The Oboe d'Amore

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ment would be well worth the money. Mr. Michell seeks to obtain the effect desired by the very means my suggestion avoids, *i.e.*, independent pipes to each row of keys, and duplication of 8-feet stops. He suggests four 8-feet stops to one 4-feet. Reducing the size of the organ, how would Mr. Michell divide an organ of four stops into two manuals, so as to make each manual complete in itself and the full organ well balanced?

By my suggestion an organ of four stops would be equal in point of effect to one of eight stops, *each* stop, as I said before, being available independently on both manuals. Of course the power of the organ would not be increased, but the *variety*, which is what is wanted: no coupler to the keyboard would be necessary, and only one to the pedal.

Yours, &c.,

Sudbury, May 26, 1879.

THOMAS ELLISTON.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE MUSICAL TIMES."

SIR,—Most people are aware that the organ has now almost arrived at a state of perfection—that is, with regard to the mechanism of it. But there is one fault which I think organ-builders and those who have to do with the instrument would do well to try to obviate: it is the rattling of pedals, which is sometimes so very prominent. This is observed more when the organ is on a rood-screen, and especially if there is a soft movement for the hands with a quick one for the feet, without the pedals being coupled, or when there is an uncoupled pedal passage leading into something.

The noise appears to come not actually from the pedals themselves, since they work between two pieces of buff or flannel, but from the combined shakings of the loosely made rods and joints.

I do not know how tolerably thick galvanised wire with neatly made joints would work in place of wood; but I think that by using it there would be little or no ciphering, and the difference of expense not very great.

Of course it would be necessary to have the wire-rods to equal as nearly as possible the weight of wooden ones on account of the pressure.

Yours faithfully,

Edgbaston, June 20, 1879.

A. J. BURR.

GAS-ENGINES FOR ORGANS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE MUSICAL TIMES."

SIR,—I see in your issue of June 1 a letter entitled "Gas-Engines for Organs," and as I take a great interest in such matters I should like to add to the information contained in your correspondent's letter that the new large organ in Salisbury Cathedral is blown by a gas-engine of Otto's. But for an organ capable of being blown by an engine of one-horse power or less, I should like to recommend another form of engine, which I have most successfully adopted, namely, the "Ryder's Hot-Air Engine." I have a small one of one-third-horse-power in my house for an eight-stop organ, and it answers most admirably. The makers were good enough at my suggestion to adapt a gas-burner, instead of using coke; and all I have to do is to light it twenty minutes before I require it, and then, without the least trouble, it starts work and continues two or three hours without any attention, when it may be necessary to oil the moving parts. Another great advantage consists in the fact that it makes no more noise than a sewing machine. I should add that I burn twenty-five feet of gas per hour, which, at the high price of gas in this town (5s. per 1,000), amounts to just 1½d.

Believe me, yours faithfully,

C. H. FYNES-CLINTON.

Blandford Rectory, Dorset,
June 18, 1879.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE MUSICAL TIMES."

SIR,—In your last number Mr. Barber, whose interest in organ matters is well known, gives some information on the above subject which will be welcome to many of your readers. The engines however he refers to, though suitable for large instruments, are not readily adaptable for small chamber organs.

Living in a neighbourhood where water-power is not available, I have for some years been desirous of meeting with a gas-engine small enough to supply the wind to an organ of seven or eight sounding stops, and this I am happy to say I have now accomplished, and, during the present month, my arrangements have been satisfactorily completed. The engine was shown at the late Paris Exhibition, is now manufactured in England, and is capable of doing a great deal more work than I require of it.

I shall be happy to give details to any inquirer forwarding me a directed and stamped envelope for reply.

J. W. BILLINGHURST.

St. Mildred's, New Barnet.

THE OBOE D'AMORE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE MUSICAL TIMES."

SIR,—You were kind enough to notice my attempt at the restoration of the Pastoral Symphony of Bach to its original balance of tone and qualitative effect by the revival of the now disused oboe di caccia.

It may interest some of your readers to know that it is now possible still more accurately to reproduce the combination of "clang tints" as they were originally planned by the great cantor, by the reintroduction of the oboe d'amore.

It is well known that this instrument differed from the ordinary oboe, just as the clarinet in A does from that in C by standing a minor third lower in pitch. This gives its tone a somewhat more melancholy and pathetic force, approximating to the cor anglais, which is in the F below.

An oboe of this kind has recently been constructed by Mons. C. Mahillon, of Brussels, at the suggestion of Mons. Gevaert, the learned Director of the Conservatoire in that town. I hope shortly to have one of these in my possession, which I shall be happy to show to any person interested in the subject.—Yours,

WILLIAM H. STONE.

14, Dean's Yard, June 22, 1879.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

* Notices of concerts, and other information supplied by our friends in the country, must be forwarded as early as possible after the occurrence; otherwise they cannot be inserted. Our correspondents must specifically denote the date of each concert, for without such date no notice can be taken of the performance.

Our correspondents will greatly oblige by writing all names as clearly as possible, as we cannot be responsible for any mistakes that may occur.

Correspondents are informed that their names and addresses must accompany all communications.

We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.

Notice is sent to all Subscribers whose payment (in advance) is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscription is not renewed. We again remind those who are disappointed in obtaining back numbers that, although the music pages are always stereotyped, only a sufficient quantity of the rest of the paper is printed to supply the current sale.

HENRY F. DIX.—It would be impossible to acknowledge the receipt of every communication forwarded to us.

JOHN ADCOCK.—We cannot insert communications from persons whose works are reviewed in THE MUSICAL TIMES unless it can be shown that we have unintentionally mis-stated a fact. We presume that the object of soliciting a notice is to elicit an opinion; and although this opinion may occasionally disagree with that of the author, it can scarcely be termed, on that account, "unfair."

J. F. FROST.—Certainly no such degree has ever been granted.

N.—The Royal Society of Musicians, Lisle Street, Leicester Square, is the only Institution of the kind with which we are acquainted: but it is necessary, in order to obtain relief, that the applicant should be a member.

CHARLES POOLE.—Our correspondent ought to know that the notice upon a concert which took place on the 15th of April should have been forwarded in time for the May number.

MR. F. J. JACKSON'S letter is under consideration.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF COUNTRY NEWS.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for any opinions expressed in this Summary, as all the notices are either collated from the local papers or supplied to us by correspondents.

ABERDEEN.—The Choral Union gave a concert in the Music Hall on the 18th ult., under the conductorship of Mr. Kirby. The singing of the Union in Stevens's "Cloud-capt towers" and Pinsuti's "In this hour of softened splendour" was excellent, and was much appreciated by the audience. A small string band, led by Herr Ritter, played a Quartett by Haydn, a Gavotte by Herr Ritter, and an Abendlied by