

RUDOLPH KÖENIG, THE ACOUSTICIAN.

The name of Kœnig is not strange to students of Physics and Musical Theory. In full, or as the monogram R.K., it appears on the most accurate acoustical instruments manufactured, and is accepted by all investigators as a guarantee that the accuracy of the apparatus need not be tested beforehand, no matter how delicate the experiment to be performed.

Nor is Rudolph Kœnig a stranger to the people of our province. He has pleasant recollections of a summer spent in Toronto in 1881, when, in conjunction with Professor Loudon of the University of Toronto, he gave a course of six experimental lectures on the 'Physical Basis of Music,' in the Canadian Institute.

We found him last June, at work in his laboratories on the bank of the Seine, apparently occupied in determining the possible modes of vibration of some blocks of wood. It was a pleasure to meet the man—to converse with one who has devoted his whole life of half-a-century to an investigation of the laws of harmony, seeking neither fame nor gain, looking for no other reward than the joy of discovering the truth.

He is an approachable man—his smile of welcome and his hand-shake make one feel quite at ease in his presence. Yet it was with an anxious heart that after business was disposed of, we tried to make good use of our opportunity by turning the conversation towards points in acoustics that were not clear to us. He saw what we wanted and made the hours spent in his *atelier*, full of profit and pleasure.

We think we saw Kœnig in his happiest moods. We dined with him and talked mathematics and poetry. He delighted us with his recitations from Goethe, Schiller and Heine—he astonished us with his broad knowledge of our own literature, for we remembered that a few years ago he could neither read nor speak our language. He talked of his boyhood days, spent in northern Germany—of his father and mother and of his delightful trip to see them every alternate summer. He called his birds at the window, and talked to them lovingly as he fed them from his hand. Everything he did and said came