

## Periodicals.

*The Popular Science Monthly*, for June, contains a second article by Herbert Spencer, on "Professional Institutions." He deals with the physician and surgeon in this number, and in a manner eminently characteristic of the famous man of science. Professor Patrick contributes a very interesting article on the "Psychology of Women." He holds that women are too sacred to be jostled roughly in the struggle for existence, and that she deserves from man "a reverent exemption from some of the duties for which his restless and active nature adapts him." Man is quite willing that there should be this exemption, but is the woman equally willing? There are several other articles in this number which are of value.

In the June *Arena*, John Clark Ridpath, the well-known historian, whose *United States History* has been such a popular success, appears as the frontispiece of the number, and he contributes an interesting article called "An Epoch and a Book," recalling the condition in the South and the South-west before the War. The book which is the starting point of his summary of the epoch is Helen H. Gardener's "An Unofficial Patriot." A striking paper, raising a somewhat peculiar question, is B. O. Flower's trenchant criticism of certain features of the marriage laws, which he claims foster prostitution within the marriage relation. J. K. Miller asks a very pertinent question in a paper called "Are the People of the West Fanatics?" which will probably elicit all sorts of replies.

"The Battle of Salamanca," a tale of the Napoleonic War, by Benito Pérez Galdós, is the complete story in *Lippincott's Magazine*, for June. Rollo Ogden has a brief paper on "Galdós and his Novels," which follows immediately after his story in this number. It appears that Spanish critics are almost unanimous in assigning the primacy among Spanish contemporary novelists to Galdós. We would commend with special emphasis the article by Sidney Fairfield on "The Tyranny of the Pictorial." He deals with the craze for pictures in all kinds of publications—a very childish and stupid craze—and says some very pertinent things. He, in common with other sensible folks, objects to the over-illustration, the picture-on-every-other-page idea—an idea which is simply ruining the taste for good literary papers. Its freedom from pictures is what we especially appreciate in *Lippincott*.

The article which probably first catches the eye in the June number of *The Atlantic Monthly* is called "Reminiscences of Christina Rossetti," by William Sharp. Many appreciative tributes to that spiritually minded member of a brilliant family have appeared since her death, and this article, though slight, is one of the most attractive. The scientific papers on Mars are continued, dealing in this issue with the water problem, and leading to the conclusion that if there be inhabitants in our celestial neighbour the all-engrossing pursuit must be irrigation on an enormous scale. We are promised next month the natural sequel to such a conclusion, an article on the so called "canals" of Mars one of the revelations of the telescope in modern times. Gilbert Parker's Canadian story continues as good as any thing he has done, and there are plenty of other pleasant stories as well. Reviews of books on Japan, recent American fiction, and new books of all kinds form a prominent feature in the number.

In the June *Scribner*, the second part of Mrs. Humphrey Ward's story will doubtless be turned to first by many. Bessie Costrell, her heroine, is not a very estimable character, and we wait for developments in the next, and concluding, portion. An article on the romantic and dramatic history of Chicago, before the fire, after the fire, and to-day, is copiously illustrated by photographs showing the havoc wrought by the fire and the way it sprang from its ashes. In view of the way people are beginning to live on "wheels" there is a timely series of articles, entitled "The Wheel of To-day," "Woman and the Bicycle," etc., all written appreciatively as of that which is the nearest approach to flying which the present generation is likely to attain to, with

photographs showing, among other things, how not to ride. The most interesting bit of the present article of the series by President Andrew's deals with the Centennial Exhibition in 1876. Another contribution which deserves notice is by Robert Grant, on "The Use of Time." He does not thrust sage maxims down our throats, but showing on the one hand how easy it is to waste time fruitlessly, and on the other, the bustle in which the average American citizen lives, he naturally leads up to the old truth that man cannot and should not live by bread alone.

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Music.

On Tuesday evening of last week Sir Jules Benedict's Opera in three acts "The Lily of Killarney" was produced in the Grand Opera House by the Webster Choral Society. This work was composed and brought out in 1862, but never achieved any great distinction. Just why it was selected for performance I do not know, for as a whole there is not anything so attractive or original in the music which would particularly recommend it for study now. Ireland is peculiarly rich in native airs, and which, by the way, are thoroughly Irish in color, yet in Sir Jules' music, if one were not told that it was supposed to represent Irish character, it could never be detected unless by the text. I am more than ever convinced that Benedict was not great as a composer. In the revival of this work it was a pity that the society in question did not arrange to give it with action and appropriate scenery. To give opera as a Cantata is performed is not to be recommended. If it were possible to produce such plays as *Electra*, and *Antigone*, with such success by amateurs, it ought to be equally possible to give such works as the "Lily of Killarney" in operatic style. As to the performance itself, I will not, for several reasons, attempt a detailed criticism. Several, including Mr. Walter H. Robinson, tenor, Miss Marie Kimberley, Miss Fidler, Miss Paul and Mr. Webster, sustained their parts successfully and are deserving of praise. The accompanist (I am sorry I do not know her name) did her exacting duties with great acceptance. As the proceeds of this concert, which, by the way, closes a very active season for the society, was for a very deserving charity, the Home for Incurables, a very large audience was present. Mr. H. W. Webster conducted in his usual style.

Miss Norma Reynolds gave a very fine concert in the Pavilion of the Horticultural Gardens on the evening of June 6th, with her vocal pupils, assisted by Misses Fannie Sullivan and Minnie Topping, pianists, and Mr. George Fox, Violinist. The audience, which was excessively large, was most enthusiastic, for Miss Reynolds has now achieved such popularity as a successful and painstaking vocal instructor, and brings forward yearly so many fresh young voices, that people are anxious to attend her concerts. On this occasion there were many who proved themselves worthy of applause and praise, for instance, Miss Ella Ronan, contralto, Miss Gertie Black, Miss May Flower, Miss Elda Idle, Miss Gertrude Smith, Mr. W. E. Rundle, Mr. H. P. Stuchbury, and Mr. R. Doherty, for they sang in admirable style, as did several others whose names I cannot recall. Miss Sullivan and Miss Topping played brilliantly as may be expected, and Mr. George Fox was rewarded with three or four recalls. I have before spoken of the clever violin playing of this young man, and I repeat it again, that he has the temperament and talent to become a great artist if he but grasps the present for serious study and development. He plays with such abandon, passion and warmth, and at the same time his tone is beautiful and his technic big. The programme being very long and so many taking part, I cannot give individual notice regarding each pupil's singing, but will add that all was commendably artistic and the concert highly enjoyable.

I have received from Mr. A. M. Read, a sacred song of his composition for a medium soprano voice, entitled "Far from my Heavenly Home." This song is dedicated to the handsome and beautiful singer, Mrs. Clara Barnes-Holmes, and is a very graceful tribute to her abilities as an expressive artiste. It is

melodious and rich in feeling and sentiment, the accompaniment and melody expressing the meaning of the words very admirably. Messrs. Whaley, Royce & Co., of this city, are the publishers.

The closing exercise at Moulton College began Friday evening of last week, and were concluded on Tuesday evening of the present week. Three young ladies, Miss Fisher, Miss Matthews, and Miss Pollard, graduated in music, and played a combined piano recital on Saturday afternoon, the 8th inst, with considerable success. Compositions by Bach, Beethoven, Stojowski, Godard, Chopin, Greig, Leschetizky, Scharwenka and Schumann were performed in a manner reflecting credit on themselves and the institution. On Monday evening, in the school room of the Bloor St. Baptist Church, the Cantata, "The Lady of Shalott for Ladies' Voices," by Bendall, was sung, under the direction of Miss Smart, Miss Abbie Helmer playing the accompaniments on a Steinway piano. Preceding the Cantata the three young lady graduates in the piano department spoken of above, contributed each a piano solo. On Tuesday afternoon Miss Muriel H. Lailey, a very conscientious and talented young lady, who leaves for further study in Germany next week, and Miss Carrie Porter, for her graduates, played each piano solos, and in the evening the choir of Jarvis St. Baptist Church sang several choruses in excellent style. Large audiences were present at all of these interesting exercises.

On Tuesday evening the pupils of Mr. H. M. Field gave a recital of piano music, assisted by vocal pupils of Miss Norma Reynolds, in the Hall of the College of Music. A most interesting and excellent programme was played by several young ladies of talent and culture, Miss Mary Mary Mara particularly distinguishing herself in the performance of the first movement of Mozart's Concerto in D minor, and in Tausig's transcription of Schubert's March Militaire. Miss Mara is one of Mr. Field's best and most talented pupils, and possesses splendid pianistic ability, and as she leaves the city in a few days to further pursue her studies in Germany, her friends will not have another opportunity to hear her play for some time to come. I, among others, will be glad to hear of her continued success, which will doubtless be hers, as she has, in addition to talent, both ambition and application. She will study under the celebrated teacher, Professor Martin Krause, of Leipzig.

On Monday evening, June 10th, a concert was given in the Bishop Strachan School, College St., by pupils of Mr. J. W. F. Harrison, assisted by elocution pupils of Miss Nation, and the boy soprano, Master Willie Wilson, also a pupil of Mr. Harrison. Several pieces were presented to a large audience in a manner particularly pleasing, and which called forth loud applause.

Mr. Watkin Mills, the distinguished English Baritone, will give a song recital in the Pavilion this (Friday) evening.  
W. O. FORSYTH.

The production of Sophocles' *Electra* by the pupils of the Conservatory School of Elocution at the Grand Opera House, on May 30th and 31st, was a signal triumph, and demonstrated the right of this institution to be called the foremost school of elocution and dramatic art in Canada. The difficulties of such a performance are only appreciated by those who have had experience in this particular line of work and the result reflected the greatest credit upon all concerned, especially the scholarly Principal, Mr. Shaw. The production afforded an excellent opportunity to students of the classics to realize in an unusual way the dramatic genius and customs of the Greeks, and Mr. Shaw is to be congratulated upon the excellent work he is accomplishing in furnishing dramatic entertainments of such an educational nature. The excessive heat kept many from attending, who, had the weather been more favorable, would have gladly done so. It is to be hoped that Mr. Shaw may be induced to repeat the performance next season during the cold weather. The incidental music composed by Signor d'Auria was beautiful and appropriate, adding much to the interest of the performance.