

delssohn literature, for example, is exceptionally varied and exhaustive. The various estimates of his genius and career, from different points of view, show unmistakably the wide influence exerted over his own contemporaries and those who followed them.

Historical musical works are not so plentiful, and some of the earlier ones, such as the famous "History of Music," by Dr. Charles Burney (the father of Madame D'Arbly, who edited his entertaining memoirs), which was first published in 1776, and extended to four volumes, is now extremely scarce. The same may be said of Sir John Hawkins's equally voluminous treatise on the same subject, issued in the same year, though a modern reprint renders the latter more accessible. Since these two classics of the musical library were published, the history of the art has followed a good deal the course of individual composers, and we have able monographs on special periods and schools of composition.

Many of the early English theoretical works, with their singular nomenclature and quaint directions, are of great antiquarian interest to the student, while the curious collections of old Psalmody are quite a revelation of the primitive way in which our English forefathers joined "in the service of song in the house of the Lord." Such works as Simpson's "Introduction to Music," (1706), and Playford's "Harmonia Sacra," (1714), are favourable specimens of these classes.

A suggestive feature of the subject is that many musical instruments have, to a large extent, a literature of their own, and a fond devotee of the violin or an ardent supporter of the organ may pursue pleasant investigations within the one line in which he is engaged. There are signs in the literary world that the phase of musical art we have been treating is to assume a position of much greater importance in the future than in the past, and that a taste is slowly forming which will ultimately lead to the formation of great musical libraries, both in public and private hands, throughout our country.

BUSINESS GAMBLING. It is the fascination of business gambling that, apparently it offers greater scope to brains than do the ordinary games of chance. Operations on 'change require, for any degree of success beyond occasional luck, knowledge of corporate transactions, the accumulation and coordination of other trustworthy information, and a nicety of judgment beyond the reach of any but the keenest business intellects. And here again, as in the following gambling systems at Monaco, confidence and knowledge may be dangerous things. Nothing but *unfair advantage* wins steadily in selling "long" or selling "short" or dealings in "futures." Of course, stock exchanges and produce exchanges are useful adjuncts of honest commerce, and bankers and brokers are necessary to the operations of exchange. But, one year taken with another, the true interest of exchanges and bankers and brokers, like the interests of society in general, will be found to lie in the way of real trading. Fictitious trading demoralizes commerce with fictitious prices, and is the cause of extravagance, recklessness, and low business morality. When the gambling transactions exceed the honest investments more than twenty-fold, as some estimated, it is impossible to have a sound condition of business. And when stocks suffer, as recently, a depreciation

of over two thousand of millions of dollars mainly because of gambling influences, stocks which are real property dissipate only less rapidly than those which were merely "water," and therefore disappeared like vapour.

Perhaps the most culpable, because the most responsible, of the men who have stimulated the gambling mania are the bankers who supply the capital without which these transactions could not be carried through the Exchange under the disguise of transfers of stock. These bankers know very well that the business would be regarded by them as immoral and unsound if the profits were not so captivating. Said one of them to a new firm of brokers whose account he was taking: "Whatever you do, don't 'lay down' on your bank";—in other words: "When the day of disaster overtakes you, protect your financial partner from loss by 'laying down' on somebody else." Of greater significance is the fact that "conservative" bankers and brokers, who are eager to help others into the mazes of Wall street, prefer to have their customers think it is a rule of the firm never to gamble on its own account.—"*Topics of the Time*," in the *August CENTURY*.

Grade Notices.

Schlicht's standard system of indexing, is without doubt the most perfect means of rapid reference to names extant, however large the number of names may be. The conditions most favourable to the instantaneous finding of any name among many, are best observable in the arrangement of the directory, the lexicon, and the encyclopedia. It was found that a result analogous to that produced in this arrangement was obtainable by the distribution of names into groups, distinct from one another, and containing only as many names as would readily permit of the recognition of any one of their number. To devise a system of indexing, therefore, by means of which names could be thus grouped or divided, and which would be applicable to 1,000 names as well as 1,000,000, meant the solution of this problem. To this end it became necessary to fix upon certain alphabetical modes of grouping, or dividing, adjustable to any number of names. The alphabetical peculiarities of both surnames and given names were found to be the only means by which the names could be thus grouped, or divided, in conformity with the main design, namely, to afford instantaneous reference to the name sought, which, kept constantly in view, led to results exceeding the originator's most sanguine hopes. The indexes are embodied in two forms of books—the tabular and side-cuttings. The former is from 25,000 names to 1,000,000 or more, and is intended chiefly for public offices. The side-cutting form is preferably made for from 500 to 20,000 names, and is intended chiefly for commercial purposes. It will thus be seen no matter how many names be contained in the ledgers of a firm these indexes can be adapted to them. Quite recently an index of 1,000,000 names was made for the Mount Hope Cemetery Company, Rochester, N. Y. It is said any single name out of that number can be found in the time it takes two matches to burn, one to find the book and the other to find the name and surely