

certain diseases connected with the nervous system. When the man whose mind has been racked all day by business or professional duties returns to his home in the evening, there is nothing perhaps that will make him forget these cares so quickly as to recline on a couch and have some one, well versed in the art of music, open the piano and render some favorite melodies.

In conclusion it might be added, in a more general way, that it is safe to predict that music will always hold a foremost place among the fine arts. As the taste for music of the people in general becomes more cultivated and more appreciative, it will become a factor more and more potent in contributing to the pleasures of social life; and if the high class opera could be substituted for many of the so-called "plays," there is no doubt the mental and moral characters of the attendants would be better developed, and developed in the right direction.

It can hardly be said that the art is more than in its infancy yet. Comparatively unknown in Egypt and other oriental nations, it made little progress in Greece, for there sculpture and rhetoric occupied the minds of artists. Rome copied Grecian arts. The early years of the Christian era were not marked by

advancement in art of any kind. About the ninth century Gothic architecture served as a medium for expressing the new thoughts and feelings of the people, and the more æsthetic tastes that resulted from the spread of Christianity. Then the art of painting became the favorite, and for some time the productions of such masters as Raphael won the admiration and attention of lovers of art. But the human mind again sought another medium of expression, and since the beginning of the seventeenth century the art of music has been the favorite. It was peculiarly suited to the times. Amongst all the factors that went to cause the great activity of the renaissance, Christianity was paramount, and music, always the handmaid of Christianity and church service, now stepped forth as the art through which the new feelings and emotions of that time of action could find easy and graceful expression. Since that time it has always been a study in refined circles of the centres of population; it is now being studied in country homes more than formerly, and without doubt it will ever continue to edify mankind, and furnish an outlet for these indefinable emotions that are seated in the human heart.

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