

FOR MUSICIANS.

Old Items in the Musical Line From Different Parts of the Country.

Musicians in New York are somewhat interested and considerably more amused by an invention which is brought to their attention which has in view the strengthening and improvement of the human voice. It is purely a mechanical contrivance, and is called the "resonator." It was invented by A. M. Bach, a music teacher in Edinburgh, Scotland. The resonator is held in the mouth during singing, and it is claimed that the tones of the voice passing through it are strengthened and made doubly resonant by its use, and that there is nothing in the quality of the tone thus produced to disclose the fact that a machine has been used. The inventor also claims that artistic expression and individuality of style and quality will be as thoroughly preserved by the resonator as if the singer did not use it. If it comes into use at all it will add a decidedly new feature to musical development everywhere.

They were talking of music and musicians, when she incidentally remarked: "What a composer Weber is! How lively the air in the 'Freischütz' one!" "Yes," said he, "and he makes such fine piano, too."

I dropped into St. Andrew's church on Sunday evening last, and was hardly comfortably seated when Prof. Max Sterne mounted the organ stool and gazing at the gas light above him proceeded to make the fine organ over which he presides speak in unmistakable and thundering tones to the congregation who sat listening. Suddenly the storm ceased and a sweet flute solo with fine accompaniment swelled forth upon the air which caused nearly all the church to fairly hold their breath and harken to the sweet strains. Then again the tumult arose, and one not knowing what was intended would have imagined that the professor was trying to pull the organ to pieces, and had plenty of assistance inside with hammers and mallets; but such was not the case. The Professor was only rendering a difficult selection—whether he was playing from memory or making it as he went along, it was difficult to say, for he scarcely took his eyes off the burning gas over his head during the performance.

The choir of this church is very good; but not so good but that there is room for improvement. However, there is no doubt but that the necessary improvement will be made, and that in the near future too. The male singers are in the majority, but their voices do not predominate. The soprano is good and true, and the alto is rich, while the tenor is from fair to middling; but the bass is decidedly weak. The singing was very good, considering the above points. During the taking of the collection Mrs. Girvan sang a solo in a sweet clear voice, but the articulation was at fault, the words scarcely being distinguished at the farther end of the church during the entire solo. Otherwise it would have been very enjoyable.

St. Luke's Church in Portland had their little fête on Wednesday evening, the occasion being a high tea and concert. As a newspaper man of course the high tea had no charms for me, but the concert was very enjoyable. A novel feature of the entertainment was the performance of a miniature orchestra, composed of Mr. A. Williams, bass viol; Master C. Williams, cornet; Master E. Williams, piccolo; and Master E. McKay, clarinet. The music of course was not difficult, but was very creditably performed, considering the size and ages of the performers, the oldest of the three last mentioned not being more than 14. Of course they were heartily applauded.

The St. Andrew's Society of this city are to give a grand concert in the Mechanics' Institute on the evening of St. Andrew's Day. Some of the best local talent will participate, and Harrison's orchestra will also figure on the programme, being already engaged in getting up some fine Scotch music, which never fails to stir the hearts of true Scotchmen, some of whom even at the present day, would sit for hours and listen to the groans of "The Campbells are Coming" on bagpipes. But they will be treated to something better than bagpipes on this occasion.

The Mechanics' Institute opens its lecture course on Tuesday evening, the 29th inst. with a concert by the Nellie Brown Mitchell Concert Company. There is no need to say that this will be worth listening to, for any one who has ever heard or heard told of the company knows that it will be a rich musical treat.

Oh, my! but you should see the gaudy uniform of the band formed at Marysville, York Co., the performers in which are principally employees of Mr. Gibson's cotton mill. They are fully equal to the best and most showy worn by any American band. The band is only young yet, but is making rapid strides to the front in playing, and with a good winter's practice will be able to delight the residents of the thriving town of Marysville with their music in the spring.

Prof. Thos. Morley gave his organ re-

dial in St. Luke's church on Thursday evening, by kind permission of the Rector and congregation. It was a grand musical success, the programme being an excellent one.

Of concerts and musical entertainments there has been no end this week—space forbids me to speak of one in Union Hall, Portland, under the auspices of St. David's church, the fraternal visit between Carleton Presbyterian and Saint Jude's churches, the musical and literary entertainment in Calvin church, and others. I could not be everywhere, but from what I can hear they were all very successful.

I need not say that the Salvation Army has a brass band—oh, no! everyone knows that, for they are constantly before the public. But I might remark that there is a very marked improvement in their playing during the last three months.

Even musicians are known to get into trouble. They are usually a passive lot of people; but when they mix too freely with the "great unwashed" of the world they are likely to get into a fuss. The New York Herald of Monday last says:—The Musical Mutual Protective Union was expelled from the Central Labor Union yesterday at its meeting in Clarion Hall. The Building Trade Section complained that the Musical Union had not withdrawn its orchestra from the Union Square Theatre, which is under the boycott on account of trouble had with the building trade some time ago. It was resolved that no union connected with the Central Labor Union engage any band connected with the Musical Union, and that the members of the Balfie Musical Club and the Carl Sahm Club sever their connection with the Musical Union within thirty days.

Next week we expect to have some band and other musical items from St. Stephen, Moncton, Hampton, Fredericton and other places. We have a valuable corps of correspondents in these places.

A FLAT.

Musical Notes and Gossip.

Josef Hofman, the boy pianist, arrives in New York on the 25th inst., and appears for the first time in America, under Manager Abbey's auspices, on the 25th inst., in that city.

The Italian papers, which ought to know, declare that Bottesini is writing a new oratorio for the Birmingham (Eng.) festival, and Mandell a requiem mass for the Leeds festival.

The members of Mr. D'Oyly Carte's "Mikado" company recently made their appearance at the Grand Theatre, Amsterdam, this being not only the first appearance of this company, but the first time that an English operatic company has appeared in that city.

Mr. F. H. Owen has been appointed conductor of the London Philharmonic Society, in succession to Sir Arthur Sullivan, who resigned owing to ill-health, and has formally accepted the post. The popular English composer has thus become the sixth of the line of eminent musicians who have filled this honorable but difficult office.

M. Ambroise Thomas, the veteran composer, has completed a ballet on the subject of "The Tempest," to be brought out at the Grand Opera, and is working hard on an opera to be entitled "Circé." The ballet is founded on Shakespeare's play and it will have a new feature, inasmuch as some of the dances will have a choral accompaniment.

The "Pinafore" revival in London shows that Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan can improve even upon their own stage settings for this opera. The scene was set for and aft, instead of across the stage, as it was originally, and Mr. Gilbert suggested the employment of a real yacht deck of spotlessly clean boards instead of the gridded. A number of real sailors were engaged, and, what with them and the chorus, marines, etc., there were about 100 people on the stage.

THE MISERY OF BEING POOR.

"Why, is this you, Mamie? I haven't seen you for an age. How do you do?" "I'm very well, I thank you. How are you?" "Not so well as I would wish to be. I'm just getting over hay fever. Have you had it this season?" "No. Father failed about a month ago, you know, and we're not in society this fall."

A LONG-HELD WANT.

Oh, pa, isn't this funny. What is funny. This paper says a New York furniture man has invented an electrical lounge. Indeed! That will fill a long-felt want, if it can be worked by pressing a knob in some other part of the house. I will get one. Get one, why, what for? About bedtime I will press the knob. And what will that do? I am in hopes it will lift that dude of yours about six feet, and then perhaps he will go home.

MISTAKEN IDENTITY.

Confidence Man (to stranger whose name he had learned from the hotel register)—Hello, General! Glad to see you in Boston, and hope you are well and happy. General Scabard—Well enough in health, thank you, though not exactly happy, but perhaps you can help me. C. M. (continued)—In what way? G. S.—I am not much acquainted here and have a cheque which I wish to get cashed. Well, bless my heart, how this man can travel. Thinks he is in danger of being flogged by one of his own kind.

HOUSEHOLD.

Dish Washing.

Of all the duties that engage the attention of the housewife few of them are more important than the washing of the dishes. In the majority of homes this work is gone over three times a day, and in others even more, according to the number of meals made ready. A good housewife is very particular that her dishes shall be as clean and shining as she can make them, and though, at times, she may feel that it is hardly worth while taking so much pains with work that in a few hours will have to be done over again, yet the sight of the dishes, bright and clean in their usual places, repays her for all the fatigue and discomfort she has undergone.

The first thing to be done after a meal is finished is to clear off the table. Many women, in doing this work, remove the dishes first, leaving the victuals until the last thing. This is a poor way, for the victuals should always be the first things removed. Even though there should be bread and butter on the table, butter will not improve by being left on a table in a close room, and bread will dry up soon enough without being kept in the air to hasten the process. After the victuals have been taken away, gather up the silver and glass ware. Put the silver to soak into a pan of hot borax or ammonia water. If steel or silver knives with bone or wooden handles are used, have instead of a pan a deep tin, in which have enough ammonia or borax water to cover the blades of the knives and just come to the handles when the knives are placed point downward. Never put knives or forks with bone or wooden handles into hot water, so that the handles may come in contact with the water, or you may be wondering why the handles loosen so quickly and drop off. Have a dish or tin into which throw all the scraps, commencing with the largest dishes first. After all have been scraped pile the plates together, commencing with the largest and ending with the smallest, and remove all dishes from the table. Crumb or shake the cloth, fold it up and place away. With a soft linen towel wipe the silver out of the pan, and put away. If steel knives and forks instead are used, wipe thoroughly dry with a crash towel and put one side, or allow to soak till all through the dish washing, then wipe dry and scour.

When the soap suds are washed, such as usually follow the dinner hour, it is best to have two pans of hot water, one for soaking and the other for washing. As the dishes are removed from the table they should be put into the water and allowed to soak, so that when the table has been cleared, the silver-wiped and put away, they shall be ready to go into the second water for a thorough washing. The first water may be clear water or soap suds, but the second should be clean, hot water. Some women object to using soap in the water in which their dishes are washed, claiming that they are sure to taste of soap. This taste is caused by too much soap. Dishes washed in clear hot water, never look as well as those washed in hot soap suds. Many women rinse dishes in clear hot water after washing them, or treat them to a shower-bath when on the drain. This is a good plan where there are many dishes, and the water is not very warm, but it is hardly necessary where two waters are used, as the second water does not cool as quickly as though but one water was used. In consequence of the dishes getting thoroughly warmed in the first water before going into the second. Dishes washed in good hot second water will wipe as easily and look every bit as nice as though rinsed.

Where there is a large family, and only one pair of hands to do the work, an excellent way of getting through the dish washing is to put in the bottom of a good-sized pan one or two (according to the size of pan) dry crash towels, and after washing the dishes out of hot water, place them in the pan to drain. Be sure that the pan does not leak, put it on a table or shelf and leave it while you finish up the sink. After all cooking utensils have been placed away and the sink cleared, go to the dishes, which will be perfectly dry and shining without the least necessity for wiping, and place them away. Take out the towels and hang up to dry. Wipe the pan dry and put away. This plan, besides saving time, also saves the wear and tear of towels, and should be recommended for this alone. Some place the towels on the pantry shelves and set the dishes out of the hot water in their usual places, with the towels under them, to dry, but this is not to be recommended on account of the dampness which is sure to accrue when wet towels are allowed to remain in a close place such as a closet or pantry. Where the cups are stained by tea or other stains, scour them with fine ashes or bath brick and the stains will quickly disappear.

THE LANE DRAWN.

It is the father of a precocious two-and-a-half-year old who tells that the child was once watching an old lady making her toilet. The old lady had removed her false hair and her teeth, when the astonished small boy said: "But yeh can't take yez neck off!" [San Francisco Chronicle.]

WITH THE CHILDREN.

Some of the Things the Little Ones Love to Say.

VIEWED ANATOMICALLY.

Little Edna is a Bangor young lady and her Auntie Alice would teach her a useful lesson: "Now, Edna, you must always obey your parents, for there was a disobedient man once who was turned into a four-footed beast and made to eat grass like an ox."

Little Edna—Did they give him four feet, Auntie?

Auntie Alice—Yes, my darling. Little Edna—What did he do for a tail? [Bangor Commercial.]

BOBBY PLAYS A TRUMP.

Father—Come, Bobby, you are all tired out, so hurry off to bed. Bobby (with a slow and reluctant movement)—Pa, you oughtn't to tell a boy to hurry up when he's all tired out. [Philadelphia North American.]

EARTHLY INTERESTS RESUMED.

Mrs. Natick went up to put her youngest and liveliest son to bed a few nights ago, and found herself invited to dictate an uncommonly full number of prayers. "Say 'Gentle Jesus,'" demanded her son. She said it.

"Now say 'Now I lay me.'"

This, too, was said, and at the "amen" the shrill voice of the small boy, piped in eagerly:

"Mamma, say 'Frog's gone a-courtin'.'" [Boston Record.]

YOUNG AMERICA HAS SUSPICIONS.

A travelling man, upon arriving home from Kansas City, where he had been for the past year, carelessly pulled a vest out of his trunk, and from one of the pockets dropped a lady's ring. His seven-year-old boy picked up the ring, and papa told him he could have it.

Mamma says: "Where did you get the ring?"

Papa—I found it in a street-car in Kansas City.

Boy—You-e you did!

Mamma and papa simply exchanged glances, but did lots of thinking. [From a World Correspondent.]

Captain Warren, the owner of the seized Canadian sealers estimates his loss at \$150,000.

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NOTICE.

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