



A RECITAL on the Dresden piano-organ combination instrument was given in Messrs Grace, Clarke and Co.'s premises, Emerson-street, Napier, recently, when there was a crowded audience and numbers of persons were unable to obtain admission. Mr Grace sang Gounod's 'Nazareth' with much sweetness and purity, and Sullivan's 'Lost Chord' was undertaken by Miss Mabel Millar, while the organ, which pealed in during the concluding part of this song, was heard to great advantage under the clever manipulation of Mr Spackman. A cornet solo by Mr Williams was also included in the programme.

A grand concert, in aid of the Indian Famine Relief Fund, was given in the Marine Parade, Napier, by the City Band on the 8th inst., when a large number of people responded to the energetic efforts of the promoters to swell the proceeds. The Band, which was stationed on the Rotunda, performed with its accustomed verve the favourite music of the day, and later on effectively-dressed children took part in a Maypole dance. After the concert the band proceeded to the Council Chambers to meet the Mayor, who thanked the members of it for their assistance, and stated that £470 had been collected before their entertainment, and £500 would now be sent from the people of Hawke's Bay, whom he thanked for their generosity. Mr Tankard, who replied on behalf of the Band, said that their services were always available for charitable purposes.

At a recent rehearsal of a concert in America a large spider came slowly down his silken thread to about the height of the singer's shoulders, where he hung suspended for a few minutes, and then began to move up and down in front of the music rack. The second tenor, who was leading the air, soon noticed (says a correspondent of the *St. Paul Globe*) that the movements of the spider corresponded with the variations of his voice, up and down the scale, and in perfect time. They then began a series of experiments, and found that the spider would ascend or descend about a foot for every octave, and, though the melody was carried ever so lightly, and the basses thundered in their heaviest tones, the insect could not be deceived, but always followed the leading part accurately and with the precision of a director's baton. All kinds of songs, from 'Down in the Cornfield' to 'The Bridge,' were sung to test the ability of the wonderful little being, and each time he came out of the conflict not a beat behind. At last the four voices struck an awful discord, and instantly the spider scurried up his improvised metronome and disappeared in the chimney.

An American named Dudley Prescott, and dubbed the 'Human Brass Band,' was lately performing in 'Frisco. He imitates everything from a music box up to a megaphone, and his performances have made wonderful hits.

Most of the London papers concur in saying that Sir A. C. Mackenzie's new opera, 'His Majesty,' will have to be severely cut down if it is to be a success. The piece is set in the imaginary Court of Vignoiila, a country the architecture of which suggests the perpendicular, with depressed four-centred arches, whilst its costumes are of the most extravagant of the 15th century. A curious comic effect was obtained by making all the characters look like a pack of card pictures. Of the character of Ferdinand the King some idea may be obtained from his first song:—

I was born upon a Sunday. At the early age of one day,
I was Colonel in the Lancos and the wearer of a sword;
And they made me on the Tuesday, which I always call my cruise day.

Into Captain of a cruiser, though I couldn't go aboard,
Every sort of decorations I received from foreign nations,
All the potentates of Europe showered crosses on my head,
And before the week was ended I was looking really splendid,
Lying tucked with all the orders of my Kingdoms into bed.

Thus, let all nations know it—I am painter, playwright, poet;
I'm the father of my country, and that country's greatest son,
When I'm and my subjects failer; but when circumstances alter,
I can always set them laughing at what I consider fun.

When compared to King or Kaiser, I am greater, better, wiser;
I'm to all my brother Sovereigns as infancy to youth;
Yet my character's the oddest, for I'm so supremely modest,
That I know I never value all my merits as I ought.

Appropos to musical examinations, some figures based upon recent reports by the examiners of Trinity College, London, may not be without interest. In the higher divisions for pianists 105 candidates entered for Associateship, of whom three succeeded and forty-one gained a second-class certificate. In singing the passes were 33 per cent., and in second-class theory 56 per cent. There were five aspirants for the degree of Licentiate, and four succeeded. Out of 191 candidates in all departments,

ninety-two, or about 48 per cent., satisfied the examiners. The passes at recent local examinations in Australasia were, of senior candidates, 47 per cent.; of juniors, 80 per cent. There were some schools, however, in which as many as 90 per cent. were successful. These figures are much more satisfactory than some upon which I commented a while ago, though, knowing a little of the average candidate, I am inclined to dissatisfaction with results which show 80 per cent. of passes. In such a case, either the examiners are unduly lenient or the standard of knowledge required is too low. The results in the higher divisions certainly inspire confidence, conveying an impression that a genuine test was prepared and honestly applied.

As indicating the advance of English music in Germany, it may be stated that a Quintet for wind instruments, composed by Mr Algernon Ashton, has recently been performed in Cologne with success. The instruments in the score are flute, oboe, clarinet, horn, and bassoon. It is to be hoped that opportunity of hearing this work in the country of its origin will soon arise.

There should be plenty of music in Buda-Pesth if it be true that the city contains 120 gipsy bands, numbering 997 performers, thirty-two wind bands, and twenty-one orchestras in which the players are women. The grand total is given as 2,000 musicians in a population of half a million. What a place for the Old Lady of Banbury Cross!

The orchestra of the Berlin Philharmonic is going on tour this year, according to report, which adds that it will give three concerts in Vienna in April, afterwards proceeding to Paris and London.

Bergamo, the birthplace of Donizetti, is collecting documents relating to the career of that composer, and has sent a representative to search Vienna. A committee, headed by Hanslick, has been formed to assist in this matter.

The Queen has accepted the dedication to herself of a short Ode, for chorus and orchestra, composed by Mr Cowen in honour of the 'Diamond Jubilee.' This work comes opportunely, in view of demands for appropriate music during the national rejoicings.

An Easter benefit concert given in Picton on Saturday evening was completely marred, and the management had to close proceedings, owing to the unmanly conduct of some of the rowing men, who simply would not allow the performers to be heard. Some of the best talent in Otago and Wellington had promised to assist, and Picton people and visitors anticipated a treat, but some of the audience fairly drove people off the stage with jeers and insults. Even ladies with well-known musical ability and favourites of the public were subject to the same unmanly treatment, and were forced to retire. Picton people are always ready to assist in a benefit, but as this is the second year these gentlemen (?) have disgraced themselves in this way, it will be impossible—if these men represent clubs—to get up an entertainment of any kind at Easter. Of course in a larger place the police would put a stop to such proceedings, and thus some of the crews would be *non est* at the regatta. Some of the items struggled through were the overture, 'Nigger Dance,' Miss Greensill; 'The Blind Girl to Her Harp,' Miss M. Seymour; 'The Ter's Farewell,' and 'The Death of Nelson,' Mr Wilmott; 'Afton Water,' and 'The Auld Scotch Songs,' Miss McCormick; 'Whisper and I Shall Hear,' Mr Riddell; 'Marguerite,' Miss Allen; 'Land o' the Leal,' Miss Howard; 'Queen of the Earth,' Mr A. B. Ross, of Port Chalmers. Overture, Misses Thompson and Fuller; duet, with violin obligato by Mr A. B. Ross, Messrs Riddell and Platts (Port Chalmers); quartette, 'Annie Laurie,' Messrs Ross, Platts, Bauchope, and Riddell. Miss Greensill played the accompaniments in her usual perfect manner, and to the Port Chalmers' crew in particular, and all the rest of the visiting crews in general, the management owe a hearty vote of thanks.

A series of concerts to be given at the opening of the Dunedin Agricultural Hall during the jubilee celebrations are now in course of rehearsal by the Dunedin Orchestral Society.

It seems as if New Zealand would be able to lay claim to being the birthplace of a musical prodigy, namely, Miss Vera French, aged eight, granddaughter of Captain Ellis, and grand-niece of Mr George Ellis, ex-Mayor of Napier. This young lady, who formerly resided in Auckland, exhibited an aptitude for music at a very early age indeed, and has for some time been the pupil of Herr Zimmerman and Carl Schmitt. She is now in London, where the examining professors at the London Conservatoire of music evinced such interest in her performance, both on the violin and piano, that they have presented her with a scholarship of £35 and free tuition for a year. Miss French, who is to appear professionally in about six months, should have a brilliant career before her.

WOMAN'S PHYSIQUE.

In a recent lecture at the Academy of National Sciences of Philadelphia, Professor A. B. Brubaker, discussing the subject of 'Physical Development,' said:—

Professor Gottfried Schadow, of the Royal Academy of Arts in Berlin has given to the world, in his figure of the artistically formed woman, the following measurements:—Height 63½ inches, breadth of neck 3¼ inches, shoulders 16 inches, waist 9 inches, hips 13½ inches.

Long before Professor Schadow's time an unknown artist created the statue the Venus de Medici, the world's ideal of perfection in the female figure, on these measurements:—Height 63 inches, breadth of neck 3¼ inches, shoulders 16 inches, waist 9½ inches; hips 13 inches.

Professor Sargeant, with several thousand tabulated life measurements in hand, produced a composite figure of the young American girl with these measurements: Height 63½ inches, breadth of neck 3.8 inches, girth of neck 12.1 inches, breadth of shoulders 14.7 inches, breadth of waist 8.6 inches, girth of waist 24.6 inches, breadth of hip 13.1 inches, girth of hips 33.4 inches, girth of calf, 13.3 inches, girth of upper arm 10.1 inches, girth of thigh 21.4 inches, and forearm 9.2 inches.

Miss Anna Wood has given measurements closely similar to those of Professor Sargeant in her composite figure of the Wellesley College girl, being averaged from the measurements of over 2,000 young women.

Given the height, proportion and weight of an average physique for the man and woman, what should be the attitude or posture of such an individual, especially when standing? By posture is meant a position of equilibrium of the body which can be maintained for some time, such as standing, sitting or lying.

For the maintenance of the erect posture the following conditions must be realized: (1) The corresponding halves of the body must be in the same anatomical relation. (2) The centre of gravity of the whole body must fall just in front of the last lumbar vertebra. That the first of these two conditions may be realized there must be a well-developed and symmetrical skeleton and a corresponding symmetrical development of the muscles of the two sides of the body. That the second condition may be realized, there must be such a development of the extensor muscles on the back of the body as will be sufficient to antagonize the flexor muscles on the front of the body.

These conditions are not always realized, and hence certain physical defects are observable, such as obliquity of the head, elevation or depression of the shoulder, curvature of the spine and so forth.

Among the defects which interfere with proper stature and proportions may be mentioned knock knees, bow legs and pigeon toes.

Knock knees occur in childhood or at puberty, and are generally associated with rickets and due to a want of muscular or bony strength. Owing to the width of the pelvis, the thigh bones are inclined inward. This determines the direction of the deformity. There is a disproportion between the weight of the body and the strength of the muscles. In consequence the inner condyle of the thigh bone grows down and inward, and throws the lower leg outward.

Bow legs are also associated with rickets and want of strength in muscles and bones. In this condition the natural curve of the bone is exaggerated and the legs bend outward.

Pigeon toes are a term applied to the inward direction of the foot, dependent on insufficient development of the muscles which should turn the foot outward. This is a condition observed in monkeys and very young children.

In addition to the above-mentioned deformities relating to the trunk and limbs, there are others found in both men and women, especially in the latter, however, which relate to changes in the shape of the thorax, caused by undue compression or restriction.

It is difficult to understand why this construction should have been indulged in through the ages. There is an idea, however, that it confers on the individual an artistic effect. The Greek woman of the decadent period suggested the methods and objects. It was adopted by the Romans at the beginning of the Empire. During the middle ages it died out, to be revived in the twelfth century.

THE April number of the *Pall Mall Magazine* does not fall beneath the mark of its excellent predecessors, and offers literary and artistic satisfaction to the varied tastes of its very large army of readers. The English show place, beautifully illustrated in this month's issue, is Levens Hall in the North Country. The sport of the month, dealt genially with by the Hon. T. W. Tebb, M.P., is 'Trout Fishing.' There are several good articles on interesting subjects, and several good short stories, one more notable than the others entitled 'The Strange Adventure of Joan Archer.' There is the continuation of R. L. Stevenson's extremely attractive story 'St. Ives,' also the continuation of 'The Story of 1812,' and the article entitled, 'The Major Tactics of Chess,' Mr Quiller Couch treats us on an amusing instalment of light verses and talk upon many things from his 'Cornish Window.' The illustrations are all of an attractive order.

THE April number of the *Review of Reviews* is to hand. Among the leading features is the third article by Mr Stead on Her Majesty the Queen. It is entitled, 'The Queen as Editor of the Realm,' and is interestingly written and profusely illustrated. Mr W. H. Fitchett continues his 'Fights for the Flag,' his subject this month being George II. at Dettingen. Readers who have not seen Nansen's 'Farthest North' will find an interesting review of the famous voyage. Among subjects more particularly Australasian are an article on 'Musical Taste in Queensland,' and another on 'The Federal Convention at Work.'

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