

J. L. Kerr, E. A. Maclaurin, A. Ross, J. E. Thompson, E. A. Scadding. Conductor, Edward Fisher.

THE Toronto Vocal Society at its annual meeting gave a handsome gold watch to Mr. W. Elliott Haslam, its popular musical director, and also presented a very pretty diamond ring to the accompanist, Miss McKay. The presentations were made by the President, Mr. J. K. Kerr.

B NATURAL.

TORONTO COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

LAST week, on Thursday evening, Mr. T. C. Jeffers, of the College staff, gave a musical evening in the College Hall before a large audience. The programme consisted entirely of church music and included anthems from such composers as Sullivan, Stainer, Foster and Marchetti, given by the Central Methodist Church choir, who also sang a magnificent motette by Randegger. Solos were effectively sung by Mr. J. W. Lawrence, Mr. E. R. Doward, of the College staff, and Mr. R. G. Kirby, while Mr. Jeffers played some selections from Bach, Spohr and Guilman on the College organ, also reading a well written paper on "The Practical Side of Music," which went thoroughly into choirs, their music, music in the services, and the dangers which generally beset choirs. The evening was a most enjoyable one and the audience were evidently delighted with the entertainment.

NOTES.

THE Chicago Auditorium represents, without doubt, the most interesting and ambitious artistic enterprise that has yet been advanced in the West. There is no more complete enterprise of its kind in the world, and the building itself has been planned on a colossal scale. This building is a composite structure, comprising stores, a huge hotel, a conservatory of music and drama, convenient halls, and an opera house, which can also be used for popular or political gatherings. The opera house is the most spacious theatre in the United States, and is said to have a larger seating capacity than any European auditorium. The auditorium is the result of the philanthropy of Mr. Ferdinand W. Peck, one of Chicago's millionaires. The first performances at the Auditorium Opera House will be a series of representations of Italian opera, under the management of Mr. Henry E. Abbey. These representations will be of the most elaborate character, and will bring together a company of extraordinary strength. Mme. Patti will head the company, which may also include Miss Van Zandt and several other famous singers, among them one of the two or three leading European tenors.

In reference to Gounod's reported coming visit to this country the composer has told an interviewer: "There is not one word of truth in it. I have had no proposition from any one, and if I had I should not entertain it for a single moment. It is a source of much pleasure to me to know that I have so many warm friends and admirers in the United States; but I am now too old to think of going so far away from home. No, there is no truth whatever in the report."

THE Italian newspapers announce the death, at the age of seventy-six, of Felice Varese, one of the great baritones of the past, and the artist for whom Verdi wrote "Rigoletto." By birth Varese was a Frenchman; he was born at Calais.

READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE.

SCIENTIFIC USES OF THE EIFFEL TOWER.

M. JANSSEN, of the Institut Francais, is of opinion that the Eiffel Tower will have many scientific uses. One of the greatest difficulties of meteorological observations is the disturbing influences of the station of observation itself. How, for example, can a true deviation of the wind be observed if a purely local obstacle causes it to deviate? and how can a true temperature of the air be determined by a thermometer influenced by radiation from surrounding objects? Thus the meteorological elements of great centres of habitation have to be taken outside those centres, and at a certain height above the soil. The Tower, since it rises to a great height, and, from the nature of its construction, does not modify in any way the meteorological elements to be observed, will get over this difficulty. A height of 300 yards is in itself not a negligible quantity from the point of view of rainfall, temperature, and pressure, but these circumstances give all the more interest to the institution of comparative experiments on variations due to altitude; the electrical interchanges between the soil and the atmosphere can also be studied to advantage. Special arrangements can be made for avoiding accidents, and results of great interest should be obtained. He recommends also the institution of a service of meteorological photography. A good series of photographs would give forms, movements, modifications which the clouds and atmospheric conditions undergo from sunrise to sunset. Thus a history of the skies would be written on a radius not hitherto dealt with. In physical astronomy various other observations might be taken, especially in relation to the study of telluric spectrum. M. Eiffel announces that three laboratories have already been arranged on the Tower. One will be devoted to astronomy, and the second will contain registering apparatus from the central

bureau of meteorology, and will be devoted to physic and meteorology. MM. Mascart and Cornu expect to draw great advantages from its use in the study of the atmosphere. The second is reserved for biology and micro-graphic study of the air, to be organized by M. Henocque. M. Cailletet is arranging a great mercurial manometer, with which he expects to obtain pressures as high as 400 atmospheres.—*British Medical Journal*.

THE DOUBLE RELATION OF JEWS.

THE world never seems to be able to understand this double relation of the Jew to his country and to his race and religion. The two feelings do not interfere with one another. The Jew is steadfast in his clinging to his ancestral faith and yet loyal to his country, even when persecuted in it. That this is so in Russia is proved by the curious fact of the existence of Jewish Nihilists. Strange as it may appear, Nihilists think that they are aiming at the good of their country by their efforts, and they are willing to sacrifice their lives in the cause. Thus the Jewish Nihilists, however mistaken in their ideas, are showing themselves Russian patriots, who are willing to die for their country. And when enthusiastic natures are willing to die for their country, less elevated souls are at least willing to live in it.—*Jewish Chronicle*.

LEPROSY AND THE STATE.

THE need for a renewed investigation into leprosy and its contagiousness is becoming imperative; and we are glad to see that the College of Physicians are prepared to urge the matter upon the Government, for it is a question that vitally concerns the interests of the empire. If, as some assert, leprosy be spreading in certain of our colonial possessions, it is incumbent on the State to determine why so frightful a scourge occurs, and to take the best possible counsel as to the measures to prevent its ravages. What is required is not merely the perusal of reports, but the actual study of the disease in the affected districts, and the circumstances under which it occurs. It would cost money, but is this empire so poor or so selfish as to be unable or unwilling to devote some of its resources to a work which is of practical humanitarian interest as well as of scientific importance? Meanwhile, there is good work being done in leper asylums under British dominion. The report of one such institution, small though it be, lies before us. It is that of the Asylum of Lepers, at Dehra Dun, North-West Provinces, India, and is issued by Surgeon-Major Maclaren, M. D. The statistics it contains clearly show that by enforcing the segregation of the sexes this asylum has, during the past 10 years, wrought a great benefit to the district. Dr. Maclaren calculates that he has prevented a probable increase in this period of at least 70, and possibly of as many as 120 cases; and he pertinently remarks that with 1,000 such institutions throughout India the disease might eventually become as rare as it is in Europe. For there is no known remedy for the disease. Prevention alone can cope with it.—*Lancet*.

VENTILATION.

THE *Sanitary News* gives the following advice in reference to the admission of air to rooms: "Air should be introduced and removed to those parts of the room where it would not cause a sensible draught. Air flowing against the body at, or even somewhat above, the temperature of the air of the room, will cause an inconvenient draught, from the fact that, as it removes the moisture of the body, it causes evaporation or a sensation of cold. Air should never, as a rule, be introduced at or close to the floor-level. The opening would be liable to be fouled with sweepings and dirt. The air, unless very much above the temperature of the air of the room, would produce a sensation of cold to the feet. It may be regarded as an axiom of ventilation and warming, that the feet should be kept warm and the head cool. The orifices at which air is admitted should be above the level of the heads of the persons occupying the room. The current of inflowing air should be directed toward the ceiling, and should either be as much subdivided as possible by means of numerous orifices, or be admitted through conical openings with the smaller opening toward the outer air and the larger openings toward the room, by which means the air of the entering current is very rapidly dispersed. Air admitted near the ceiling very soon ceases to exist as a distinct current, and will be found at a very short distance from the inlet to have mingled with the general mass of the air, and to have attained the temperature of the room, partly owing to the longer mass of air in the room with which the inflowing current mingles, partly to the action of gravity in cases where the inflowing air is colder than the air in the room."

FLYING FISH.

At a recent meeting of the Physiological Society, Berlin, Prof. Moebius spoke on the movements of the flying fish through the air. He first described, from personal observation, the way in which the fish shoot out of the water from both bows of the ship, and then propel themselves horizontally for a distance of several ship's lengths with their pectoral and abdominal fins stretched out flat,

skimming along without moving their fins, always in the direction of the wind, but either with or against the same. When they meet the crest of a wave they raise themselves slightly in the air, falling again to the same extent in the succeeding trough of the sea. Occasionally a slight buzzing of the fins may be observed, similar to that of the movements of the wings in many insects. At night they frequently fall on the deck of the ship. As a result of a detailed investigation, the speaker had proved that these fish do not fly, since the anatomical arrangements of their fins and muscles are not adapted to this purpose. What really occurs is that when frightened by the approach of a ship or any enemy they shoot up out of the water, as do many other fish, and are then carried along by the wind, which strikes on the under surface of their outstretched and evenly balanced fins. Notwithstanding the general acceptance which was accorded to the above investigation, it was urged by many that the buzzing of the fins, the rising over the crest of a wave, and the falling overboard after having landed on the deck of a ship, were evidences that this fish really executes movements which result in flight. In reply to this, the speaker pointed out that the buzzing of the fins takes place when a strong current of air is directed against the outspread fins of a dead flying fish by means of a bellows, and further, that the rising over the crest of a wave or the bulwarks of a ship may be explained by the ascending currents of air which are always produced whenever a strong horizontal wind strikes against any elevated object, such as a wave or part of a ship. Thus, finally, with the exception of the movements involved in its oblique sudden exit from the sea, all the motions of a flying fish when in the air are really passive.

THE REVENGE OF TIME.

Cadwallader (*pere*)—"How's this, Eleanor, a forty-dollar bill rendered from Fuss and Feathers?"
Cadwallader (*fille*)—"Oh, yes, papa, dear; that is for my Easter bonnet, you know; it was lovely, too."
Cadwallader (*pere*, grimly)—"It ought to have been."
Cadwallader (*fille*)—"It was, I can assure you; Jack thought it a perfect gem."
Cadwallader (*pere*)—"H'm! that was very kind of Jack."
Cadwallader (*fille*)—"Yes, wasn't it? I don't mind letting you, papa, dear, see a bit of poetry he wrote about it on the fly-leaf of my prayer-book during service."

Cadwallader (*pere*, reading)—

A flutter of ribbon, a fringe of lace.
A bunch of posies nodding upon it;
Two tender eyes, a mignon face—
This is my love in her Easter bonnet.

"Thanks, my dear, I appreciate your confidence and Jack's rhyme. I will not forget either."
One Year Later.

Jack—"Eleanor, isn't forty dollars a big price for a Spring bonnet?"

Eleanor—"Oh, no, not specially; it was my Easter bonnet, you know."

Jack—"Ah! I was not aware that milliners had Easter offerings, too."

Eleanor (*pouting*)—"You know very well they do not. I meant that the bonnet was of superior design and elegance. Papa met me on the avenue and said I had never looked prettier. Oh, and he sent a message to you, too!"

Jack—"What was that?"

Eleanor—"He bade me be sure to tell you that my bonnet was very becoming, and that if you intended to write an ode to it as usual, this year, he would suggest that you write in blank verse and affix your autograph."

Jack (*reddening a little*)—"Your papa, Eleanor, is a very funny old gentleman."—[*M. H. Welch, in Life*.]

HERE is the latest Tory joke: Why cannot Mr. Gladstone have his life insured? Because no man living can make out his policy.—*Boston Post*.

MRS. SLIMDIET (boarding house keeper): "Isn't this coffee just a leetle thin?" Cook: "I ain't made the coffee yet, mum; that's water."—*Time*.

INCORRIGIBLE.—*Lawyer*. "Your share of the estate, sir, is one dollar, and there it is."

Prodigal. "Thank you, Mr. Brief. This unexpected windfall quite overwhelms me. Will you not help me to celebrate the occasion by joining me at dinner? I know where we can get a splendid table d'hôte for a dollar."

A MATTER OF DEGREE.—"Well, my son, your final examination will soon be on. Do you think you will get your degree?"

"If the philosopher who said that he is the wisest who has discovered his own ignorance spoke the truth, I shall get a Ph.D. and an LL.D., and numerous other degrees. If he was wrong, the degree I'll get is Zero."

A CORRESPONDENT sends us the following, which, he says, is vouched for by a schoolmaster: At a village school not many miles from Canterbury, a precocious boy being asked to parse the sentence "Mary, milk the cow," went on accurately till he came to the last word, when he said: "Cow is a pronoun, feminine gender, third person singular, and stands for Mary." "Stands for Mary?" asked the master in astonishment. "Yes, sir," responded the urchin, with a grin; "for if the cow didn't stand for Mary, how could Mary milk the cow?"—*London Standard*.