The Westminster Abbey Organ

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stage under the composer's own direction. A performance later on at St. Petersburg met with the same hearty reception.

The Society for the Promotion of Musical Art proposes to establish a Conservatory of Music at Amsterdam, under the artistic directorship of Franz Coenen, a brother of the well-known pianist and composer, Willem Coenen. The following gentlemen will be engaged as Professors: Julius Röntgen (piano), Cramer and Simmer (violin), Henry Bossmans (cello), Daniel de Lange (counterpoint and composition).

On the 12th ult. a Concert was given at the Salle Flaxland, Paris, by the Misses Speer. The French papers speak highly of the performances of these young ladies, as vocalist and pianist respectively, and express the hope that they may soon be heard again. We understand that the Misses Speer will shortly appear in London.

Saint-Saëns's Oratorio "Le Déluge" was performed, on the 16th ult., at one of the Popular Concerts at Brussels, and obtained a decided success. The same composer is reported to be writing an important Symphony which he intends to call "Hymn to Victor Hugo." It will be performed during the coming summer at the Trocadéro, Paris.

At the Brussels Conservatoire performances have lately been given of three of the chief operas of Gluck, "Iphigénie en Tauride," "Armide," and "Iphigénie en Aulide," under the direction of M. Gevaert.

The pupils of the College St. Servais, at Liège (Belgium), recently gave a performance of Gounod's "Redemption." Notwithstanding its having to labour under the great disadvantage of a Pianoforte accompaniment only, it created so deep an impression that a general desire has been expressed that the performance may be repeated publicly, with an accompaniment of full orchestra.

Our Correspondent at Turin writes: "The International Musical Competition for Choral Societies, Brass, and String Bands, is to take place in the first week of August. There will be six contests: (a) for the Italian choral societies and bands; (b) for the foreign societies and bands; (c) for the foreign societies reading at first sight; (d) a competition between the foreign societies marked as excellent and superior and the first division of Italian societies, all having competed in the contest (a); (e) a special contest (if allowed by the Minister of War) between military bands; (f) a contest between those bands who have won the first places in the contest (e). A musical festival will be given, at which all the societies will perform. A commemoration medal will be given to all the societies and bands competing. There will also be a first prize of £80 for the choral societies, one of the same sum for the stringed bands, and a prize of £40 for the brass bands. To the conductors of societies winning one or more prizes, a *bâton* will be presented. Ten pieces were sung, on the 2nd ult., by the Stefano Tempia Choral Society, including a madrigal of S. Tempia; Chorus of Hermits in "Faust," and "Gipsy Life" (Schumann); Gounod's Chorus and Solo "Pentecost" ("Redemption"); Mendelssohn's "Addio," for male voices, &c. Signor Roberti and his Society are busy studying a fine selection for the evening of Holy Thursday, when a crowded audience will probably attend."

Italian papers report a great success obtained by a new opera, "Stella," composed by Signor Auteri-Manzocchi, at the Argentinian Theatre, in Rome, where it was performed on the 16th ult. Solo singers, as well as chorus and orchestra, shared in the enthusiastic applause, the latter having to repeat the Prelude to the third Act.

A new Opera, "Laureano," by a Portuguese composer, Senhor Machado, is shortly to be produced at the San Carlo Theatre, Milan.

The programmes of the Sociedade de Musica de Camara at Oporto show that this Society conducts its operations with considerable enterprise. Last month, in addition to two quartets by Beethoven, quintets by Saint-Saëns and Schumann, and smaller pieces by Mendelssohn, Brahms, Tchaikowsky, and Liszt were given.

Ernest Doré, an excellent musician, brother of the great painter, Gustave Doré, died lately at Paris.

Carl La Roche, the Nestor of Austrian actors, died at Vienna on the 11th ult., aged 88 years.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CHEAP ANALYTICAL PROGRAMMES.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE MUSICAL TIMES."

SIR,—As a constant concert-goer, may I ask you to use your influence towards procuring a desirable reform—a reduction in the prices of analytical programmes?

It is not necessary for me to say anything in favour of the utility of analytical programmes, the mere fact that they exist at all being sufficient evidence of their possessing an educational value. This being so, does it not seem very desirable that the price of the programmes should be such as would not merely enable but induce each member of the audience to purchase one? The prices at present charged, however, effectually prevent this. For example, the frequenter of the Popular Concerts is asked to pay sixpence for a book containing stereotyped remarks which have done duty over and over again; and the Directors of the Richter Concerts are more audacious still in demanding a shilling for what are mere reprints of familiar analyses by "G." and "C. A. B." That these prices can be very largely modified is proved by the fact that in Edinburgh the Choral Union programmes, which are identical in design and matter with those of the Crystal Palace, are sold for threepence. If this can be done where a smaller musical public exists, surely it might in London, where larger audiences would be a guarantee of commercial success. You, Sir, have so constantly advocated the cause of cheap music, &c., that I look with some considerable confidence for your support on the present occasion.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

L. L. R. C. RUMSEY.

London, N.W., March 15, 1884.

THE WESTMINSTER ABBEY ORGAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE MUSICAL TIMES."

SIR,—Your correspondent who furnishes your last number with particulars and scheme of the above organ says there are only two other organs in England with a thirty-two feet pedal reed of metal. I beg to correct that statement with the following facts, supplied from memory, and without any reference to the specifications of our large organs. There are thirty-two feet pedal reeds of metal in the church organs of Doncaster and Westminster, and the Concert Hall organs at Sheffield, Leeds, Liverpool, Royal Albert Hall, Alexandra Palace, and Regent's Park.

Yours truly,

ARTHUR W. SPEED.

Sheffield, February 26, 1884.

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 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 is always kept in stock, only a sufficient quantity of the rest of the paper is printed to supply the current sale.

COLD WALTHAM.—We think both ways are wrong; the pace at which the tune should be sung must be regulated by the metronome marks.

J. W. ODELL.—The Archbishop of Canterbury has the power to confer the degree of Mus. D. on a musician. No examination is required, but the recipient has to produce certificates of musical efficiency from two musicians.

W. S. L.—We do not know of any biographies of Bellini and Donizetti, except those that may be found in musical dictionaries.

W. H. S.—(1) We think the use of the Digitorium may be beneficial as a means of strengthening the fingers, but care must be taken that it does not induce a heavy touch. (2) You should consult a medical man.