



POOR DOG

So often we call a man a dog when we want to reproach him. And yet, a dog
Doesn't lie,
Doesn't swear,
Doesn't drink,
Doesn't cheat,
Doesn't swindle,
Doesn't smoke,
Doesn't flirt,
Doesn't pretend,
Doesn't borrow,
And wouldn't even resent it if you called him a man.
Remember! Many a dog is considered mad when he is only thirsty.

A Series of Talks on Music

By Prof. C. C. Laugher, Mus. Bac., Sar-
nia.

No. 1—MUSICAL IMPRESSIONS
A vocalist writes to a music editor wanting to know how long it is possible for a man to hold a note. The editor replies, we have one that we have held for six years and rather expect to hold it six years longer. It would be quite difficult to hold a musical note that long, particularly if playing on a bass instrument.

We are told that an English physician advises the playing of wind instruments, as a recent investigation has brought this summing up: That cornetist's life averages 69 years; clarinetist's life is 64 years, and because flutists do not require the full exercise of their lungs in playing, their average is but 61 years. He adds that to play some wind instruments lengthens life, for the steady and moderate use of the lungs somewhat in excess of breathing is the cause.

We sometimes pause in considering the drum as a musical instrument and we step up to the drummer and say to him (after the band had stopped playing), you don't make very good music with that instrument. No, admitted the pounder of the drum. I know I don't, but I drown a heap of bad music.

The Scotch have a proverb: "Where McGregor sits, there is the head of the table." This brings us to an incident in Sarah Bernhardt's career when touring the U. S. A. Her manager failed to secure a proper theatre for her in a certain Texas city in which she had promised to appear. With great reluctance and expecting a contemptuous refusal, he suggested that he might secure a circus tent, but supposed that she would only act in a first-class theatre. "Go ahead," said she, wherever Sarah Bernhardt acts is a first-class theatre.

Speaking of singing, we realize that the singer's essentials are voice, ear and musical intellect. The voice must pre-exist, it cannot be created, but its errors can be corrected. Mere bigness of voice makes no musical appeal. History gives us that the record for a big voice belongs to Stentor, a herald of the Greeks in the Trojan war, whose voice is said to be as loud as that of fifty men shouting together. A bass singer, whose name is Cheran, of the Paris opera, who lived toward the end of the eighteenth century, who in early life had been a blacksmith, is said that, by his blowing into a drinking glass could crack it, and by singing into it in his mighty upper "D" could burst it. The biggest and noblest voice that this twentieth century has listened to was Edouard de Reszke's.

The musician of today is usually exceedingly versatile in their activities, but in former times it was only too common for them to be confined to an absurdly narrow and one-sided outlook on life, and to take little interest in anything outside of their own particular specialty.

An amusing example of this was with Poppo, an eccentric violinist, at one time fashionable teacher in Paris and London. Living in Paris at the time of the revolution, although perfectly inoffensive, he was denounced as a suspect and brought before the tribunal for trial. The following dialogue took place between him and the president of the tribunal. What is your name? Poppo, he answered. What do you do? I play violin. What were your activities during the reign of tyrant? I played the violin. And howadays? I play the violin. And if the republic have need of you what will you do? I will play the violin. Poppo was acquitted.

The impression or influence that musicians leave behind them is little realized by themselves and we certainly do not know to what extent of trouble, difficulty or short comings some of these musicians worked under. Think of the beautiful music of Greig, much of it written while he had the use of one lung only. Schubert, whose artistic career lasted but seven years, was the most miserably poor of all musicians, yet he is regarded as the greatest song writer, producing the most beautiful melodic phrasing.

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