

Music in the Home

How to Advance Cause of Higher Music.

Would it not be splendid if the great symphony orchestra would give occasionally during each season, programmes of simple music with admission within the reach of all? Would it not be wonderful if, every little while, the seats downstairs for grand opera could be sold at a nominal sum within the reach of the poor and tired who take almost their very last dollar, and almost their last bit of strength, and climb to the top-most gallery to refresh their souls. They are the real music lovers, so why not give them a chance more often than we do to enjoy in comfort the music that they starve to hear? If we really want the masses to understand the best in music these things will have to be done for them. The wonderful education given by the phonograph, and the elevation that these instruments have produced in the minds of the people, should be proof enough to great musical organizations, that they can help advance the higher class of music in our country if they would only begin. We must get out and preach the gospel of everything in a loving and understanding way, not with condemnation, but with sympathy.

Mission of the Artist.

All work has some element of the creative, but the artist must realize that it is art that brings everything to him, and that the best he can bring to art is sympathy, intelligence and skill in presenting it. The material has always been there and it is for him to develop the means of imparting it to others. The singer sings a song—but before he can deliver his message with his voice, the composer has visualized through a musical setting an interpretation of the poet—the poet has translated a phase of life, or emotion, that has come to him from reading or experience. Our knowledge and our mental processes that govern our actions are the result of recorded and unrecorded memories—and so on through an endless chain of evolution.

The artist's mission is to interpret the depth and breadth of the mysterious joys or sorrows of existence, real and imaginary, through music, poetry, sculpture, painting, the stage, or whatever his profession. In his interpretation he unfolds these beauties—to other men and women who may not be gifted with the mental or physical abilities to re-create them for themselves, but who can understand and enjoy them through the medium of the artist—and as his skill in that medium develops, his giving out of understanding increases.

Some Musical Notes.

This is the season, in France and America and other allied countries, for all-Wagner programmes, by which our symphony orchestras make up a part of our deficit. Another way of making Germany pay her indemnity! —Musical Courier.

The Dallas (Texas) Municipal Music Commission reported that city's various musical organizations recently by conducting a "Music Week." That is, teaching the rest of the continent how to do things musically.

An effort is being made at New York to establish an "American" ballet, similar to the Russian and Swedish ballets seen here in Canada and the United States in the recent past. A somewhat severe reflection of this continent's present methods of teaching singing is contained in a news despatch wherein it is stated that of several hundred voices tested by Col. Savage for his revival next season of the "Merry Widow" less than a dozen measured up to the standard.

A Russian thirteen-year old boy astonished a Berlin audience recently, by the way he conducted one of the big orchestras of that city. The boy, Tolli Fistiouari, in knee breeches, also conducted an operatic performance in Bukarest, Roumania.

An Etude conducted and managed entirely by women was recently held at Utica, N.Y. Several of the state legislatures

across the border have appointed state superintendents of music.

Vienna Still a Musical Centre. Vienna's musical life is at fever-heat, says a dispatch recently received from that European capital. Despite hard times and the virtual worthlessness of Austrian currency, this activity has far outgrown the capacity of the concert halls. Hence, music-making starts early in the day and lasts till night, one hall frequently having as many as five concerts in the one day. And most of the halls are sold out, although where the money comes from is somewhat of a mystery.

This artistic life speaks well for Vienna as a musical centre, as that city is attracting not only native talent, but musical artists from many outside countries. Even Sweden is sending musicians, and a 17-year-old Chilean boy pianist was recent artist who took that city by storm.

Re-writing Music.

Clyde Fitch, who in later life earned an income of \$250,000 a year writing plays, had a most interesting method of working out his manuscripts, which might well be employed by musicians who are satisfied with the first or second drafts of a composition. Fitch employed different pencils: The first draft was written in red, the second in blue, the third in green, the fourth, in purple, the fifth in black, and so on, in order that he could always trace the progress of his works. A prominent author has said "Plays are not written, they are re-written." A great deal of our present day music would be better if it were more frequently re-written before it is published. This was certainly one of Beethoven's working secrets.

Church Music in France.

All the churches in Paris have two organs and consequently two organists—this indeed is the custom of all churches of any size throughout France.

The accompaniments of the choral parts of High Mass, and also of Ves-

pers, falls to the "maitre de chapelle," who presides at the smaller of the two organs. This instrument, which is usually quite efficient from the tonal point of view, is situated in or quite near to the chancel of the church, and is used exclusively for accompanying the choir.

In the majority of churches, the training of the choir is in the hands of the organist who accompanies the singing, and whose office becomes similar to that of the English organist and choir-master, but in a few instances a third official is responsible for choir practices and the general ordering of the musical parts of the services.

Mixed choirs of male and female voices, still so much in vogue, in many large Catholic churches in England, is unknown in France, and the florid type of Mass, so dear to the English heart, is gradually being superseded in French churches by services of a simpler and more ecclesiastical character.

School Pupils Score High at Music Memory Contest.

At a recent music memory contest held in Dallas, Texas, for the benefit of the school children of that city, there were 270 contestants. Of these 177 made perfect scores, 104 as to music and spelling, 206 were correct musically, but made errors in spelling. The contestants were required to give the names and composers of fifty musical pieces played. The pupils ranged in age from nine to eighteen.

The mayor of the city appointed the "municipal music commission," under whose auspices the contest was held and the business men contributed \$350 in prizes, while the municipal Symphony Orchestra distributed complimentary tickets to the 177 who made perfect scores.

Smoking to Music.

Popularizing concerts and recitals by permitting the audience to smoke is the fad at present being conducted in certain cities in Great Britain.

At a recital given recently in London by a prominent artist, the people in the audience were told to smoke if they wished. A great many immediately pulled out pipes, cigars, and cigarettes and of course the air was blue, and much to the disgust of the performing artist, who happened to be a vocalist.

And, if we are correctly informed, London has started to smoke in great fashion. A furtive smoke in a limousine or a taxicab in the principal west end streets at the theatre hour is now like a prehistoric memory, because women can frequently be seen walking through Piccadilly, before and after the theatre, smoking cigarettes as nonchalantly as their escorts.

Some years ago smoking concerts were introduced as a feature of London life and were highly successful, but the audience was restricted to the male sex while the performers belonged to the vaudeville class.

Musical Reform Needed.

It is to the advantage of every musician as well as a duty to exercise every effort in an endeavor to expand the musical profession and promote musical activities, but we cannot expect to promote musical advancement until the public at large is capable of appreciating music and has learned to comprehend the value derived from a musical training. The need for musical reform is imperative and the time is now ripe when all musicians should co-operate and take steps to create universal musical appreciation and establish and maintain musical interest in every Canadian community.

Deplorable conditions exist in many villages and rural districts and also in many interior towns where prominent musicians never appear and there is nothing to stimulate musical interest. Although many talented musicians reside in remote places, and would no doubt develop into eminent artists and attain musical fame if there were any musical events to stimulate their musical ambitions, and create a desire to consider music seriously. But outside of a musical centre, music is infrequently taken up as a profession and is never studied scientifically.

Influence of Phonograph Music.

Music production through the gramophone has enabled the masses of the people to hear the best music in the world at small cost, and this influence is gradually changing the public's viewpoint, so that there is beginning to be seen an increased demand for better and more beautiful music in the home.

When one considers the great changes that have been made in gramophone construction in the past few years it is scarcely less than wonderful to note the music machines now to be seen.

A few years ago the phonograph mechanism was capable of emitting only a metallic imitation of the original sound. Today inventive genius has brought to perfection an all-but-human machine which reproduces the works of the world's greatest artists with a fidelity that is astounding, so that even musically-trained ears are unable to detect the difference between the original and the reproduction.

Added to the improved tone quality the crude cabinets enclosing the mechanism have given place to cabinets of graceful proportions, and now these cases or cabinets are built in period lines to harmonize with the furniture of the better class of homes and to instill a love of beautiful furniture and surroundings in the breasts of the owners of more modest homes.

The pith of such plants as the sunflower, rush or elder is advocated by a scientific writer as a good material for cleaning the lenses of scientific instruments.

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DEATH OF MRS. S. ALPORT

A Marriage of Interest to the People of Sydenham—Results Soon Out.

Sydenham, July 13.—Surviving her late husband but a trifle over a month, Mrs. Sidney H. Alport passed away on Sunday morning. For about nine years Mrs. Alport had been an invalid, and practically helpless. Of late she had suffered a great deal, and the shock she received, occasioned by her husband's sudden death, doubtless hastened the end. She was unconscious most of the day on Saturday. Deceased was fifty-three years of age. There are left to mourn her loss four sons: Van, Weyford, Clarence and Raymond; one daughter, Mrs. Harry Stoness, Wilmar; four brothers: W. H. Gates, Toronto; F. J. Gates and George Gates, Westbrooke, and Allen Gates, Seattle; and a sister, Mrs. Damon Snider, Link's Mills. The funeral service was held on Tuesday morning at the Methodist church, where the service was conducted by Rev. G. Stafford. The remains were interred in Cataract cemetery.

Quite a number of Orangemen from here, belonging to L. O. L. No. 444, went to Gananogue on Tuesday for the 12th of July celebration.

The marriage was quietly solemnized last week of Miss Bella Needham, Arnprior, and Frank Anglin, Sydenham. Mr. and Mrs. Anglin are now here, and are occupying their house on George street. The interior of the house has recently been renovated, and many improvements made. Miss Pearl Richardson, Peterboro, is here for a short time. The high school entrance board finished their work here on Tuesday. It is expected that the entrance results will be announced in about a week.

Nominations for reeve of Loughboro township are to be received here on Thursday, and if an election is necessary, it will be held within a week, on the 21st. Mr. and Mrs. Henry, Peterboro, are here for the summer vacation. Mrs. Curran and daughter, Springford, were here for the late Mrs. Alport's funeral. Miss Muriel Tfosdale, Syracuse, is visiting here for a few days. An extension has been built to the C. N. R. station platform.

ARE MANY VISITORS

One Case of Smallpox Reported From Elgin.

Elgin, July 11.—Harold Mustard, Guelph, has joined his family here for the holidays. Harold Kelly, New York, is spending his holidays with his family at Jones' Falls. Mr. and Mrs. George F. Warran have returned from visiting at Carp, Ont. Miss Grace Delong, Toronto, is taking her holidays, accompanied home by little Miss Williams.

Dr. McAmmond, Scottsville, N.Y., motored here and is the guest of relatives and enjoying the Rideau fishing. Dr. Brackin and family were callers in the village enroute to Foster's Locks. Picnic parties were plenty to Sand Lake on Sunday. One case of smallpox is placarded in this vicinity. Mrs. Dunlop and son, Kingston, guest of Miss Coon, Mrs. (Rev.) Tesker and children, Oxford Mills,

are guests of her father, J. R. Dargavel. Farmers report the hay crop a very light one. Grains and corn are standing the drought fairly well if rain is not too long delayed.

Miss Belle Morris, Ottawa, spent Dominion day at her home here. The Elgin L.O.L. celebrated at Gananogue this year. Mrs. (Rev.) Keough is enjoying the river breezes with friends below Cornwall for a short time. C. Fleming's family are in camp at Foster's Locks.

Bongard's News Budget.

Bongards, July 12.—The Ladies' Aid is holding an ice cream social on Mrs. Sheppard's lawn Thursday evening. Miss M. Baumer, Detroit, Mich., is the guest of Mrs. Allan Harrison. Mr. and Mrs. N. Ackerman, Royal street, accompanied by Miss H. Harrison, Picton, were guests at H. Hick's on Sunday last. Miss Hazel Kingsley, Toronto, is with her sister, Mrs. Thomas Bongard. A number from here attended the 12th of July celebration at Picton. The weather is intensely hot, the thermometer registering as high as 103 in the shade. Rain is greatly needed. D. T. McCormick has so far recovered from his recent fall as to be able to be removed to his home in Picton.

Rev. David Wren, a graduate of Albert College, and son-in-law of R. Mallory, Belleville, has assumed charge of Elm street Methodist church, Toronto.

A bird that cannot fly is the black wood hen of New Zealand. The founder of the Bank of England died in poverty.

Tidings From Bath.

Bath, July 13.—Miss Dorothy Holt and Jack and Nicholas Holt, Toronto, are spending their holidays at their home here. The Misses Golden, who have been visiting their sister, Mrs. Arthur Calver, have returned home. Mr. and Mrs. Brackenbury and family, Wingham, are spending the summer at Charles Burley's. Miss Florence Baker, Guelph, is visiting at Max Robinson's, A. Wallace Brown, New Jersey, has arrived to spend the summer here. Mr. and Mrs. Lathan Clark and family, Wilton, and Mrs. James Stevenson accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. John Stevenson, Calgary, spent Sunday at Robert Stevenson's. Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Stevenson and family, Nanapanee, are visiting at Robert Calvert's.

Mrs. James McCarten, who has been seriously ill, is slowly improving. Mrs. Gordon Burke and baby, Kingston, are at Wm. Calver's. William Davy and daughter, Audrey, Kingston, spent a few days at W. H. Hall's recently. Mr. and Mrs. Ward Sexsmith are at Ross Sexsmith's. James Chapman, who has been ill for some time, passed away on Tuesday afternoon. The funeral will be held at 2.30 o'clock Thursday afternoon at his late residence.

A peculiarity of the camel is his dislikes—likes he has none, save for mimosa thorn, and, perhaps, for dyalium. He hates red, and when in the first Nile expedition, in 1884, some bright genius equipped the squadrons of the camel corps with bright crimson saddles, the animals, it is said, so resented the outrage that numbers of them died in sheer disgust.

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