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HINTS ON TEACHING.

There are two kinds of teaching which have not yet fully yielded themselves to pedagogical methods, namely, Sunday School teaching and music teaching. Here the hit-or-miss style of teaching is still largely in vogue. But it is a matter for rejoicing that in both there are signs of awakening. There is a deep-seated, mighty movement going on which seeks to establish music teaching on a truly scientific and pedagogical foundation. The time is not far distant when every teacher of instrumental or vocal music will be required to know padagogy, psychology, physiology, acoustics, esthetics, and general literature in addition to technical knowledge of his subject. There must be normal schools for music teachers just as well as for public school teachers.

The great problem for the conscientious, honest music teacher is how to secure the best results from the time, labor and money spent by the pupils in the effort to acquire a musical education. To this end the work of instruction must settle down on a basis of pedagogical principles.

By pedagogical principles we mean fundamental truths which serve as a foundation of method in the art of teaching. They are not something distant, abstruse, and vague but are formulated from what we know of the human mind on the one hand and of the fund of truth with which humanity is to be educated on the other hand.

A method in pedagogy is a rational plan or a series of steps for effecting certain results in teaching. It is a definite way of proceding for the attainment of a given end. Just as soon as we begin to establish our music work on right school principles and to conduct it according to scientific methods of pedagogy,
we shall realize vastly better results than we have hitherto attained.

It is not possible, and if it were possible, it would not be practicable, to formulate a code of pedagogical laws which are to hold for all teachers in all circumstances. The best pedagogy is that which the wide-awake teacher, guided by experience, will frame for himself on the basis of a true and practical psychology. Every teacher must have certain clearly defined, positive principles of teaching and study. These he will weave into a consistant and coherent system, which he will employ in his work, not for its own sake, but as a guide and help both to himself and to his pupils, in order to attain the best possible results.

Several things should be considered definitely settled in regard to music teaching. First of all, teaching music is both a science and an art, in just the same way that school teaching is a science and an art. As a science, it rests on psychological and rational principles; as an art, it is to be acquired by experience and careful, conscientious work. Not everybody who knows music is qualified to teach; only those can teach music successfully who have been properly trained in the art of teaching.

It sometimes happens that a person who has been trained in the science of pedagogy does not make a good teacher, but that is not the fault of the principles we advocate. One way or method of teaching is not as good as another; there is a right method and a wrong method. No method can be right which ignores the nature and laws of the human mind. From the psychological point of view, every true and right method must begin with the nature of mind.

If a man should undertake to practice medicine without a thorough knowledge of anatomy, physiology, materia medica, and the other subjects which belong to a professional training for the practice of the healing art, his act would be regarded as criminal and would be punished by the law. So, no one should be allowed to teach music who is not professionally qualified for that office. To experiment upon pupils musically, or morally, or intellectually, should be considered as reprehensible a thing as to experiment on the health and life of the body.

The public has a right to demand that the teachers of youth know their business before they begin to practice their art. We cannot afford to waste time, money and labor in
ruinous experiments. That person or society, or whatever agency it may be, that will succeed in creating a healthy public sentiment in this direction will do the musical world a - lasting benefit.

?OMPOSERS.
"Unfortunately the composers are, as a rule, worse than the critics. They follow indiscriminately a fashion, and transfer unhesitatingly the voluptuous accents of 'Tristan and Isolde's' love duet to a child's prayer, and the gorgeous pomp of Walhalla to a rustic idyll. The irreconcilableness of the two should be obvious, but it is not. A tyro should be able to understand that the simple can only be expressed by the simple, the naive by the naive, and the tranquil by the tranquil, not by the complex, the passionate, and the turbulent; nevertheless, the masters of the craft often fail to do so. There is nothing so common in our, present-day music as illustrations of 'much ado about nothing.' ',

Thus speaks the well-known Prof. Niecks. Speaking of Liszt, he continues:
"Liszt, unequaled as an experimentalist, has proved himself also a great discoverer. No one has been bolder in modulation and harmonic progression, and in the introduction of dissonance. His abandonment of the classical forms, and fashioning of new ones in accordance with the nature of the subjects, is not a whit less bold, nay, required even greater boldness. His pianoforte style must be allowed to be a creation of his own, and his orchestration abounds in miracles."

Concerning two other great innovatorsChopin and Wagner-Niecks remarks:
"Few realize how much of the development of the modern style is owing to Chopin. A long list of items has to be placed on the credit side of his account. Here are some of them: frequent employment of other modes than major and minor, immense extension of chromaticism, great multiplication of harmonies by the extension of chromaticism, and the bolder use of dissonances, substitution of serpentining and twirling lines for straight ones, and of sophisticated for plain arpeggios, introduction of novel rhythmical formations in which syncopation and transposition of accent play important parts. By sophistication of arpeggios I mean their intermixture with non-harmonic notes and their unusual ordering as regards rhythm and sequence.
" But great as was the influence exercised by others on the development of the modern style, it is undeniable that Wagner's was the greatest. He focused the musical tendencies of his time, and strengthened and modified them by his own powerful individuality, with the result that he formed a new style and art form, and has imposed this art form on a large portion of civilized society, and more or less influenced by them the practice of every composer and the taste of every lover of music."

Methinks music ought principally to move the heart, and in this no performer on the pianoforte will succeed by merely thumping and drumming, or by continual arpeggio playing. During the last few years, my chief endeavor
has been to play the pianoforte, in spite of its deficiency in sustaining sound, as much as possible in a singing manner, and to compose for it accordingly. This is by no means an easy task if we desire not to leave the ear empty, or to disturb the simplicity of the noble cantabile with too much noise.-Emanuel Bach.
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PERA AND SYMPHONIC MUSIC.

Sig. Mascagni having been interrogated on the trend of the development in music and particulary if Wagnerian drama is the end of one period in the history of dramatic opera, or the beginning of a new period, replied:
"Wagner is not to be considered as the reformer of musical art. Pure music will develop along the line of harmony. Wagner was not able to be a harmonist in the proper sense of the term as he was overcome by the facination of polyphony. Wagner was the radical reformer of the musical drama. When ignorant musical critics and dilettanti have been confuted by a blast of logic, the new composer will see clearly revealed before his eyes on the broad horizon of dramatic art the benefits of Wagnerian art, and then the true spirit of the composer, guided and made by certain new judgments, will return in triumph towards those pure sources of musical art and melody, the eternal and universal language of the soul. The wonderful work of Wagner will remain isolated in the history of art like a document which cannot be imitated, the expression of an idea whose realization has attained the highest possible perfection. But the music of Wagner does not destroy in any sense the great patrimony of melody which has been left us by the masters of music from Scarlatti down to Verdi. Nevertheless the reform which has been brought about by Wagner in musical drama destroys all the old formulas of melodramic opera, and marks in the domain of the theatre the point of departure of a new and wonderful evolution."

Asked whether the future of symphonic music will be in the direction of program music or of pure music he said:
"Symphonic music is destined to progress to a brilliant future. The pertinacious boldness, the spasmodic curiosities praised by the critics will vanish rapidly before a refined public taste, only the good will remain, the good of all nations, and we shall see the power of music strengthened by developed technique. Then we shall hear, borne on all the winds, the popular songs of every country, and from everybody will be heard those expressions in the language of music of the joys, griefs, aspirations and marvels of the world. The sublime language of melody will become cosmopolitan, and will unite the world in a pure socialism. How then will it be possible to think of the puerility, the poverty of that kind of music which is called 'program music'? The nobility of the ideal will prevail against all by its fascinating power."

The Iondon Musical News has this anecdote of the great conductor: "On one occasion, when Von Buelow had to conduct an orchestral concert at which a piece written by an aristocratic amateur was to be performed, the composer requested permission to direct a rehearsal, and, on obtaining it, opened a parcel containing seventy pencils, which he handed to the members of the band, asking them to
mark his intentions in their parts as he would give them by word of mouth. Hans von Buelow noted this matter of detail, and left the hall. Presently he returned, also with a parcel, and, on resuming his place at the desk, gravely handed out seventy pieces of india-rubber, with which the players were to erase the directions which the composer had given them.

Well, well! so Jan Kubelik, whose violin playing delighted such a wide constituency in this country last year, is engaged to be married. And heaven save the mark! to a widow. Mrs. Kubelik, to be, is the Countess Marianne Csaky, a relative of Coloman Von Szell, the Hungarian Prime Minister. She is said to be only 22 years of age, and a beautiful and cultured woman. The formal betrothal took place in Vienna a short time ago, and the father of the Countess has stipulated that a year must elapse before the wedding. Kubelik, it is said, will reside in Vienna between his tours, on which his wife will accompany him.

A Celebrated New York musician writes: "I have come to see clearly that plants love music as well as sunshine, that they grow more luxuriantly in a studio where there is music, and that the tender buds brake more quickly into beautiful blossoms than they do in silence or in discord of sounds. The animal creations come up through the vegetable kingdom. We are decended in our
turn from some rare and beautiful flowering plants. We all have nerves. As the animal grow more and more perfect they have finer nervous systems. Mankind is growing in this way all the time, and even the lower animals have nerves. Who then shall say with authority that some of the higher plants do not posssess them? There is the sensitive plant. It is not very far, it seems to me, from low animal life. A Boston physician I know says that when he plays harmonies his sensitive plant opens and stretches abroad, drinking in the music like sunshine. But the minute he strikes a discord the plant trembles and closes. Harmonious vibrations of the air thrill through and through the fibers of plants, stirring the sluggish juices in the same way as they stir the blood of the animal to greater and nobler impulses."

The first performance of Massenet's new pianoforte concerto was given the other day in Paris by Louis Diemer. It is the first work of this kind that Massenet has written. It is said to be a sort of fantaisie, not following in the least the traditional form of the concerto, but rather the free fancy of the composer. It has three movements, of which the third-an allegro-is upon Slovak themes. In this the orchestra is augmented with drums, cymbals and a "celesta," and the color and whirl of the movement are said by Arthur Pougin to be bewildering.

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1. gwine to be a bar_be_- cue At Di_nah'shouse to _ night, And she
2. sup-per was so good, dem mu_sic so sweet We danc'd till al most day. And we
3. big coon stoodup with one in each hand Says"I'll hab dis gal or die. So you




1469-4

Di _ nah's Bar _ be _ cue.


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