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THE STUDENT FOR MUSIC.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—If Professor Ives succeeded in his able lecture to impress on the audience the vast importance of a scientific foundation in the culture of music, I may add that in our age of rising agitation and increasing licentiousness of young aspirants in art, the idea of erecting Chairs for Music in Universities seems to me in perfect harmony with all true lovers of music as a recreation and refining element in education, apart from the more momentous object of elevating the moral status of a nation in general. The spirit with which a nation regards the mission and influence of music forms a kind of test as to the spiritual dignity thus manifesting itself in the handling of the divine art; and if a kind of levity shows itself in many modern adoptions of music as a companion to other intellectual luxuries, it is wise to protect the very root of human progress, and I venture to say true civilization, namely, religion and its organizations, against the infections of captive sensuality, so readily accepted by a great majority. The organ in the Church forms, under able hands, the mighty rock against the ever-trying waves of a kind of pious romanticism which aims at an union of the old pure style of religious inspiration with the modern claims of virtuosic accomplishments. Old grand organ, destined to bend us down by its majestic strains to worship the Almighty, or the incomprehensible, and to fold our hands in uplifting devotion, is nowadays given to operatic displays, even ballets, and opens our hands for applause on the dexterous performer. Most wonderful to think of! A hymn of four parts, the outcome of truly inspired composers, played and sung with sincere devotion and purity, commands attention to begin with, and draws into a celestial spell wherever it is pouring forth, even in a den of criminals in the lowest stage of degradation; but all other forms of musical expressions are more or less bound to surroundings to support the intended effect. But to discover attempts of worldly or rather sensual effects in the Church, the home, the source of the divine in art, is an offence which my pen fails to designate in fit terms. The upholding and defence of those rules of harmony which warn us of the unchangeable fundamental designs in creation, in spite of ever-varying views about the "beautiful," is a holy duty of all true musicians, and indeed it speaks, from this point of view, very well for the conservative tact of the English to try the experiment of establishing a post in connection with the University to cry Order! when confusion in judgment and taste in music endangers a regular growth in the development of the art. But as to the question of "immatriculation" as a condition for acceptance in the list of candidates, I beg to join, for my instruction, the objectors to this clause. The gift of music is so absorbent if followed up that little inclination and ability is left for other pursuits. If a foreign language should remain as the duly obligatory accomplishment of the pupil I would consider that of the Italian as the reasonable complement in the outfit of preparations

and genuine love and talent as the only and decisive credentials for competition. When we read the biographies of eminent musicians who, by force of circumstances, often start and considerably advance as lawyers or doctors, or in other sciences, until the poorly attended musical studies suddenly ripen into the resolution to choose it as the life-work. it is astonishing how quickly all Greek and Latin, and mathematics, &c., are left behind, and, maybe, entirely forgotten. Where the "degree" is already given by nature those won by scholastic industry are not much sought after; but I own that where a musical capacity develops towards a future critic, or historian, or theorist, the perfect College training will help him mightily towards a respectable position. No doubt the reasons for demanding the preparation in questions are laudable from various points of view, and particularly since "stars" in music often prove "duffers" when tested in other branches of intelligence—nay, even rather odd folks in social concerns of life. If a musician, intoxicated by the applause of the masses, neglects to strive for the sympathy of the few, he will surely one day pay for it; but I believe if the conditions are modified and natural ability decide, in the first line, the very fact of the beneficent influence of University dignity will stimulate the watchful people, who will find time and pleasure to augment deficiencies in his former education.

I am, Sir, &c.,

C. REIMERS.

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MUSIC AT THE UNIVERSITY.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—I fear that the regulation of the University requiring that candidates for the degree of Bachelor of Music shall be matriculated students prior to their entering upon their first year of study will interfere in a great measure with the success which otherwise would be certain. It is of course wise that a degree in music should not be granted to one who is in every other line of knowledge an ignoramus; but the standard fixed by our matriculation examinations is unnecessarily high for those who, only ambitious of attaining to distinction in music, have not the time to study for the preliminary examination. Would it not be a wise course to adopt to allow students to avail themselves of the advantages of the musical training offered, obtain their certificates, and then, when the three or five years' course is completed if they then matriculate award them the full honour of a degree? Or an alternate method might be adopted, viz., to allow students to matriculate while studying for their degree, say two or three subjects each examination. Thus, those who have to work for their daily bread during the ordinary hours and are unable to attend the lectures while they are delivered only in the afternoons will have some chance of earning the knowledge and distinction for which they crave. It is to be hoped, too, that we shall soon have music lectures in the evenings, for there are very many who though as desirous as any of gaining instruction are wholly deprived of the opportunity so far as Professor Ives's aid is concerned, and these hungry intellects deserve satisfaction.

I am, Sir, &c.,

CANDIDATE.

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THE MUSIC CLASSES.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—I was glad to observe that you have taken up the question of matriculation before being able to obtain a degree in music. Oxford and Cambridge for many years granted the degree without obliging students to matriculate (otherwise than formally). It seems very hard that no chance should be given to intending students who, from want of opportunity or money, have been unable to visit Europe, and who now are quite past the age at which they could be expected to go back to their school-boy studies. It seems astonishing that after the great liberality of the founders their laudable object should be almost nullified, as not even the University authorities can expect any great number of students for some years if they are going to confine the benefits of the foundation entirely to the rising generation. A result so evidently unsatisfactory, both to the founders and Mr. Ives, who must feel a little damped at the prospect of having to confine his attention

for some years to empty benches, makes one wonder who decided the matter. I can positively state that I myself know five professors of music, &c., who wish to study for their degree if the necessity for matriculating is removed. I write this letter principally with the object of requesting intending students not to accept the compromise offered by the University.

I am, Sir, &c.,

ANOTHER INTENDING STUDENT.

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EVENING CLASSES AT THE UNIVERSITY.—

The committee of the South Australian Literary Societies' Union have issued circulars to leading gentlemen in the colony calling for subscriptions supplementing Sir Thomas Elder's donation of £1,000 in aid of the establishment of evening classes at the University for the benefit of outside students. The committee suggest that if 100 gentlemen would promise £25 each, the remaining £1,500 which is necessary would soon be obtained. Already a good deal of interest in the project has been shown by intending students.