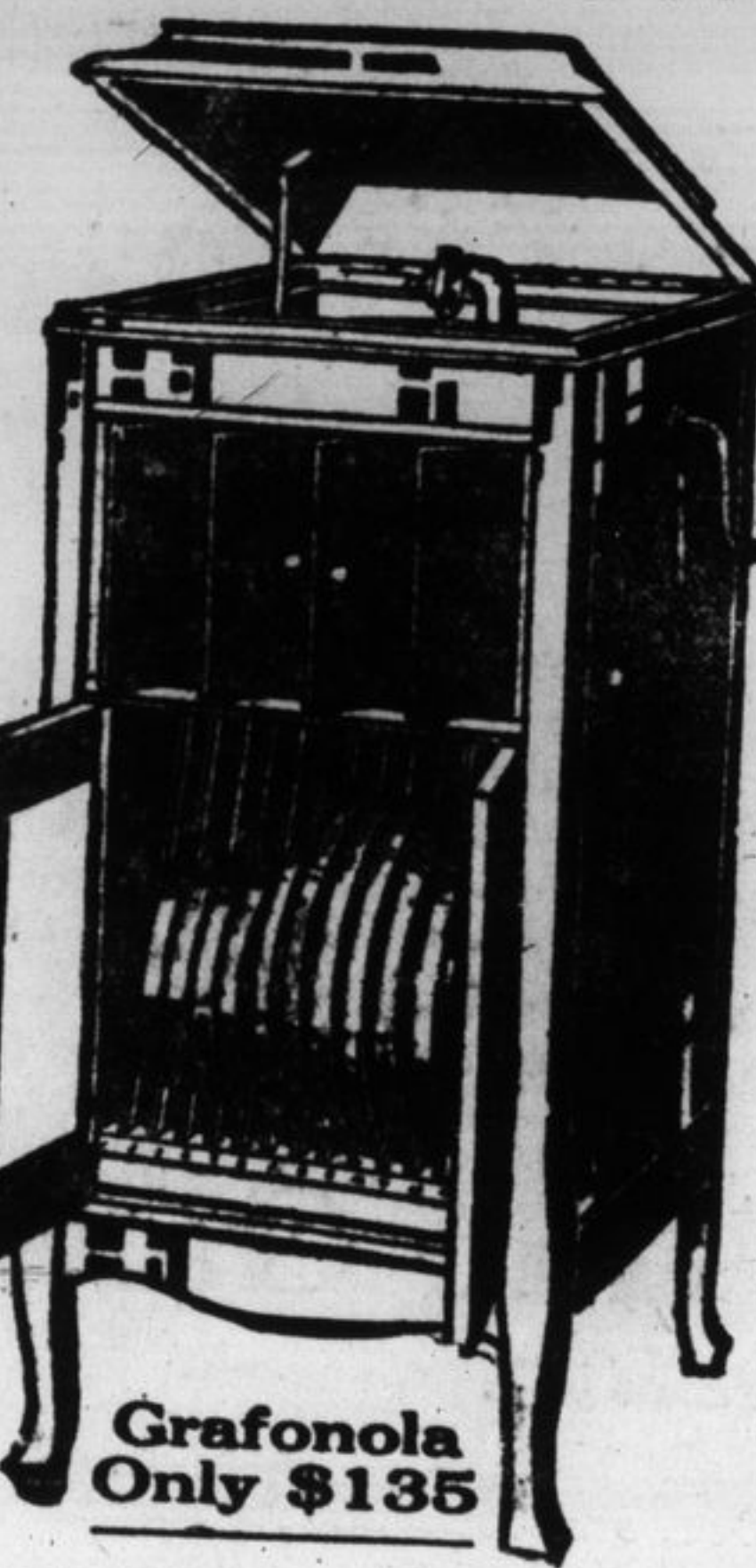
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Keep Up Your Music.

We seem to rely a good deal these days on slogans to arouse enthusiasm. A good musical slogan for the general run of folks would be "Keep up your music." If a young woman who plays or sings some, marries and settles down to the routine of housekeeping there is a strong temptation to let the music go. Let that wife's slogan be "keep up the music" for her husband's sake, for her children's sake and for her own sake. If a young man with musical training in some line leaves home and goes off to another town where his work takes him, let his motto be "keep up the music." It is so easy in new surroundings and among strangers to let the music go. As sure as that is done, it will become a matter of extreme regret sooner or later. When going to a new town like that it is always advisable to get in with the people who have lots of music in their homes.

Couples who in their courtship days frequently attended musical concerts often find that after being married it is easier to stay at home figuring it is seldom convenient for them to get down town for concerts. Their slogan, too, may well be "keep up the music." Make time for concerts. They ease and refresh the mind and body. They add a great deal of real and profitable pleasure to life. Fathers and mothers deserve a night out now and again and it does them good.

Minor Chords.

The keys of the piano unlock the doors of melody. So do the keys of the organ.

The songs that are most used have easy accompaniments. Young men and women usually look to see if it is easy to play before buying a new song.

Prior to the 17th century there were no real organized military bands. Generals commanding armies were expected to provide music if they wanted it. The rise of the military band may be traced to the time of the Crusaders who brought back from the east kettle-drums and other instruments.

In one of the character sketches of Tchaikowsky, we are told that once as a boy when he was having a geography lesson, he shocked his governess by kissing the map of Russia and splitting on the rest of the world except France.

Rubinstein, had he saved his earnings, would have become a millionaire. But his generosity did not permit such an accumulation. He was always giving financial assistance to somebody.

The British Army authorities have officially approved the use of music for shell shock, especially in the form of songs. It has been found that shell shock responds particularly to singing, and efforts are systematically made to induce the soldier to sing with the records or with other singers certain well-known melodies, and the results of this method in restoring nerve function, especially when (aphasia) shock has affected the memory, are most encouraging.

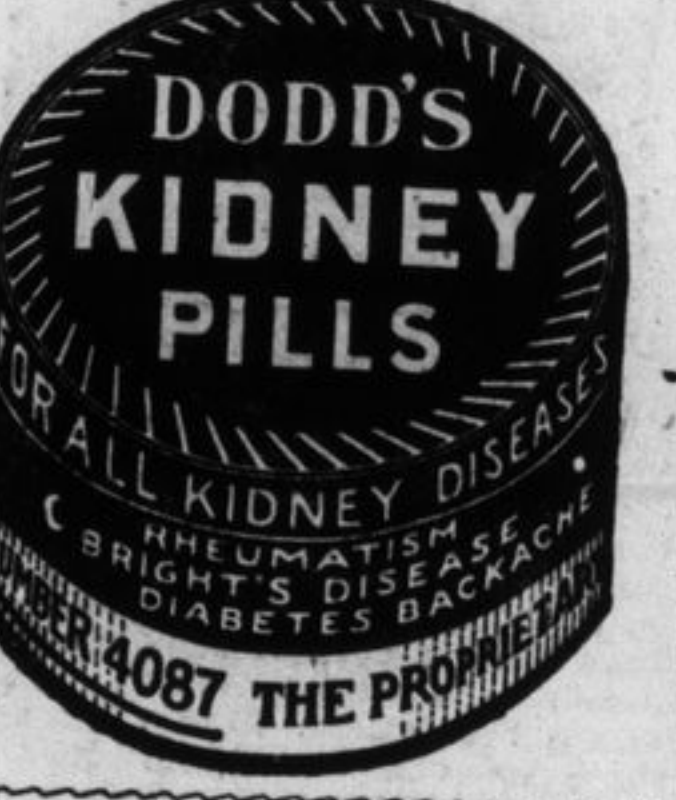
From experiments it is accurately learned that music definitely affects the circulation and the heart beat, which vary with the changing character of the music. Investigations along these lines are to be continued and it is hoped in medical circles, that some day music will be prescribed as a medicine, to fit a particular emotional or diseased state.

It is said that Tetraxini was once approached by an agent of the Czar, with a view to her engagement for the Imperial Opera. On learning the figure at which the singer would consent to go to St. Petersburg, the Russian emissary threw up his hands in horror. "Why that," he exclaimed, "is more than His Majesty pays his Field Marshals!"

"Very well," commented the lady, serenely, "let him have his Field Marshals sing for him."

Barn Saved From Fire. Phillipsville, Sept. 27.—Earl Trotter's barn roof caught fire from a spark from the engine while the silo was being filled. A boy noticed the blaze and his timely alarm resulted in the building being saved, as there were ladders, water and help at hand. The blaze was quickly extinguished.

Silo filling and potato digging are the order of the day. There is plenty of corn to fill the silos to overflowing, and potatoes are a great crop. Mrs. Sharkey and Mrs. Irwin, Newburg, and Mrs. Wood, Chantry, visited their sister, Mrs. Lynn, for a day. Miss Mamie Downey has returned



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