

needful that discretion should be used in the kind of musical influence to be brought into action.

That music exerts a magic influence over human beings, all history attests. The power of music to sway with varying emotion the human soul, was recognized among the ancients. The servants of Saul recommended music to their master, to cure his mental malady or evil spirit which it was supposed had come upon him. David took a harp and played with his hand, so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him. And Shakespeare seems to have anticipated the wonderful skill of the Indian Jugglers in their snake charming feats, and the wild beast and horsetamers in their application of music as an aid to their endeavours, when he writes thus :

" . . . Orpheus' lute was strung with poets' sinews ;
Whose golden touch could soften steel and stones,
Make tigers tame, and huge leviathans
Forsake unsounded deeps, to dance on sands "

Music can rouse the love of country, and stir the patriot to wondrous deeds of valour ; it can awaken the softest emotions of the soul ; inspire love, or lift it in fondest aspirations after the Divinity, up from the sordid and the earthly and bring its fancy to flights which stay not until they reach beyond sublimity to the Divine. It can hide the sorrowing hope, and chase away the melancholy that sits brooding over the spirits of disappointed men. It can arrest the ravings of the madman, and by its magic power awaken memories of bygone days ; recall reason, and seat her for a brief space upon her long deserted throne. The restorative powers of music upon the invalid are so well known, that special proof in this enlightened age is quite unnecessary ; no argument in its behalf is needed ; it is its own vindicator. Its power to cheer the spirit, revive the soul, and rouse the mind from its depressing passions, and to put it into a cheerful mood have been demonstrated times without number.

It is a medicine for the soul, and possesses a therapeutic power that no drug has ever had claimed for it. It awakens new hope, and, owing to the close intimacy of mind and body, acting and reacting as they do upon each other, imparts a wonderfully exhilarating and restorative influence to the flagging powers of nature ; while in every disease accompanied with or characterised by

disturbance of the nervous system, its soothing influence and recuperating power is little less than marvellous. Music should be in every house, should be indulged in by every family, by every individual ; especially is it a boon to the sick, the aged, and the infirm, for

—" Music exalts each joy, allays each grief,
Expels disease, softens every pain ;
Subdues the rage of poison, and the plague,
And hence the wise of ancient days adored,
One power of physic,—melody and song."

Some people seem to be afraid of music in a sick room, but if it be of the gentle, melodious strain it can do only good. Thanks to the enlightened spirit which in these days prevails over our Insane Asylums, music is regularly furnished one a week (an innovation, which to his infinite credit be it said, owes its origin to the benevolent hearted Jos. Workman. M.D., ex-superintendent of our Provincial Asylum), for the benefit of the inmates and with salutary effect—for what can minister to a mind diseased like music ? We know of nothing. While thankful for this boon, we wish, however, to plead for the sick, who we would be glad to see enjoying its benefits, by having it introduced into our Hospitals. The kind of patients to submit to its influence and the frequency of its ministration, should be matters of detail to be judged of by the surgeon in charge.

It has been said of Beethoven that on one occasion when dangerously ill, and all hope seeming to have fled, a friend suggested music, and at first employed a person to sing soft strains in an adjoining room. The beneficial effect upon the patient being quite appreciable, instruments were provided, and finally, as he grew better an orchestra was employed to discourse some of his own magic compositions. The result was a complete success, and music accomplished what medicine had utterly failed to do.

The meaning of song goes deep, and there are few that can in logical phrase express the effect it has upon them. Let music be generally introduced into our Hospitals and sick chambers, and instead of pianos being carefully closed, if used judiciously physicians would be much aided in their work, and relieved of a great deal of anxiety by this cheerful assistant, while the very atmosphere of Hospitals would become stripped of much of that dreary melancholy sadness, which, do what