

this column. In writing to a German paper (the name of which I do not know, as this quotation is not taken directly from the original) that eminent vocalist says:—

"Most people have very false conceptions on singing methods. Some think the Italian, others the German the better. Now, both schools, when they are good, are grounded on one and the same basis; both are perfectly alike, one and the same. Perhaps at present by the German school people understand Wagner singing; by the Italian, coloratura singing; to the layman these conceptions may seem two different ones, but to the artist both German and Italian must be the same. A good singer must be able unreservedly to do both, for both can be achieved by industry, effort and thought; whoever cannot do so cannot, in my opinion, claim the name of artist. The only difference between the old and new singing methods consists in this, that in earlier days people had six or eight years' instruction in singing and acting, and that now all is over in one year. In such a period nothing can be attained."

On Saturday afternoon last Mr. W. Elliott Haslam held a "Conference" at the rooms of Messrs. A. and S. Nordheimer for the purpose of discussing and illustrating "The Unity of the Voice." He read a short paper in which he called attention to some of the principal causes of the decline in the art of singing. These he considered to be—in addition to the undue abbreviation of courses of study—(1) The abuse of the "stroke of the glottis"; (2) the use of a uniform vowel when the voice is being "placed"; (3) the laying of too much stress on the "registers" or divisions of the voice. The paper was listened to with much interest, and was followed by a programme of difficult vocal music, rendered by the following pupils of Mr. Haslam: Misses Notman, Taylor, Clarke, and Ronan, Mesdames Crowley and Dow, and Messrs. Parker and Gorrie.

An interesting Quartette Recital was given at the ware-rooms of Messrs. R. S. Williams & Sons last Saturday afternoon. The quartette, consisting of Miss Mabel DeGeer, soprano; Miss Minnie F. Hessin, contralto; Mr. Walter H. Robinson, tenor, and Mr. Fred W. Lee, bass, gave much pleasure by the sweet tone produced and the highly finished style in which the various numbers were rendered. Each of the vocalists appeared also as a soloist; and the programme was further varied by Mrs. F. W. Lee who, in addition to acting as accompanist, contributed three piano solos.

It is announced that the Toronto Conservatory of Music has become affiliated with the University of Toronto. This change will give to students in the Conservatory equal facility for taking their degrees in music either at Trinity University or at the University of Toronto.

C. E. SAUNDERS.

The choir and orchestra of the Church of the Redeemer will give their annual concert this year in Association Hall, on Tuesday, May 5th. Macfarren's cantata "May Day" with orchestral accompaniment will be the principal number on the programme. The choir and orchestra are busy rehearsing under the direction of Mr. Walter H. Robinson.

Miss Ada E. S. Hart, of this city, has enjoyed the unusual honour of playing the piano on the invitation of Paderewski, who gave the young lady a private interview, last week. Both are pupils of the eminent Leschetisky. Miss Hart was warmly praised for her proficiency, and urged to continue her studies.

### Werekha:

#### MEMOIR OF THE FORESTS OF RUSSIA AND THEIR PRODUCTS

THE forests of Russia, exclusive of those of Central Asia, Caucasus, and Finland, extend over a space of 177,159,000 square déciatines, or 193,544,105 hectares,\* corresponding nearly to 40% of the total superficies of the Empire in Europe. Comparing the extent of country occupied by the forests with the number of the inhabitants, there are about 2.03 hectares to each inhabitant.

If the proportion between the extent of forests and the population was everywhere uniform, it might be said that the requirements of the country were more than completely assured; but in Russia the forests are very unequally distributed; so that of the whole area of the forests there are 97,930,00 déciatines, or 106,964,797 hectares situated in the

four Governments of the North: Arkhangel, Vologda and Perm; which make about 65% of the total superficies of the forests and more than 26 déciatines (28,398 hectares) for each inhabitant. In the ten most thickly populated Governments in the centre of Russia, those of Moscow, Riazan, Penza, Kalouga, Toula, Tambow, Orel, Koursk, Voronège and Kharkow, the forests occupy only a space of 7,938,000 déciatines, or 8,670,330 hectares, which makes about 18% of the total area, and scarcely a half déciatine or 54 ares for each inhabitant. In the seven Governments of the South: Bessarabia, Kherson, Ecaterinoslaw, Taurida, Podolia, Poltava and Astrakhan, these proportions are still much less. In these seven Governments of the South the wooded lands (1,795,000 déciatines, or 1,960,602 hectares) represent only 3½% of the total forest area and not more than 0.1 déciatine or 11 ares to each inhabitant. The very dense population of the ten Governments of the kingdom of Poland, which occupy a space of 122,266 square kilomètres, has, altogether, 3,053,000 déciatines or 3,334,663 hectares of forest, making 27.27% of the total area. In these ten Governments there is but one-half a déciatine, or only 54.16 acres of forest to each inhabitant.

Such an unequal disposition of the forests, as well in regard to the total forest area of the Russian Empire in Europe, as to the population; the immense distances that separate the thinly wooded Governments of the South: the rich forests of the Northern Governments; the want of water communications between many localities; and the cost of carrying wood long distances by rail;—all these circumstances have compelled the inhabitants to seek methods of reforestation, as well for building purposes as for fuel. And all the while, the people of the wooded districts of the north suffer more as they do not profit from their abundance of forests, because they obstruct the communication between localities so thinly populated.

As to territorial ownership the forests are distributed as follows:

The state forests occupy 110,726,000 déciatines or 120,966,840 hectares.

Forests appertaining to the mines of the Crown occupy 5,394,000 déciatines or 5,892,880 hectares.

The appanage forests of the Crown extend over 5,487,500 déciatines or 5,995,028 hectares.

Forests appertaining to towns, churches, monasteries, different institutions, and private individuals extend over 55,511,500 déciatines or 60,689,354 hectares.

Private individuals and institutions owning forests have the absolute right to cut the timber and clear them up. It follows from this that all calculations and guarantees as to the future forest wealth of the country can only be based on those forests which are under the immediate guardianship of the Government, or special forest administration. This is why the guarantee of the needs of the population in forest products and traffic really depends upon the administration of the State forests by the Government, and their exploitability.

Of the whole extent of the forests of Russia, the most considerable part, as well of the State forests, as those belonging to individuals, is situated in the northern Governments. In Arkhangel the State forests represent 41% of the whole forest domain; in Vologda 82%; in Olonets 86%; in Perm 43%; in the centre the proportion is 10%, and in the South it is below 1%.

#### VARIETIES OF TREES AND THEIR USES.

Russia in Europe, with few exceptions, possesses all the trees indigenous to western Europe. The principle of these that are the object of forest management, are the following:

The wild pine (*Pinus Sylvestris*). In the North, this variety pushes almost to the limit of vegetation. To the South, having been subjected to prolonged destruction for several centuries, the limits of its growth have gradually receded towards the North, and now form a broken line setting out to the West of Volhynia in the district of Ostrojki, about the 50° of north latitude. From there to wards the South, the limit of vegetation cuts the Governments of Kiew, Poltava, and Kharkow, and falls in this last Government to the basin of the Don, about the 49° of latitude. Farther on, the southerly limit of its growth turns sharply to the north of the Don, cuts the Governments of Koursk, and of Orel on the Oka, crosses the Government of Kalouga, scarcely touches the Government of Toula, especially in the districts of Alexinsk and Bielewsk, describes

\* 40 hectares=99 acres, nearly.