

## Music and The Drama

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

There is little in the way of the musical to deal with this week, save and except the closing exercises of the St. John School of Music at the Mechanics Institute on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings last, and the concert given by the pupils of Miss Annie L. Lugin, in the rooms occupied by the Oratorio society. In each case not a little interest attached, and in respect to the first, every stage from the kindergarten period to the more advanced, each illustration was full of evidence of the progress made in that institution in which by the way physical drill is not omitted.

Of the entertainment given by Miss Lugin's pupils unstinted praise is due in the main. There are of course many undeveloped instances but at the same time much to commend. Of the teachers efficiency there is no doubt, and many of the pupils not only do themselves justice but reflect much credit on the skill of their teacher. In this connection I deserve to correct an accidental error that crept into this department recently when in referring to Miss Bertha Lake who is one of the most promising of Miss Lugin's pupils. It was stated that she was in the choir of a North End Church. The fact is that Miss Lake is engaged as a member of St. Stephen's Church Choir.

Tones and Under-tones.

Massenet denies that he is working on a new opera but says he is putting the finishing touches to the orchestration of the lyric drama "Sappho."

Madame Emma Calve has been engaged to play the role of the heroine in "Sappho" which will be produced at the Opera Comique, Paris, next season.

George Lowell Tracey, who wrote "Excelsior jr," "Simple Simon" etc., is working on the orchestration of a new opera to be called "The Royal Twins." The music of this opera is said to be the best he has yet written.

Gemma Bellincioni has announced her retirement from the stage because of the death of Alberto Stagno. She was about the most famous of Italian prima donnas and was the original Santuzza in "Cavalleria Rusticana."

The late Albert Stagno is said to have been a very rich man when he died. His earnings and his investments are said to have aggregated \$2,000,000. Stagno's real name was Andreoli.

The "Pops" at Music Hall, Boston, continued to be as attractive as ever, Leo Schultz is the conductor at present.

An oratorio which was written toward the end of the 18th century by Grison was sung in Paris recently at a concert given under the auspices of the "Publicistes Chretiens." In the work the Marcellaise "appears in the present form, tending to show that Grison and not Rouget de Lisle is the composer of that well known air.

Tamagno has been singing through Germany in "The Prophet" "William Tell" and "Othello." The latter is his best impersonation and in it he scores a just success. A writer describes him "a time-worn, high-baritone pitched screamer."

"La Fiancee du Timbalier," a ballad of Victor Hugo to a setting by Saint Saens, was recently sung in London by Blanche Marchesi, and the London critics are enthusiastic over the music.

As in dramatic so also in musical compositions it is not always the prize winning work that meets with public success and favor. The prize winning opera "Thenerdank" was withdrawn after its third performance though its initial was received very favorably.

There is a rumor that Madame Marchesi the famous Parisian teacher has been invited to give a season of eight months teaching in New York. In view of the alleged fact that the Madame stipulates for the payment of the triling sum of \$60,000, and the expenses of herself and suite of three persons during that time, it may be considered highly improbable that the invitation will materialize.

The music for an opera entitled "Sarsstra" has just been completed by Charles Goepfert. Some portions of it have been played at Weimar with much success. The book is based on Goethe's second part of "The Magic Flute."

It is stated that the oldest piece of music in the world is called "The Blessing of the Priests." The piece, it is also said, has been sung in the temple at Jerusalem, and may still be heard in the synagogues of Spain and Portugal.

A new musical instrument, which is called a dragon horn-trumpet, has been invented by a Mr. C. W. Moritz of Berlin. It

is described as being oval-shaped, and terminates in a horn representing a dragon's head, with its jaws wide open, and a curved tongue in the middle. The cup-shaped mouth-piece is bent like that of the bass-clarinet. The dragon horn-trumpet possesses three valves and an apparatus for the regulation of the sounds, which allows the player to pass, without ceasing to blow from the loudest forte to the softest piano. The timbre is described as partaking of that of the corno di caccia and that of the trumpet—whence the name.

The following list of the artists engaged to appear at Covent Garden, London, this season, shows by the nationalities of the singers that most of the leading singers hail from the United States and France:—Sopranos—Calve and Pacary (French), Saville, Eames, Reid, Engle, Palliser and Susan Strong (American), Van Couteran (German), Macintire (English), Contraltos—Brazzi de Lussan (American), Brema (English), Schumann, Heink and Meisslinger (German), De Vigne (French) Tenors—Van Dyck, Simon, Scaramberg and Lieban (German), J. de Reszke (Polish), Paz Rommy, Dupeyron and Bonnard (French), Ceppi (Italian). Baritone—Renaud, Note, Meux, Dufrique, Gillibert and Bars (French), Bispham (American), Ancona (Italian). Basses—Plancon, Lempriere (French), Journet (Belgian) and E. de Reszke (Polish).

Sopbia Zele died in Boston last week. Before her marriage to Edgar O. Achorn, she was well and favorably known as a singer in northern Europe. She was born in Christiania, and was only thirty-six years of age. King Oscar was much interested in her career as a vocalist, she having won a scholarship at the Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm. It is said of her, "She was a charming woman and an excellent artist."

A fiddler in the orchestra at Savoy Hotel London, was discharged because he could not 'crescendo' enough to suit the ear of the conductor, and he accordingly sued the latter for a weeks wages, in lieu of notice. The defendant informed the judge: "When I toldt him to bhlay vun vay he bhlay zee oder, and when I toldt him to play zee oder vay he bhlays zee vun. Ach Himmel! He could have bhlayed if he had of choosed; but he poots his back up, and I put mein foot down, and here we are." The plaintiff, on the other hand contended that the fault lay with the conductor: "I vos not used to dat sort of muzeeke," he explained, "and so when he showed me vot I vos to do I toldt him I could not do it. I vos not used to such hard tings. I vos unable to 'crescendo just when he wanted me to. I vos not used to see tick marks on zee muzeeke, for, you see sometime it would be up here and sometime down dere. I could not follow him so rapid as he vonted me to." His honor ultimately gave judgment for the defendant.

### TALK OF THE THEATRE.

A crowded house greeted Miss Ethel Tucker when the curtain at the Opera House went up upon "A Broken Life" last Monday evening. Miss Tucker is supported by Mr. H. P. Meldon and his Company which this season contains many new faces. John E. Brennan again is the comedian and like Miss Tucker and Mr. Meldon received the heartiest of welcomes. The ladies of the company in the opening piece had but little opportunity for work but what chance they had gave the audience a favorable impression. Miss Russel, a tall and handsome young lady, played a somewhat thankless role in a consistently dignified manner, and Miss Vivian the soubrette of the company evidently pleased all with her topical songs; I almost forgot the little Vavenne who is a wonder and who delights every spectator, with her bright songs and clever dancing. The opening play gave great opportunity for Mr. Meldon who acted his part with all the force and earnestness that is characteristic of that gentleman's work and which is so appreciated generally. The new leading man Mr. Dennythorne. I was not so much impressed with. This has reference only at present to his work in "A Broken Life," and I have not up to this writing seen him in anything else. The particular surprise to me of the evening was the great improvement shown in the work of Mr. Richards. He played a high comedy part so well that it seemed as though he had never done anything else. Certainly his work on Monday indicated that this is his true line. It was more than creditable. Of Miss Tucker's interpretation it is hardly necessary

to write, as so many thousands have witnessed her performances here and her good talent is so well known. She does every role in such a manner as to prove herself one of the best emotional actresses that visits this city. Matinees are given daily and the prospects are that a very successful season will be enjoyed by the company, which has some new plays to offer during the season. The engagement continues throughout next week.

W. A. Whitecar, the well known actor, is now at work on a sparkling comedy which he has named "3834, Broadway". He is translating it from the French of Bissor expressly for Nichols and Howard's summer stock Company. It will shortly be produced at Binghampton Mass.

Arthur Bouchier, the husband of Violet Vanbrugh will shortly play the role of Lord Byron on the English stage and will hereafter devote himself entirely to character work.

Fliot Paget has been engaged as understudy for Rose Coghlan for the leading role in "The Sporting Duchess."

"Sweethearts" a one act piece and the three act comedy "Confusion" comprise the bill at the Castle Square, theatre, Boston, next week. "The Lost Paradise" has been given there all the current week.

Joseph Haworth is appearing with marked success in a new play written by his brother William Haworth and entitled "The Peoples' King." He was in Pittsburg last week.

Adrienne Dattrolles is playing at the Haymarket, London, in Sydney Grundy's adaptation of Dumas peres "Marriage Sous Louis XV." Miss Dattrolles was in the "Fatal Card" at the Boston Museum theatre a couple of seasons ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Augustin Daly accompanied by Miss Ada Rehan have gone to England. Miss Rehan has a summer home in Cumberland where she will stay with her animal pets for the summer, while Mr. and Mrs. Daly will travel to Paris after the Queen's jubilee.

Frederic Ward the erstwhile tragedian during next season will devote himself to romantic business.

Elita Proctor Otis has been engaged to play an important role in a new play called "A ward of France." The piece will be put on at Wallack's in New York next season.

Henry L. Southwick, Mrs. Lola Furman Tripp and Miss Ethel A. Hornick will be members of Augustin Daly's New York theatre company next season.

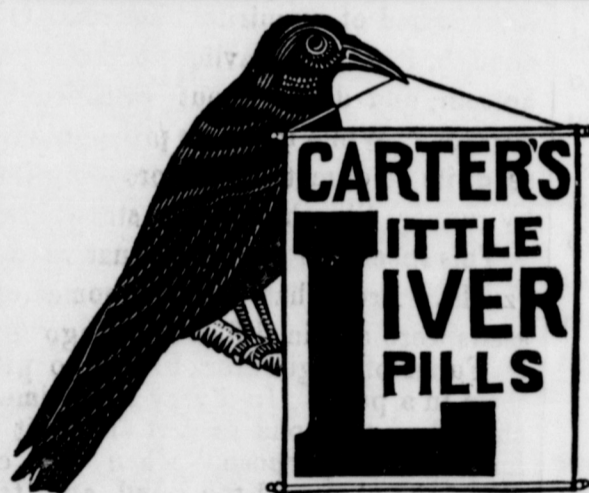
In his new play which he will produce at Her Majesty's theatre London, Mr. Beerbohm Tree's role is "a sort of a South African diamond swindler, a flashy and clever, plausible creature common enough in Kimberly." The play is an adaptation of Grant Allan's novel "An African millionaire."

Marie Studholm, the English actress who was such a Boston (or Harvard) favorite last year and who is very beautiful, will visit the United States next season with Juliette Neville. They will appear in a burlesque entitled "In Town."

Marie Shotwell, "large and luminous-eyed," will be leading lady for Fanny Davenport next season.

Georgia Cayvan will star again next season. She says she is well pleased with her venture of last season which covered a period of thirty six weeks.

The wearing of high hats in the theatres



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has been prohibited at San Francisco. The name of the Old Standard theatre, New York has been changed and in future will be known as "The Manhattan." It will reopen with a comedy entitled "What Happened to Jones." The piece is by George Broadhurst. Mr. and Mrs. Kendal have secured two new plays which they will present in London next autumn. One of them is a four act comedy entitled "The Mills of the Gods" and is by Walter Frith. English papers still report the continued illness of Mrs. Patrick Campbell, the handsome and talented English actress. "Fredegonde" is the name of a drama recently produced at the Comedie Francaise in Paris, which was written by Alphonse Dabout, a member of a Boulogne banking firm and an active man of business.

### THE WOMAN WHO WAITED.

A Glowing Tribute to the Wife of the Great Explorer Nansen.

When Doctor Nansen went north in the Fram to leave himself at the mercy of the drifting ice-floes, a silent heroine remained behind to await his return. It was his devoted wife, the daughter of a university professor, and a woman of refinement and delicate sensibility. Three years she was without word from the Arctic Seas, and then her husband returned in triumph, the hero of the most intrepid voyage and march in the annals of adventure.

The little child of four months, whom the explorer had left in his wife's arms, was her chief companion during this long, anxious interval. When he returned 'Liv' was a frolicsome toddler, whose fearlessness and inventive mischief reflected his own love of adventure. The mother's face had deepened in intensity of expression, and her voice, when she sang, seemed to have in it undertones of the mysterious, sea-like Wagner's music in "The Flying Dutchman," written after his disastrous voyage in the Baltic.

After remaining five months at home, the Nansens went to London, where they were received with the greatest honor by princes men of science and leaders of the world of fashion and letters.

Few foreigners have ever had so conspicuous a social triumph as the gallant Norwegian. Banquets, receptions, luncheons and parties were planned for him. Enormous crowds filled the halls where he delivered his lectures. He was the one man whom everybody wished to see and hear.

At one of these earliest receptions in London, when the Arctic hero's name was on every tongue, a guest turned to Mrs. Nansen and remarked quietly:

"If I were to propose a toast, it would not be alone to the man of action, who had the inspiration of a great undertaking and the excitement of a tremendous battle with nature. It would be also to the woman who waited patiently at home with little 'Liv.' Hers was surely the harder part, for she lacked the excitement of adventure, and had only the agonizing suspense of waiting for a voice out of the darkness of the Polar night."

Mrs. Nansen could not speak, for her eyes were trembling with tears which it was not easy for her to restrain; but she nodded her head and smiled sweetly. It had been her sacrifice willingly made from devotion to her husband, but the memory of those years of wearing anxiety still haunted her, proud and happy though she was in his triumphs.

His story the world would read in detail. Her story of apprehension, of loneliness and heart sickness would never be told, for it contained neither range of incident or startling experiences like his, but only a simple record of wifely devotion and anxiety.

### WELL-MANNERED MEN.

They are Rarely Found in American Households.

How is it that the sterner sex has been allowed to drop into little habits of slipshod living which should never have been tolerated? Though a husband myself, I cannot understand how it is that we men fail to realize our want of respect to the opposite sex and our lack of good manners by the general habit of reading the newspapers at the breakfast table.

There are, I am glad to say, many notable exceptions, but it is to the men who have got into lax habits with regard to the newspaper that I am addressing these words.

The wives object to the practice, and I maintain that they are eminently justified in their dislike of a custom which practically robs them of the society of their husbands, while at the same time casting a slight upon them which mere absence would never do.

The average man only eats two meals in his own house, and these meals are the opportunities for social and domestic talk; delightful to the wife, who has no such opportunity as her husband of rubbing against other minds all day, and important to the children in widening their horizon, their view of life.

At the first meal of the day most women like to talk to their husbands about the plans of the day; but the woman who has once received the distrust, self-absorbed growl, which emanates from a male disturbed in the reading of his newspaper does not attempt to ask her husband this or that on a subject of domestic interest. The back of a newspaper is not a pleasant thing to contemplate across the breakfast table.

Think of this, husbands, when you look around for the castors or other suitable prop for the back of your paper, and for the sake of good manners, for the sake of your wife's feelings and the example to your children, remove your newspaper, reserving it for the train, omnibus or tram-car.

Of course, there are occasions when matters of absorbing interest must be looked to at once—telegrams of thrilling import.

Why not glance at the paper five minutes before the breakfast bell rings if it is really essential that such news should be seen at once? special occasions sometimes justify special behavior, but of your mercy let the newspaper be banished from the breakfast table on ordinary occasions.—St. Louis Republic.

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