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Teaching 40 or 50 Pupils the Piano at Once

Not so many years ago, a person who ventured the suggestion that a whole class of 40 or 50 pupils could be taught the piano successfully at once would have been branded as an idiot. But not so to-day, for that this can be done, and is being done, there is no doubt.

In the United States to-day class teaching of the piano, violin and other musical instruments is not uncommon. A number of fine pianists, violinists, etc., have become efficient players, indeed, through this method of mass teaching. In Canada the method of instructing groups of school pupils in the violin has been tried in such centres as Ottawa, but the writer has not heard of a case where whole classes have been given instruction in the piano at one time here in this country.

One will here probably say, "Well, teaching a number of pupils to play the violin simultaneously is a much easier matter than teaching a group the piano." This will not be denied, but nevertheless school music supervisors in the United States—where music has become a force to be reckoned with—have approved of a plan for teaching the piano en masse.

The first necessity, of course, they saw was to secure an inexpensive instrument resembling a piano keyboard, that could be carried about at any time and anywhere, and so simple in construction that it "never gets out of order." Accordingly, after continual experimentation, a one-piece keyboard with "v" shaped corrugations instead of flat white keys, was born, and this instrument in the hands of each pupil has become the medium for class piano instruction.

One of the best authorities in the country remarked, upon examining this keyboard invention, "It looks as though you had solved the problem of class instruction." That the underlying ideas were correct, was abundantly proved by the results achieved.

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with the experimental class of twenty pupils at the Lowell School, Boston; none of these pupils played the piano, and but five had pianos in their homes. At the end of ten weeks all played from memory a number of pieces ranging from sixteen to forty measures each, played all of the triad inversions and their roots, played four finger scales with alternate hands beginning with any degree of the scale, played four octave arpeggios with alternate hands, using the various chord positions, read instantly any intervals within an octave, named any pitches of the major scale, transposed their simpler pieces to three keys, and got good tone and good legatos when they went to the piano. (During the lessons one pupil always played the piece or exercise on the piano, while the rest of the class did the same thing on their keyboards).

In spite of the fact that this class work was done late in the afternoon after a full day's work in school, all were enthusiastic, as proved by the fact that they always asked the privilege of playing on the piano at the close of the lesson, and invariably left the room singing some of the tunes they had learned.

In conclusion, it goes without saying that a large portion of this class will continue their lessons with private teachers, and that some of the parents of the fifteen who did not have pianos will buy pianos.

CONSTIPATED CHILDREN

Constipation is one of the most common ailments of childhood and the child suffering from it positively cannot thrive. To keep the little one well the bowels must be kept regular and the stomach sweet. To do this nothing can equal Baby's Own Tablets. They are a mild but thorough laxative; are pleasant to take and can be given to the newborn babe with perfect safety. Thousands of mothers use no other medicine for their little ones but Baby's Own Tablets. They are sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

Carthage in England.

The ruined temple at Virginia Water, Surrey, England, is always something of a mystery to visitors to that beauty spot, which was at one time a dreary swamp. Standing in a romantic glen, its columns look as though they had been undisturbed for two thousand years. The fact is that the temple has been in its present position about a century. Its original site was ancient Carthage.

On several of the stones are inscriptions. One in Greek, on an altar stone, tells how the structure was dedicated to Jupiter and to the other gods worshipping in the temple. Others are written in Latin. One of these reads: "Marcus Julius erected this to his most beloved wife Domitia Rogata, who lived twenty-three years."

At one time a fine group of ancient Greek statuary stood near these columns from Carthage. When William IV. opened the lovely grounds to the public, however, these statues were so shamefully mutilated by visitors that they were completely ruined, and the public were again excluded until the reign of Queen Victoria.

Locate Historic Spot.

The aid of Miss Annie Thompson, Brantford centenarian, will be sought by the Brant Historical Society in fixing the exact location of Brant's ford over the Grand River. This was so named because Chief Joseph Brant, Indian warrior and leader of Revolutionary days, who headed the exodus of a portion of the Six Nations to Canada when the Colonists won their revolt, used it frequently. From this name was derived the present name of the city. It is located north of the present river crossing by means of the Lorne Bridge, and the Historic Sites and Monuments Board is now considering the advisability of marking it permanently as of historic interest.

This Baboon a Houdini.

Among an African wild animals consignment landed at London is a baboon able to untie any knot or escape from any cage.

Canada's Forest at Wembley.

The economic value to Canada of her great resources in forests—second only in importance to agriculture—can best be realized by a statement of their vast extent. One-third of the total land area of the Dominion, it is estimated, may be described as forest lands, of which 900,000 square miles are mainly covered by softwoods and the remaining 300,000 square miles bear chiefly hardwoods. In view of this it is not to be wondered that the Canadian Government's forest products display at the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley, England, formed an important part of the Dominion's exhibit, and was the centre of the greatest interest to the thousands of visitors who passed through the Canadian Pavilion each day.

The forestry exhibit occupied a space 100 feet in length and 35 feet in width, which could be entered from the main corridor. It was surrounded on three sides by paneled spaces surrounding glazed wall-cases, and separated by groups of timber and timber products. The panelling was surmounted by decorative scenes or by stage settings of forest scenes. A temple-like structure in wood occupied the middle of one side, and contained a scenic model of a pulp mill. Two inland exhibits stood towards the two ends, one being a group of rolls of paper, and the other a stand for microscopes and photographs. Large timbers and a section of a large wooden pipe occupied the remaining space. The decorative features included paintings illustrating four stages in the journey of the logs from the forest to the lumber mill, and showing the progress of the industry during the last four centuries.

There were eight large spaces covered with panels of Canadian woods, each space containing 25 panels. Forty kinds of wood were shown in this way, and the different kinds of wood were grouped so that allied species might be compared.

The central figure in the paper section of the display was a scenic model of a typical Canadian pulp mill for the manufacture of groundwood pulp. The scale of the model was three-sixteenths to one foot and the capacity of the mill represented was 100 tons per day. The scene showed the river which brought the logs, which were then cut into short lengths and freed from bark. These blocks were stored on a pile until required, when they were conveyed to the mill to be ground. All the operations were carried on by power developed from the river.

The Canadian exhibit also included an electrically-driven compound-lever testing machine, capable of applying a load of 10,000 pounds. This machine was similar in general construction to those employed at the two laboratories of the Forestry Branch, Department of the Interior, at Montreal and Vancouver for testing timbers. The machines at these laboratories are, however, capable of greater loads, and of testing to their breaking point large structural timbers.

Baby or Husband.

Mrs. Wilkins—"My husband is very particular whom I engage as a nurse. Have you a kind disposition, and are you gentle? Will you—"

Applicant—"Excuse me, madam, but do you want me to take care of the baby or your husband?"



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Expense No Object.

"Madam," said the doctor, "I shall have to paint your husband's throat with nitrate of silver."

"Please use nitrate of gold, doctor," exclaimed Mrs. Mcneebags. "The expense is quite immaterial."

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Madison 10 hrs.	Jan. 19	Feb. 26	Mar. 30	May 7
London 24 hrs.	Jan. 23	Mar. 2	Apr. 3	May 11
Palermo 12 hrs.	Jan. 25	Mar. 4	Apr. 5	May 13
Naples 12 hrs.	Jan. 26	Mar. 5	Apr. 6	May 14
Piraeus-Athens 24 hrs.	Jan. 29	Mar. 8	Apr. 9	May 17
Constantinople 24 hrs.	Jan. 31	Mar. 10	Apr. 11	May 19
Bertrouth 14 hrs.	Feb. 3	Mar. 13	Apr. 14	May 22
Jaffa-Jerusalem 30 hrs.	Feb. 4-5	Mar. 14-15	Apr. 15-16	May 23-24
Egypt 14 days	Feb. 6-8	Mar. 16-18	Apr. 17-19	May 25-27
Moscow 8 hrs.	Feb. 11	Mar. 21	Apr. 22	—
Munich 15 hrs.	Feb. 13	Mar. 23	Apr. 24	—
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