

System of Instruction.

CLASS INSTRUCTION.

Both the Class and Private Lesson Systems are employed in the Toronto Conservatory of Music. There are peculiar advantages in the former, concerning which a few words of explanation may be desirable for those who are unfamiliar with that system as applied to music.

The Class System consists firstly in arranging students in graded classes, so that each class shall contain students of very nearly similar acquirements in the branches to be studied.

Secondly, the lesson, usually in classes of four, is *one hour in length*, each pupil receiving a proportionate share of individual instruction, while having the advantage of listening to other members of the class, and hearing all criticisms made by the teacher on their performances. Thus the entire hour becomes to such pupils a continuous lesson, a portion of which constitutes instruction of such a nature as it is impossible to obtain by means of private lessons only. This mode of instruction excites emulation; ambition is aroused; the student is spurred on to greater efforts by observing the proficiency of those who have attained a higher degree of perfection; a mistake or failure in any particular made by one member of the class affords a practical and valuable lesson to the others, through which they may profit by avoiding the causes leading to such a result; energy is directed into proper channels; and judgment is sharpened by the frequent opportunities afforded for hearing the performances of other pupils and comparing their respective merits.

Progress in music is essentially facilitated by competition. Confidence, ease and grace, can by many students, be more rapidly acquired in class lessons than by individual instruction.

Students who are preparing for the profession of teaching find the class system especially instructive, as it affords them opportunities of observing how various different faults are treated by the teacher; faults which, perhaps, they are quite free from individually, and which were it not for such opportunities, they could only hope to treat