

Effect of Gas on Church Organs

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Source: *The Musical Times and Singing Class Circular*, Vol. 25, No. 498 (Aug. 1, 1884), p. 477

Published by: [Musical Times Publications Ltd.](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3357529>

Accessed: 05-03-2016 14:29 UTC

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second prize (likewise provided for by Sonzogno) was awarded to A. Zuelli for his Opera "La fata del Nord," both works having been previously produced at the Theatre Manzoni. At the same theatre, however, one of the rejected operas, entitled "Willis," by Giacomo Puccini, was, by means of private influence, subsequently produced, and obtained a measure of success genuine enough to place the two works approved of by the jury entirely in the shade. The composer of this popularly-favoured new opera is at present still a pupil of the Milan conservatorio, and his style is, to some extent, influenced ("sicklied o'er," as some would call it) by the works of Richard Wagner, the scenes of the legendary subject of his opera being, moreover, laid in the Black Forest of Germany.

We extract the following from the *Daily Telegraph* of the 23rd ult.:—"Our Paris correspondent informs us that the grandson of the celebrated composer, Bellini, has just committed suicide at Nice. He threw himself out of a window on the fourth storey of the Hospital St. Roch, where he was a patient. The unfortunate man had suffered severe reverses of fortune. In his youth he was destined for the bar, and had actually made some progress with his legal studies when the poverty of his family obliged him to give up all hope of entering the profession he had chosen. He afterwards became a shoemaker."

At Paris died on the 5th ult. Victor Massé, the well-known French composer, aged sixty-two. See also our "Obituary" column in the present number.

Le Ménestrel announces the death last month, at Saint-Germain-en-Laye, of Madame Halévy, the widow of the composer of "La Juive" and "L'Eclair." The deceased lady possessed a considerable talent for sculpture, and the bust of her husband, placed in the foyer of the Paris Opéra Comique, is her work. Her youngest daughter, Geneviève, is the widow of the composer of "Carmen," Georges Bizet.

CORRESPONDENCE.

RIEMANN'S "OPERN-HANDBUCH."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE MUSICAL TIMES."

SIR,—When you remark in your notice of Riemann's "Opfern-Handbuch" (p. 414) that "no work of a similar scope has hitherto been attempted in any language" you have apparently forgotten F. Clément's very comprehensive "Dictionnaire Lyrique," 1870, with four supplements. It contains, however, many errors. Clément does not name Paolo Rolli, nor indeed do I find "Arsace" in the list of operas by that composer, given by Hawkins (ed. 1853, II. 869). "Astartus" is in this list, but is not noticed by Clément, who, however, quotes an "Astarte" (words by Zeno, music by Buononcini) as produced in London in 1720. Clément records Clayton's "Arsinoe," but erroneously dates it "vers 1685." Your date, 1707, is, I presume, copied from Hawkins, but Hogarth, in his "History of the Opéra," gives the date of first performance as January 16, 1705, which is probably old style, or 1706 according to present reckoning. The anachronism in the case of "Claudine" occurs also in Clément, so that either Riemann merely copied the "Dictionnaire Lyrique," or the error in both has a common origin. If the latter be the case, the mistake may have arisen from attributing to Gottfried the work of some other Weber, but it is strange that Dr. Riemann should not have noticed that the theorist of Darmstadt could not have been the composer of an opera produced in 1783. I may add that Clément quotes seven other settings of "Claudine de Villa-bella."

July 22, 1884. G. A. C.

[Although, as our correspondent points out, allusion might certainly have been made to the existing *Dictionnaire Lyrique*, the "scope" of Dr. Riemann's "Handbuch" is at once a wider and a narrower one than that of the compilation of the industrious Félix Clément. The latter is encumbered by an incongruous mass of critical observations, suited to the author's taste (vide the space devoted to "Fidelio"—one column; and to, for instance, "Rigoletto"—four columns), a temptation which, with a few trifling exceptions, Riemann altogether resists. The

"Handbuch," on the other hand, includes melodramas, vaudevilles, ballets, and "masques," which, unquestionably, form a very formidable item in its "scope," and which, with a few prominent exceptions, are entirely excluded from the plan upon which M. Clément's work is constructed. Whether Dr. Riemann's "Handbuch" (whereof only two parts have as yet appeared) will, in the result, justify our anticipations is, of course, quite another matter.—*The writer of the Review.*]

EFFECT OF GAS ON CHURCH ORGANS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE MUSICAL TIMES."

SIR,—In the *Musical Standard* of December, 1881, I proposed to screen off the whole interior of the organ with thin calico, or anything that would prevent access of hot air to the pipes. Of course, the bellows must draw from a cellar or from the outer air or the flue pipes will run up beyond the reeds. I do not see how wire gauze could keep the hot air out, and even calico could not be put outside the show pipes. The only way of keeping the air in the front pipes cool would seem to be by allowing a small flow of cold air through each pipe, and this would be very clumsy and might cause whistling.

Yours faithfully,

JAMES SWINBURNE.

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.

MUSICS.—The "Proceedings of the Musical Association" can be obtained from Stanley Lucas, Weber and Co., 84, New Bond Street, W.

D. COLLEY.—The consecutive 5ths do not occur in the full score, but are necessary in the pianoforte arrangement.

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.

CHELMSFORD.—An Organ Recital was given by Mr. F. R. Frye, F.C.O., at St. Mary's Church, on Wednesday evening, the 16th ult. A large congregation was present, and much appreciated the programme, which was excellently selected and admirably performed.

DUBLIN.—The performance of Mr. Frank Bates's "Acts," for the degree of Doctor in Music, took place on June 21, in the Examination Hall of Trinity College, when portions of his Oratorio *Samuel* were performed, with a full band, under the direction of the candidate. The degree of Mus. Doc. was conferred upon Mr. Bates on the 26th ult. —The Carysfort Choral Society gave a miscellaneous Concert in the Town Hall, Blackrock, on Monday, the 7th ult., which was highly successful. The first part was sacred, the vocalists being Mr. Crutchett, Mr. Isaac Varian, and Mr. Alex. Varian. In the second part the pianoforte solo of Miss Williams deserved the encore it obtained, as did also Mrs. Krall's rendering of Berthold Tours's song "The Angel at the window," the last part of which was repeated. The violin playing of Mr. Scott-Byrne was a feature of the evening, and Mr. Dickinson's fine voice was heard to advantage in "The Diver." Madame Flavelle's solos were also warmly applauded and encored. The part-music, accompanied by Miss Patterson, consisted of two sacred and two secular pieces, Mendelssohn's "But the Lord is mindful" (arranged by Lohr), "O give thanks" (Jackson), Sir A. Sullivan's "Evening," and "A spring song" (Pinsuti), all of which were effectively given, and well received. Mr. Charles Krall, under whose direction the Society was formed, was the Conductor, and is to be congratulated on the result of the Concert.

DUNGANNON.—The Twelfth Annual Festival of the South Tyrone Church Choral Union was held in the Parish Church of Drumglass, on June 24. Several choirs took part in the rendering of the music, and there was a number of the clergy present. The anthem was "Ye shall dwell in the land" (Dr. Stainer). The whole of the music was excellently given, much credit being due to the Rev. T. M. Benson for his efficient conducting, and to Miss Kate Moon for the able manner in which she presided at the organ. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Chadwick.