

T. H. Turpin, president of the College of Organists, London, has been appointed editor of the *Musical Standard*, of that city. The ability of this gentleman is so well known that the most satisfactory results may be anticipated.

They decided to produce the "Meistersinger" at the Stadt Theatre, Magdeburg, and held no less than 1,790 rehearsals, namely, 790 for the principals, 800 for the chorus, 40 general, 80 for the carpenters, and 170 for the band.

Richter, the German conductor, made a great impression in London last season by his conducting of Wagner's operas. But the *Fremdenblatt* says that he is "totally devoid of musical temper and cleverness." Hence, much agitation in German musical circles.

The notable musical people who died during the past year were Jules Offenbach, the Parisian opera bouffe composer; Sir John Goss, the English director and composer; Henri Wieniawski, the Polish violinist, and Ole Bull; Isabella McCulloch, the American soprano, and John Curwen, the originator of the Tonic Sol-Fa system.

STUDIO NOTES.

In the midst of a Canadian winter which so long removes us from the pleasant brookside days, it is not a particularly simple matter to find material for an art article in Toronto. If, therefore, this month the readers of THE ARION find us dull we must plead the severity of the season, and promise to do better in the Spring. Though, however, this may be said to be the silent season in Toronto art circles, it is by no means an idle one; perhaps the less so for its silence. The most thorough workers are usually silent, and so let us hope that the coming months will show that our artists are neither dead nor sleeping. From what is now to be seen on the easels of Messrs. O'Brien, Harris, Fraser, Martin, Perri and others of our Royal Academy, it will be safe to say that the exhibit next May will not be the worst which the Spring season has brought round to us. The Ontario School of Art is busy and prosperous, well attended, having over two hundred students on its roll, and the work they are doing is more thorough than ever; its results will also be more apparent this year than previously, as it requires three or four seasons to develop any power in the art of design in young and previously untrained students. We are glad to note that local enterprise is not dormant in the art publishing line, and that Messrs. Rolph, Smith & Co., of Toronto, have offered three prizes for original designs for Christmas Cards, to be brought out next winter. They wisely limit the subjects to such as shall be purely Canadian, or symbolical of the birth of Christ; this is a heedful proviso when we remember the many incongruous subjects palmed off on the public last year, about as *apropos* to Christmas as to mid-summer, in many cases less so.

It is sincerely to be hoped that with the revival in business which is now becoming so general that the artistic profession will this year begin to feel its influence, and that some cheering encouragement may fall upon a long waiting, hard working, and in Canada, somewhat neglected profession.

The Montreal Art Association holds an Exhibition of works in black and white, opening on the fifteenth of this month. This is a new move in that city, and must perforce prove interesting if not profitable. This will afford an opportunity for some of our younger artists, and be a pleasant fore-runner of the regular exhibition of paintings which is to open there in April, and at which, it is hoped, several of our Tor-

onto studios will be represented. Last spring the Montreal public patronized the Canadian work more than it has done for some time past, or in fact ever before. This in itself must be regarded as a very healthy sign, not only for the prospect it gives of the improvement of the position of Canadian artists, but also of the greater independence and discernment of their patrons. On the whole, the year 1881 should prove the best art year ever enjoyed in the Dominion, when we look forward to so many exhibitions of a purely fine art aim which are projected for it. The great solicitude displayed for the encouragement of Art by His Excellency the Governor General and his Royal wife can hardly fail to have its good effect. It seems to be just the one thing needful for those in position so exalted, to extend a fostering hand and bright example in the patronage of art to give it the impetus it so sadly needs. The sacred fire burns among us, let it not languish for want of the stimulus which substantial aid and patronage by wealth alone can give.

MUSICAL REVIEW.

NEW MUSIC PUBLISHED BY I. SUCKLING & SONS.

"North-west Mounted Police Waltzes," composed by St. George B. Crozier, "Mus. Doc."

These waltzes, like most compositions of their kind, answer well enough the purpose for which they are intended, viz., to be danced to; further than this as a musical composition, they are below criticism. Consecutive octaves and fifths, without object or excuse, literally run riot, from first to last. In waltz No. 2, bars fourteen and fifteen, the harmony which, during the two previous bars has been 6-4 on E, suddenly jumps to the chord of 7 on C, bringing the melody in octaves with it. This is neither correct nor effective. In the first bar on page eleven, we find full chord of 6-4 in right hand, against full chord of 5-3 in left hand. Metric errors and errors in notation occur. The waltzes finish with consecutive octaves and fifths in final chords. All these are errors which we would not have expected and cannot excuse in one signing himself Mus. Doc.

MUSIC TRADE REVIEW.

The firm of A. & S. Nordheimer, which may be considered as the pioneer piano music house of Canada, are still to the fore as importers of first-class American pianos. Messrs. Nordheimer are the sole agents in Canada for the celebrated Steinway and Chickering pianos, beside which they have in stock always a large assortment of pianos of other makers notably Haines, Vose, and Gabler. They report business flourishing; their sales during Christmas and New Year's season having been unprecedentedly large. The Messrs. Nordheimer have several branch houses throughout the Dominion, and their name has become, in connection with musical matters, as a household word from Montreal to Manitoba, at which latter place we believe they have lately established an agency.