

And surely there is something satisfying to our fancy in the thought that music, which is so human, is also more than human—that it may follow the same laws in all inhabited worlds, and even in Heaven itself. It may in fact be cosmical. Speaking of the music of the spheres, a recent writer has advanced the daring thought that one day perhaps our hearts may be attuned to hear "planetary anthems and sidereal symphonies". The range of the visual faculties has been extended by the telescope and the spectroscope: why may not some magnifying instruments still be invented such as shall enable us to catch the choral harmonies of the created universe, the stars, "for ever singing as they shine," and all the other instruments of the celestial orchestra?

Be that as it may, there can be no doubt that music is valuable to mortal man from a twofold point of view. First, as bringing a veritable culture to the individual, besides furnishing a means of pure and healthful enjoyment. We all know, too, what a solace it is in times of trouble and distress. Plato rightly said that music was given to men not with the sole view of pleasing their senses, but rather for appeasing the troubles of their souls. And in the same way Luther, using another language, tells us, "It drives away the devil, and makes man joyful". Long ago it was recognized as the panacea for the ills of human life: "when Orpheus played upon his lyre the heart of Pluto relented, Enrydice escaped, the wheel of Ixion stopped, the vultures ceased to torment Tityos, the thirst of Tantalus was forgotten, and the goddess of death did not remember to call away the infant or the aged from sweet life". Secondly, music is a valuable factor in the development of our social nature, and in promoting social organization. Human intercourse is not dependent solely on the spoken or the written word. Music has its part to play as one of the means of expression by which we bridge over the distances that tend to separate individuals in human society. Even that somewhat arid philosopher, the late Mr. Herbert Spencer, admitted that "in its bearings on human happiness this emotional lan-