

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA REVIEW

Vol. XIII.

OTTAWA, ONT., NOVEMBER, 1910.

No. 2

Entered at the Post Office at Ottawa, Ont., as Second-Class Matter.

The Harp of 3,000 Strings.

HAVING spoken of the production of sound; having shown the method of its propagation; having in fact conducted it from its origin to the portal of the ear, the next duty, in logical sequence, is to describe the manner in which that organ carries it to the brain of man. We shall first give an anatomical description of the ear and then conduct a sound over the various parts, showing how necessary and admirable is the mechanism involved.

The ear, for descriptive purposes, is divided into three parts, the external, middle and internal ear.

The external ear, the only visible part, consists of the auricle and the auditory canal. The auricle or finna consists of two prominent rims enclosed one within the other and surrounding a central hollow called the concha or shell. This external ear with its convolutions serves simply to collect the vibrations and lead them by means of the meatus or auditory canal to the middle ear. This auditory canal leads upwards and forwards from the concha to the tympanum, and is about an inch and a quarter in length.

The middle ear consists of the tympanic membrane or drum and a series of three small bones called the malleus, incus and stapes or the hammer, the anvil and the stirrup. The drum of