

THE CHAIN.

ONCE from the bitter pages of doubt it hapt
That, wearily, I turned me to the wall,
And, lo! there, in the hearth's dull embers, all
The self-same thoughts which harrowed me seemed mapt.
But, near, were coiled a cat and kitten, hapt
In furry dream; then, next, where lay—in thrall
Of slumber softer than a feather's fall—
Dear wife and babe, I stood in silence rapt.

O endless chain of being and of love,
O paths and pathos of mysterious sleep—
Ye pointed to a world yet undescried!
Strange calm befell me, light as from above,
And thoughts which man can neither yield nor keep:
My heart was filled, my house was glorified!
Prince Albert, N.-W. T. C. MAIR.

ART NOTES.

A RAP AT ART CRITICS.

LET me conclude my few remarks with a hint of wholesome advice which, if heeded, will save you many an otherwise wasted hour. Avoid reading criticisms on contemporary art, unless merely to note the subjects treated, and the names of their artists. To form a sound judgment on a work of art is one of the most difficult attainments I am acquainted with; and this difficulty is multiplied, in the case of works by living men, through the embarrassments from extraneous influences we are in no way conscious of. If this be so with men whose life is work, whose lives are spent working on the principles established by the great, working by the maxims founded on experience, how infinitely more perplexing should it be to those who contemplate it from without, who have never by toil and practice been made free of its mysteries! Now, it is for the most part by such outsiders the art-criticism of the time is made, and it cannot be relied upon for art teaching and guidance. These opinions, hurriedly made, often from the most cursory glances, cannot be trusted to contain that insight of the artists' conceptions, that just balance of qualities in their works, that fair estimate of each work as a whole—nor to be expressed in sober, reasonable language that awakens interest by its sympathy, and by its truthfulness commands assent. Do not suppose I regard the whole of this literature as utterly barren. Undoubtedly a gifted man, from keenness of observation and refined training in other paths of effort, will strike sometimes rare and valuable truths; but an artist's time, especially in youth, is too precious to spend any of it in searching for these scattered treasures. If the daily paper or the monthly magazine lies before you with a notice of a passing exhibition, better to leave it lying there untasted; take out your sketch-book and make a careful study of the coal-scuttle, of your mother's shawl or your father's hat and gloves; for assuredly any of these, carefully studied, will yield you a better interest in the future.—T. Woolner, R.A., in the Magazine of Art for December.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

A CHRISTMAS GREETING.

MANY more merry meetings 'mid my many metronomed musical messieurs.

THE GRAND.

AGNES HUNTINGTON'S reappearance in Toronto brought a large audience to the Grand on Monday night. In Planquette's new and sparkling comic opera, "Captain Therese," Miss Huntington plays the dual rôles of a lovely maiden, fresh from college, and that of a military captain, whose uniform she assumes for the purpose of rescuing her lover from the treachery of his military superiors; this she succeeds in doing eventually, and all ends happily for the lovers. The opera was very well presented by a large company of seventy performers; the music is tuneful and Planquetty, being original and attractive, though it is a sure sign of waning musical thought when some principal solos have to be interpolated. Next week Sardou's great play, "Cleopatra," will be presented with America's favourite actress, Fanny Davenport, in the title rôle. This will prove to be, no doubt, another great attraction.

THE ACADEMY.

"THE Tar and Tartar," which had a run of 150 nights at Palmer's Theatre, New York, was capitally presented at the Academy on Monday night, and, even in the face of the strong kindred attraction at the Grand, was greeted by a crowded house. York's N. Y. Comic Opera Company, including the clever and versatile Digby Bell and his wife, Laura Joyce Bell, and also Marion Manola, in the leading rôles, together with an all-round clever company, carry this purely American production to a successful issue. The curious adventures of a ship-wrecked sailor and his tartaric spouse are very funny. Miss Marion Manola has a pleasing voice and graceful presence that at once made her a favourite. A cleverly-executed Amazonian march closes the last act.

THE PAVILION.

THE plan for those world-famous artists, the Gruenfelds, opened on Tuesday at Messrs. Gourlay, Winter and Leemings' piano rooms, Yonge Street. The concert will be held in the Pavilion on January 7, and the renown of these able executants on the pianoforte and violincello should attract all musical devotees.

THE VOCAL SOCIETY.

ON December 17th took place at the Pavilion the first concert of the season given by the Toronto Vocal Society; the musical director being Mr. Edgar Buck, of this city, and formerly of London, England. The programme was a pleasing and varied one, and lovers of good music could say little but in its praise. Mr. Victor Herbert was warmly welcomed, his "Souvenir de Spa" and his "Petite Valse" being amongst the most charming features of the entertainment. Miss Olive Fremstadt, who was vigorously applauded, delighted her audience again and again, its enthusiasm rising to a climax in Robaudi's "Alla Stella Confidente." The delicate touch of Miss Irene Gurney went home to her hearers, her piano solos meeting with spontaneous applause. In response to one of Miss Fremstadt's encores, she delighted her audience with "Sweetest Flower," a charming song, still more charmingly sung. Of the ladies of the Toronto Vocal Society we must say that their beauty is only rivalled by their musical ability. Their charming costumes were in sympathy with "Moonlight"; both were beautiful as a dream. This Society deserves the warmest thanks for their performance. "The Spirit of Night," sung by so many voices, lost nothing of the delicate charm of its poetry. It was, indeed, worthy of Shelley, and a fit comment on Herbert Spencer's ethics of music. The choral march given by the gentlemen of the T. V. S. was strong and vigorous. The lighting and decorations of the hall were all that could be desired, the latter adding in no small degree to the artistic effect of the whole. In conclusion we would remark that Mr. Buck is to be congratulated upon his enterprise, the success of which was not lost upon his audience. No better tribute could be paid to Mr. Buck than the well-filled house, the high order of the music, the rank of the performers and the masterly manner in which the baton was wielded by this most efficient conductor.

CONVERSAZIONE OF THE SCHOOL OF PEDAGOGY.

ON December 16 took place a conversazione, given by the School of Pedagogy. The audience, which was a good one, enjoyed a pleasing and varied programme, in which a piano solo by Professor Hunt was a pleasant feature. The performances of the students, *in toto*, were excellent, the solo of Mr. Frost and the original address of a lady, whose name we did not catch, being worthy of special notice. Some stirring addresses by well-known educationalists were listened to by an audience, some of whom, at least, knew that what they heard had real bearing upon their own present and future lives. At the close of the programme an address was read to Dr. McLellan on behalf of the students of the School of Pedagogy. The address stated in concise terms the gratitude which all felt for the unvarying kindness of their principal, as well as for the masterly manner in which he had steered them through the "mysteries" of the science of education. That these were no mere formal words could be easily seen by the enthusiasm with which Dr. McLellan was greeted on rising to reply. The main points of the Doctor's speech, which at times approached to oratory of no mean order, were, in the first place, that they, the students of the School of Pedagogy, had formed independent judgment, and were fit to face the fallacies even of our great philosopher, Herbert Spencer, himself. In the second place, the Doctor laid emphasis upon the necessity of sympathy and personality on the part of the teacher. Things and their forces, men and their ways, "besides self," said Dr. McLellan, "are two other elements—God and love." Miss Houston then read an address to Miss Knox, an address which was but the echo of every student in the School of Pedagogy. Miss Knox's genius is fully appreciated by the Toronto public, and the students are to be congratulated upon having their voices "tried" before this Canadian Portia of the 19th century. Miss Knox replied in a few graceful and well-chosen words, and fairly delighted her audience with her rendering of "My Own Canadian Home." The evening closed with the National Anthem.

TORONTO COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

A NUMBER of Mr. Torrington's advanced pupils gave a programme on Wednesday evening, the 16th, in the College Hall, demonstrating their ability to render the highest class of music in a musicianly way. The organ numbers selected from the several schools were calculated to display the technique of the performers who, by their talent, will no doubt find their place amongst advanced Canadian organists. The Belisario Duo (Goria) for two pianos was excellently played by Miss McLaughlin and Miss Dease, while the Chaconne (Raff), which is one of the test pieces at the Royal Academy of Music, London, Eng., brought forward the two gold medallists of the College, Miss Clarke and Miss Sullivan. Miss Snarr and Mr. Burt, the vocalists of the evening, are promising pupils. Miss Marguerite Dunn, teacher of elocution at the College, at once established herself in the favour of the audience, who repeatedly recalled her. The pupils are fortunate in being under the guidance of so experienced a master as Mr. Torrington.

BOSCOVITZ PIANO RECITAL.

MR. FREDERICK BOSCOVITZ gave the second of his series of three piano recitals; misnamed lecture-concerts, owing to the absence of the lecture element. In a few cursory remarks Mr. Boscovitz gave to the fashionable audience assembled in the Normal School rotunda his impressions of Chopin's method of technique, and was pronounced in condemning thumping, though he did not throughout adhere to his text strictly, occasional jingling of

the Steinway parlour grand being audible; and in the song accompaniments he forced the singers' voices to an unpleasant degree by his too forcible playing. Mr. Boscovitz in his solos plays at times with an exquisite delicacy and a genuine fervour, also displaying great intelligence in the interpretation of Chopin; one number, the Nocturne, Op. 9, No. 2, he seems to love especially well, having played it on three public occasions within a short period, feeling, no doubt, that the delicate character of its construction suits his style best. Miss Lash, the possessor of a fair mezzo-soprano, sang De Koven's "O Promise Me" quite fluently, but lacked sympathy. Mr. Beddoe's naturally sweet tenor voice was over-weighted, both by the piano and the composition he sang. Although "an evening with Chopin," Mr. Boscovitz played several of his own compositions in a masterly style. Altogether he scored a success by his conscientious work.

PRIVATE MUSICALS.

THE pupils of Mr. A. S. Vogt, organist of Jarvis Street Baptist Church, assisted by Mrs. Adamson, Signor Dinelli and others, attended a musical reception at Mr. and Mrs. Vogt's residence. The young ladies displayed efficient piano technique, and their several recitals were quite enjoyable.

MESSRS. SUCKLING AND SON have favoured us with two very easy piano morceaux, by Frederic Forrest, entitled "Rustic Dance" and "Reve D'Amour Valse," also a Terantille by Sohmer of easy difficulty. A very attractive collection of medium difficult pieces called "In the Spring Time," by Gurlitt, also by the same publishers, should prove to be quite saleable. They include all styles, from a "Hymn" to a "Scherzo."

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

BEATRICE AND BENEDICT. By Hawley Smart. New York, London and Toronto: John A. Taylor and Company.

This novel by Hawley Smart will be read by all who have a lingering interest in the Crimea. To us "Sabastapol and Inkerman" are always interesting, be the tale told by Colonel Clery, by Tolstoi, or by Hawley Smart. In these days of pessimism the public are so used to the voice of Schopenhauer through the medium of Dostoiéfsky or George Moore, that one feels glad to peruse a good plain tale told in a healthy jolly way. Subtle psychology may account for Raskolnikoff, but it takes good old English pluck and common sense to produce Hugh Flemming and Tom Byng or to write about them. Miss Lynden is a charming girl, but for the Russians, one would almost go to the Crimea itself, to win her. The Benedict (Tom Byng) goes the way of all Benedicts, and Beatrice is quite willing to accompany him to the altar. The end is pleasant and natural. We have very little psychology, but our author has told us a good tale for all that.

SCHOOLBOYS OF ROOKESBURY. Edited by Laurence H. Francis. Boston: Estes and Lauriat.

This, as the name implies, is a story of school life. It is said that the author has followed somewhat after the style of "Tom Brown's Schooldays," but Rookesbury is not Rugby in disguise, and either Laurence H. Francis or Judge Hughes is grossly libelled by the comparison. The book, however, with its pillow-fights, its cricket matches, its boyish enmities and friendships, will be in some measure interesting to boys on this continent who have curiosity in regard to the school life of their cousins over the Atlantic. Mr. Francis has hardly the touch of Archdeacon Farrar, the "Power" and "Kenrick" of St. Winifreds are more interesting types of boyhood than "Tickley" and "Blobs," but then the latter exist, so it is just as well to write about them. "Crabbe," "Wimm," "Blobs," we hope, we are certain, that Mathew Arnold never met *them* at Rugby. "Wrag is in custody" does not sin nearly so much against the æsthetic taste as that other monosyllable—*Blobs!* The book is illustrated with original drawings.

HANDBOOK OF ATHLETIC SPORTS. Edited by Ernest Bell, M.A., Trinity College, Cambridge. Vol. IV. Rugby Football, Association Football, Baseball, Rounders, Quoits, Bowls, Skittles, Curling, with twenty-one illustrations. London: George Bell and Sons, York Street, Covent Garden and New York. 1892.

The present volume of Bohn's Library of Sports and Games will be eagerly welcomed by many lovers of sport, and as a handbook will be found invaluable if once looked into. It occupies a unique position. The articles are clear and concise, and are written by men thoroughly competent to speak with authority. The Rugby game is by Mr. Harry Vassall, late captain of the Oxford University Football Club, Hon.-Treas. of the Rugby Football Union. The Association game is by Mr. C. W. Alcock, Hon.-Sec. of the Football Association. The other games are treated of by men entirely in touch with them, and well versed in the intricacies of each, and all are clear and authoritative in the expression of their opinions. To teams desirous of perfecting their work the articles on football will be invaluable, containing as they do so many serviceable hints. The handbook is thoroughly illustrated and tastefully bound.