

## PADEREWSKI'S FINGERS

## Some Comments on Mechanical Piano-playing

Mechanical piano-playing is like mechanical reading: dull and uninteresting. Yet there are musicians who play mechanically because they have not succeeded in conquering the amazing difficulties which lurk in piano technique. They have a clear appreciation of the composer's thought, but their fingers fail to express their intention and their emotion. It may seem paradoxical, but because of their inability to conquer the mere mechanics of piano-playing, their playing is mechanical. If they were technical virtuosi, then they would be great musicians, for they have temperament and poetic insight. For such persons the ordinary pneumatic piano-player is of no advantage, because it does not permit of much expression, but the Angelus is not an ordinary piano-player. Its marvellous patented inventions make it possible for the person playing to clearly bring out the melody of any composition and subdue the accompaniment, to accent the base or the treble sections separately or to accelerate or retard the music at will. The Angelus has everything that Paderewski has in his fingers; all it lacks is a musical brain and poetic temperament, and those can be supplied by the operator of this amazing device, for every music roll gives a clear indication of correct interpretation. Canadians can secure their Angelus as an interior part of one of the finest pianos made in this country, the Gourlay. Messrs. Gourlay, Winter & Leeming have done a great deal for the progress of musical art in this country by providing such a magnificent combination instrument as the Gourlay-Angelus, now on exhibition at the Yonge street warerooms.



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## The Winnipeg Women's Musical Club

By F. H. RANDAL

FOURTEEN years ago six women, whose musical education had been obtained abroad, and who wished to keep up their practice, met in Winnipeg on a certain Monday afternoon to enjoy an hour together. So pleasant did it prove that the Monday afternoon drawing-room recital became a habit which was never broken, and the little group of women has now become a Club, boasting a total membership of 476. The founders of the Women's Musical Club of Winnipeg were Mrs. Higginson, Mrs. L. A. Hamilton, and Mrs. Kirkland (the two last named being residents of Toronto at present), Mrs. Frank Matheson, Mrs. Stobart and Mrs. Brophy.

Under most capable presidency, and with the influx of many excellent pianists and vocalists, the Club has prospered greatly and has set up a high standard, marked improvement being shown from year to year. When Miss Drummond was president she collected programmes and plans of work from numbers of musical clubs both in Canada and the States and took from them what seemed the best features. This helped to remove the stereotyped nature of the selections from special composers, and now the Club will compare favourably with any similar institution.

This year much attention has been paid to chamber music, within its own ranks the society finding those whom it needs for the programme, with the exception of a feminine 'cellist, and some well-known masculine musician is asked to supply this deficiency. The Club is intended for amateurs and to them it has been of much value as well as delight. Among the ninety active members there is great talent, both vocally and instrumentally, while not a few rank as composers, as in the case of Mrs. Sanford Evans, Miss Drummond and Mrs. A. R. Wade. Provision is made for student membership, those under the age of nineteen being admitted although not allowed to vote nor asked to take a part in the programmes. There are seventeen of these students now enrolled, and 369 associate members, who pay a fee of \$2. Those who may be eligible for active membership play before an executive committee of five members who pass upon the qualifications of the performers. A prospective active member must be proposed by two active members.

The Club's finances are in excellent condition, from two to three hundred dollars being yearly set aside for a working fund. A balance now remains, amounting to perhaps \$800. The members hope eventually to have a club-room fitted up with two pianos, which would be suitable for recitals to be given by well-known artists. Then, too, at some future time a paid secretary may be appointed. A very fair library has already been established in connection with the Club.

The officers of the Club are: Hon. President, Mrs. Higginson; President, Mrs. R. H. Bryce; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Nanton, Mrs. Sterling, Mrs. Grant, Miss Patterson, Miss Elliott; Secretary, Mrs. A. B. Clark; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. C. S. Riley; Treasurer, Mrs. A. R. Wade; Assistant Treasurer, Miss Falconer; Programme Committee, Miss Elliott, (convener), Mesdames Osborn, Sterling, C. S. Riley, Landry, Wade, Fletcher, Miss Tupper and Miss Bull.

The plan of work for 1907-08, drawn up many months ahead by the Programme Committee, was as follows:

November—Chamber Music and English Song Writers; Schubert;

Composers of the Classical School; Etudes and Modern German Songs.

December—Chamber Music and American Song Writers; Liszt.

January—Chamber Music and Women Song Writers; Chopin; Composers of the Romantic School; Comparative Compositions.

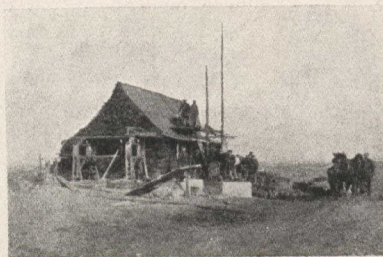
February—Chamber Music and Song Cycles; Grieg; Composers of the Eighteenth Century; National Music and Folk Songs.

March—Chamber Music and Melodrama; Brahms; Composers of the Nineteenth Century; MacDowell; Music relating to Children.

A novelty in the series of programmes prepared is that devoted to "comparative composers," in which different settings of the same song, and different treatment of a nocturne, waltz and polonaise are noted.

## QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S NEW COTTAGE.

HER Majesty Queen Alexandra has never been averse to simple surroundings, and it would be difficult to imagine plainer accommodation for royalty than that provided at her



Queen Alexandra's New Bungalow

new bungalow on the beach at Snettisham, about four miles from Sandringham. This modest building is now nearly completed. It is a wooden structure, containing two rooms, the larger of which will be exclusively used by the Queen and her friends, the smaller being reserved for the royal servants. On the side facing the Wash a verandah similar to that which is attached to the Queen's tea-house at Sandringham is being erected, and from this a fine view of the sea will be obtained. The bungalow is railed off from the rest of the beach and is in a quite charming situation.

## HIS CLAIM FOR FAME.

SINCE Frederic Thompson announced his willingness to help the American dramatist by giving his manuscript a careful reading, he has been overwhelmed with plays from all quarters. They have been sent in all shapes and sizes to his Broadway office, to his Luna Park office, and even to his apartments. Going on the road in the early stages of "Polly of the Circus," the bombardment kept up. Manuscripts arrived daily at his hotel, or at the theatre where his play was being presented.

The limit was reached when Mrs. Thompson (Miss Mabel Taliaferro) was sought out as a possible intermediary. She was halted in the lobby of her hotel in Philadelphia by a man who held a formidable bundle under his arm. He pressed this upon her with an urgent request that she persuade Mr. Thompson to read it.

"Mr. Thompson is very busy," said Miss Taliaferro, "and I doubt if he could spare the time now on a pen-and-ink manuscript. Most plays are typewritten."

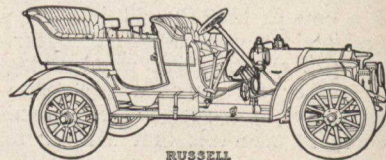
"Oh, I wouldn't dare trust my work to a stenographer who might make

(Continued on page 10)

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