

music. If their pupils are able to sing or finger over a few pieces on the organ, they consider that their duty is done, and yet these very same pupils are not able to answer the simplest questions about the work that they have gone over. Furthermore, go through our towns, villages and rural districts, and examine all who sing in choirs and others, and find out how many, on being presented with a piece of music they never saw before, can sing it through correctly without the aid of a musical instrument,—probably three or four out of a hundred. Some may think this is a bold statement, but it is true, nevertheless. The rising generation are very deficient in this respect. What we want, in order to arrive at any degree of proficiency in the art of music, is, first, to have the people roused to the necessity of paying more attention to this particular branch of education; second, a class of teachers who have passed their examinations, and received certificates of both character and ability, and who will faithfully perform the duties assigned them; and, third, protection against so many frauds and high toned tramps, who have neither respect for the Almighty, themselves, nor others, who swarm the country and call themselves Professors of Music. Healthy representations of a Divine Art! One comes to a place and makes a big spread. Wears a plug hat, a white necktie, black kids and all accoutrements of a professional humbug; he organizes a class for the purpose of training the voice and preparing the Cantata of Queen Esther, stores away a lot of beer and stuff, falls in love with one of the young ladies the wedding day is appointed. Finally it comes to light that he is a married man and has two or three wives around the country. He departs very suddenly, leaving his board, washing and other bills unpaid for, and that is the last of the Professor. This is not an overdrawn picture, as two such characters are known to the writer. Besides the tramp Professors, there are those who are permanently located, who do not know the first thing about music. They receive the title as a compliment, one because he is a fair singer, another because he sings comical songs, and in many cases, the title is self-applied. Under these circumstances how is the art to attain its proper standing, and be looked upon by the country at large as something pure, elevating, and of a refining character. The state in which we find the young people in reference to the knowledge of music is proof positive that we are very negligent of our duty in this respect, in fact, music is left too much to itself to thrive as best it can, and can it be any subject of wonder that we are not further advanced.

There has been a good deal said in the late numbers of THE ARION in reference to having a Chair of Music established for the granting of degrees. Without the least hesitation I affirm that it is the very thing that is needed. We must give encouragement to teachers, and by granting degrees, it would be some inducement for to become a teacher. We want our music teachers to be

looked upon as much of a necessity as a public school teacher, and, in addition to all this, we want our musical conventions for the improvement of teachers besides all the other benefits that will accrue from them. Let us take off our coats, roll up our sleeves, conquer our prejudices, put our shoulder to the wheel and fight manfully to reach the goal of perfection.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

Mlle. Constanze Skiwa, pianist, has died in Vienna, aged thirty-nine.

Stefano Gobatti, composer of "Il Goti," has been created Knight of the Italian Crown.

"Les Huguenots" was performed on April 20, for the 700th time, at the Grand Opera, Paris.

Rubinstein arrived in London, May 1, and is now off to the provinces for a piano-forte recital tour.

MR. ARBUCKLE, accompanied by his daughter, sailed for Europe on the City of Montreal on Thursday.

Handel's "Messiah" was performed a short time since, under the direction of Hugo Senger, at Geneva.

Hans Richter has also arrived, and his concerts will begin on May 9, with the "Choral" symphony and other works.

Madame Patti is sick in Paris, and she has been unable to appear for ten days. Bronchitis is the cause. TRINCULO.

Pierre Benoit's "Children's Cantata" has been twice given in Rotterdam. The chorus included in its ranks some 400 children.

MADAME AMBRE, the truant opera singer, scattered pearls all the way from New Orleans to Philadelphia. They were left in pawn. It is said the fair owner left \$5,000 worth of jewelry in this country which she did not need so badly as ready cash.

STERNBERG has been engaged for a series of twelve concerts in the West before his return to Europe. It is said that he will be married to a Breslau lady of distinction before his return to New York for the next concert season, when he will appear at the Philharmonic.

THE cornet rage will still be encouraged by managers this summer. Levy asserts, and he asserts it boldly, that he signed a contract for \$500 per week, with his board thrown in, at Brighton Beach. He seems to be happier in his anticipation of receiving free board than he does his salary.

THE Philharmonic Society, of Washington, D. C., produced the oratorio of "The Creation" at the National Theatre, May 13, and Rossini's "Stabat Mater" May 14, at their May festival. They were assisted by Mrs. Imogen Brown, Signor Campanini. Miss Mena Waring made her debut as a contralto on the second evening. Owing to the intensely hot weather the attendance was only fair.

DR. LEOPOLD DAMROSCH was presented, on Thursday night, by the ladies of the Oratorio Society, a bust of Beethoven, two elegant wicker chairs, upholstered in embossed scarlet velvet and old gold, and a heavy silver tray, upon which rested a large pitcher, goblet and finger bowls. Mrs. Charles Gaylor made the presentation speech, and Dr. Damrosch, in response, spoke in glowing terms of the society and the success of the music festival, thanking those who had contributed to its success, and for the elegant presents they had given him.

LILLIE.—In the "Mignon" of Thomas, *Lothario* sets fire to the theatre where *Philine* is acting. During this scene some musicians at the Grand Theatre expressed a fear one evening that the flames might extend from the scenery to