

TREND OF MODERN MUSIC IS IT BECOMING CHINESE?

Want Used to be Thought Discordant is Now Accepted as Harmonious—Hand Organ Makes Easy Work of "Faust," Once Regarded as Too Technical for the People—The Newer School of French Composers Respects the Public's Intelligence—Correspondence of The Observer.

Boston, Feb. 17.—Is modern music approaching the complexity of the 24 scales, each with its special philosophical significance, that are recognized in the Celestial Empire? The Chinese ambassador is reported to have said recently that the work of some of the latest composers sounds strikingly like the music that he has been accustomed to in his native land.

The average American, going to the Chinese theatre in any one of our larger cities, hears with astonishment a music which sounds to him like the jangling of bells, the scraping of tom-toms and the irregular rattling of a drum which a small boy has received as a Christmas present. There's nothing tuneful or melodic in it. "If this is music," the man thinks, "then it's no for my Old Kentucky Home" and "In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree." Everybody works in the Chinese theatre but father; he just holds his ears.

Yet, according to the Chinese ambassador, this is just where we occidentals are coming out. Some of the musical critics seem to agree with him. These people certainly know most about Oriental music say that it has complex harmonies which we are too obtuse to catch. We are ear-blind to their color. They have been at it so much longer than we that they have got much further along. For the Chinese were the first people in the history of the world to develop a system of octaves, a circle of fifths and a lot of other harmonical techniques, back in the days when our ancestors, the European savages, had not invented even the simplest forms of melody. It is well known that they regard our music as barbarous and bald in its simplicity. Some Europeans hold the same opinion. Gladisch, for example, a German savant who has worked out the intimate connection between Chinese musical theory and the musico-philosophic conceptions of the Greek teacher Pythagoras, has always insisted that our lack of appreciation is due to lack of training, and that as we are to come to understand better the marvelous intricacy of Chinese and Japanese musical effects.

Whether or not we shall finally ar-

IS POLITENESS ON WANE? BOORISHNESS OF TRAVELERS

Selfishness, Conceit and Morbid Curiosity Seem to Indicate That We Are Lacking in Manners—A Lack of Respect for Womanhood—True Gentle-people Hard to Find.

Written for The Observer. In a recent issue of The Observer there appeared an interview with a casual observer with regard to that quality of human nature commonly called "manners," and particularly as to the lack of it in the general average traveling public. The point was well made and is worthy of more than passing notice. When Paul wrote that he was debtor to both Greek and Barbarian, he meant no less than that all of us owe life to one creator and are therefore naturally under some obligations to one another. This obligation is termed "the brotherhood of man" by theologians; and in ordinary every day life we see it in sympathy, consideration, gentleness, helpfulness and sacrifice, and altogether in what we know as gentlemanly and ladylike conduct. That not enough care is given to its cultivation is left for inference from the following notes:

A young woman of good appearance sat crying in a crowded railway waiting room. With handkerchief pressed to her eyes she leaned her face on the back of the bench while her whole body quivered with sobs. She was suffering alone in a crowd, and was a sight to attract the attention of everyone and possibly bring tears to the eyes of every gentleman as his memory reverted to similar events in his own life and away to the obligations which he had assumed in what we know as gentlemanly and ladylike conduct. That not enough care is given to its cultivation is left for inference from the following notes:

Power of American Farmers. San Francisco Call. American farmers last year furnished the capital to start 1,754 new national banks, all for the service of rural communities. The American farmer is an industrial prince. Farmers are 35 per cent. of our total population, a number unequalled by the members of any other vocation. They have the power, by combination, to control any policy they may choose to favor, either in the State or Nation. We are accustomed to read resolutions to Congressmen and Legislators passed by organizations of various kinds in our cities. These expressions are indulged in without consulting the farmer. His is a training, and that he is to be expected to understand better the marvelous intricacy of Chinese and Japanese musical effects.

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WHISTLE LANGUAGE OF THE GOMERAS. Philadelphia Bulletin.

They have a whistle language on Gomer Island, in the Canary Archipelago. They can whistle there as articulately as a Bostonian can speak.

And since they can whistle very loud and shrilly, the Gomeras can converse a long way off. A Gomer hunting a mile from home can ask his wife what there is for lunch, and if the menu does not please him he can scold her and order a change as well as though he stood beside her.

The Gomeras talk in a sing-song, and their whistle language reproduces the spoken one's intonations. For instance: Children all over America have a taunting cry—"Hiss for shame, hiss for shame, everybody knows your name." This cry is not sung. It is intoned. And so the Gomeras intone their guttural language.

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Several ladies entered a crowded car and I surrendered my place unconditionally, and after a few minutes a man gruffly consented to move some baggage that I might be accommodated beside him. He was also a philosopher, and after several miles of silence he began to give me the benefit of his wisdom. "I noticed," he said, "that you gave up your seat to that woman 'who did you do it?'"

"Oh," I replied, "I just didn't want it well. I'm not that way," he responded, "I pay for my seat and I believe every man should do so. Besides that, women don't appreciate the favors shown them and I've got tired of the whole business. That same woman you gave up to passed me and I offered her half of my seat and she sniffed at it as if I had insulted her. Well now if I am not good enough for her to sit by, I am not good enough to sacrifice my comfort for hers. And look at her! She and her baggage occupy the whole seat and right by her is standing a tired woman with a baby in her arms. I gave up my place to women for 20 years and never in all that time had one to offer me even half of a seat, though I've ridden thousands of miles standing by them when some times they monopolize even two seats at a time."

I made no attempt to argue with him for two very good reasons, and soon left to offer my part of the seat to a lady who refused it because he was there, and I heartily sympathized with her.

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A Chinese Orchestra.

They will stand by what they want at the polls and dealers in the city resolutions will get a jolt that will be startling.

Nothing Doing. Harpers Weekly. An author who makes a specialty of stories of "our great Middle West," with a heart-throb in each tells of an odd character he met in that region. This old chap, who afterwards served the author as the main figure of a book that was largely successful, lived alone in a cabin. Woman's care being, of course, unknown, the cabin presented the spectacle of the triumphant region of dirt and disorder.

Discouraging Capital. Harper's Weekly. One of Pittsburg's bank presidents is a friend and most unassuming benefactor of ambitious young men. He is sympathetic when listening to cases which merit aid, but he can also dismiss an interviewer with admirable abruptness.

THE PLUMBER'S DREAM. Exchange. Last evening I was talking with a plumber aged and gray. Who told me of a dream he had I think 'twas Christmas Day. While snoring in his office. The vision came to view. For he saw an angel enter Dressed in garments white and new. Said the angel, 'I'm from heaven, The Lord just sent me down To bring you up to glory, And the soul's golden crown. You've been a friend to everyone, And worked hard night and day, You've supported many husbands, And from few received your pay So now you're going to college, He'll be glad to see you in glory. For you have labored hard, And the good Lord is preparing Your eternal, just reward.' Then the angel and the plumber Started up towards glory's gate, But when passing close to heaven, The angel murmured, 'Wait! I have a place to show you. It's the hottest place in hell. Where the ones who never paid you, In torment always dwell. And behold, the plumber saw there His customers by the score, And grabbed up a chair and fan. He wished for nothing more; But was bound to sit and watch them As they'd sizzle, singe and burn, And his eyes would rest on debtors, Whichever way they'd turn. Said the angel, 'Come on, plumber, There's the party guests to see.' 'This is heaven enough for me.'

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