

Congregational Singing

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BACH'S FUGUE IN C SHARP MINOR.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE MUSICAL TIMES."

SIR,—A recent study of this wonderful fugue led me to the discovery of a hitherto unnoticed entry of the subject. In bars 104-5 6 all editions have the following reading:—



The perfection of the work indicates clearly that the omission of the subject in the third voice is the result of careless copying or a printer's mistake. It should be rectified by changing about the second and third voices. The third voice should exhibit the principal theme, which is missing at present, and should read thus:—



I call the attention of Bach connoisseurs to this, and invite expressions of their opinion and criticism.

I would add that this error, which occurs in the present edition of my "Eight Fugues from Bach's Well-tempered Clavier, with Analytical Exposition in Colours and appended Harmonic Schemes," will be rectified in the new revised edition, as the original meaning and perfection of the master's fugue surely demands.

B. BOEKELMAN.

CONGREGATIONAL SINGING.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE MUSICAL TIMES."

SIR,—Following the letter which appeared in your issue of last month on this subject, I cannot refrain from sending you an account of my own recent experiences, with the hope that you may find space for its insertion in your valuable columns.

It was only a few Sundays ago that I entered a church in the neighbourhood of Piccadilly. Let it be nameless. It was the evening service, and the dim religious light which fell around and the solemnity of the service would have impressed me deeply, but for an individual possessing a voice which might have been tenor, baritone, or bass, or the three mingled into one. Whatever it was, the effect was most distracting. There he knelt on a high footstool in his pew at the end of the church, sometimes singing the melody, and sometimes breaking into harmony, as best suited his taste. No response, amen, or any part of the service in which he could join was missed. Often he would start off before the choir in his loudest tones, and finish after their refined notes had died away; and all this time he was kneeling with his eyes tightly closed, and making, as is common with uneducated singers, hideous grimaces painful to witness, perfectly oblivious of all the lovely surroundings, and careless of the comfort of so many silent worshippers. I remained in the church for half-an-hour, and then hurriedly took my leave, feeling that the noise and din of the traffic in Piccadilly were far more musical to my ears than the grating sound of that would-be worshipper's sonorous tones. And this, I am sorry to say, is not an isolated case. Go to St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, and almost any other place of worship, and you will come into contact with these thoughtless people, who consider no one but themselves, often taking part even in the anthems, and disturbing the peace and solemnity which one seeks for in our churches, to say nothing of the discord which is caused. Though a professional singer myself and a choirmaster, I never take part in the singing should I happen to be amongst the congregation. I may be wrong, but to me listening to trained singers in a church is more likely to inspire one with holy thoughts than if we mingled our, perhaps, inharmonious

voices with those of the choir. We have almost if not quite got rid of the old-fashioned clerk who used to start the singing, but shall we ever be able to silence such individuals as I have referred to?

I am, Sir, yours obediently,
CLIFFORD CONSTABLE.

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.

PRIEST, CHOIRMASTER.—R. Mann's "Manual of Singing, for the use of Choir Trainers and Schoolmasters (with additions by Sir John Stainer)," 1s., and Dr. Martin's Primer on "The Art of Training Choir Boys," 3s., both published by Novello, will answer all your requirements.

A. SMITH (Homerton).—We know of no such volume, but suggest that you apply to some of the large booksellers—Bumpus, for instance, or Mudie.

A. R. SWAINE.—In "Boyce's Cathedral Music" the melody is given as in your second version, but the harmony is different.

W. G.—Cherubini's Requiem Mass is sung throughout by the choir.

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.—In the Associated Board of the Royal Academy of Music and of the Royal College of Music Local School Examinations sixteen candidates were successful from the Music School. Twelve of these passed in pianoforte playing, three in harmony, and one in singing.

BEDFORD.—On the 11th ult. the restored and enlarged organ, by Messrs. Norman Bros. and Beard, of Norwich, was re-opened in St. Paul's Church. An immense congregation assembled to hear Mr. W. S. Hoyte's Recital, which included pieces by Mozart, Merkel, Bach, Guilman, Hesse, Silas, and Mailly. The following evening a Recital was given by Dr. Harding, the Organist of the Church, whose selection included works by Handel, Hoyte, Beethoven, Guilman, Bach, Merkel, Paderewski, Mendelssohn, and Grieg.

BISHOPSTOKE.—Mr. Seymour Powell, Organist of Ventnor, I.W., gave an Organ Recital in the Parish Church on the 14th ult. The following was the programme: March in G (Smart), Barcarolle from the Fourth Concerto (Sterndale Bennett), Fugue in B minor (J. S. Bach), Aria, "O rest in the Lord" (Mendelssohn), Bridal Chorus from *Lohengrin* (Wagner), Andante from Symphony in C (Beethoven), Andante in A minor (Battiste), Hallelujah Chorus (Handel).

BOURNEMOUTH.—Mr. Duncan Hume, the Organist of St. Peter's Church, presided at the opening, on Saturday, the 22nd ult., of the new organ erected in the Winter Gardens by Messrs. Norman Bros. and Beard, of Norwich. It is a two-manual instrument, containing twenty-seven speaking stops (including four on the pedal organ), five couplers, and the usual composition pedals.

BRECON.—A Festival of Church Choirs was held at St. John's (Priory) Church on the 5th ult. The choirs that took part were: Llanfrynach, Cwmdu, Llangunifard, Llanveigan, St. John's and St. Mary's, Penderyn, Llanstephan, Builth, St. Peter's and All Saints' (Glasbury), Llanilltyd, Cantref, and Llanfihangel-Talyllyn numbering close on 350. These were led by Mr. R. Meyrick-Roberts, Organist and Choirmaster of St. Mary's, whilst Mr. R. T. Heins, Organist and Choirmaster of St. John's Church, presided at the organ. An orchestra of about forty also lent assistance. The anthem was Goss's "Praise the Lord, O my soul." In the afternoon an Organ Recital was given by Mr. R. Meyrick-Roberts in St. John's Church, works by Bach, Handel, Schumann, Cesar Franck, and others being performed with great taste and skill.

CAPE TOWN.—Signor Foli gave two Concerts on June 22 and 24 before crowded and enthusiastic audiences. On the second occasion he sang no less than nine times. Mr. T. Barrow Dowling accompanied Signor Foli throughout both Concerts with his usual care and finish. The rest of both programmes was supplied by excellent local talent. Signor Foli will remain two or more months in Africa.

CHIGWELL.—On the 5th ult. Mr. Henry Riding gave a very successful Organ Recital in the Parish Church. The programme included well varied pieces skillfully played by Mr. Riding, vocal selections by the Rev. H. de Vere Welchman, Messrs. Herbert Clinch, H. F. Chamen, E. D. Jordan, and Arkwright, and a violoncello solo by Mr. Rowland Hill.