

(continued from previous page)

emulation is largely responsible for the success—the slow boy wants to do as well as his smarter neighbour; the quick boy is anxious to outstrip his fellows; and there is an absence of that shyness and self-consciousness that an individual pupil may have toward his teacher.

Groups comprise from, say, four to perhaps 15 pupils, according to the nature of the class—the smaller the better, of course. Each group gets two half-hour or hour lessons a week from a professional music teacher, and most groups get at least a daily half-hour under the control of a member of the full-time staff. Each instrumentalist gets about an hour a week in the normal school hours for music, while the rest of the time is found before school, at lunch times, or after school. Within a year most pupils are able to join the senior orchestra or military band, playing simplified parts. The drudgery so often associated with music practically disappears, and there are very few who would miss a music period except for the most urgent reasons.

In the College there is a day-school orchestra, a string orchestra, a special instrumental group for advanced players (Chamber Music) and a Military Band. And most important body is the Evening School (Senior) Orchestra—a large symphonic orchestra of about 80 players, and it meets every Friday night. It does work of an amazingly good standard.

Some Professional Criticism

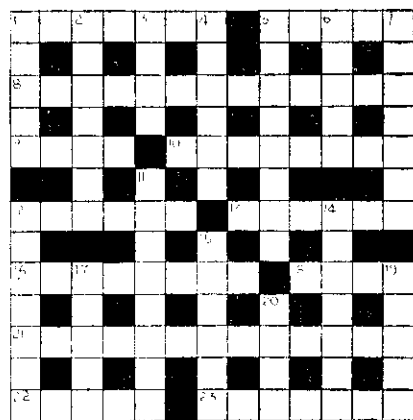
I cannot honestly say that outside professional musicians have evinced much interest in our work. I know there are those who belittle this "mass music," as they call it. I doubt if such critics realise the happiness and pleasure that is being given to hundreds of boys and girls who, but for these "new paths in school music," would have gone through their lives ignorant of a single note of music and unacquainted with the mysteries of musical instruments. And it is not irrelevant to point out that dozens of our pupils go on to private tuition either while at school or when they leave it. Thus it would be quite untrue for professional teachers to maintain that their livelihood is adversely affected by class music.

Choral work has a prominent place in the College music. The Girls' Massed Choir of 160 voices does fine work in unison and part songs, often with orchestral accompaniment. A girls' Special Choir (60 voices) does more advanced part work, while a boys' Choir with 50 basses does work with these same girls to the extent of four-part singing—certainly an achievement in school music. Classes also exist for instruction in the theory of music. Through the school music comes musical appreciation "par excellence." Nothing trashy, "swinging" or "jazzy" is allowed a place. A glance at the programme of the Annual Concert recently presented by the College Musical Societies to some 2,000 people will show some of the great names of musical history figuring there—Haydn, Schubert, Handel, Beethoven, Tchaikovski and Elgar.

In all, some 300 young musicians from the one school (ages 12 to 18 years) perform to give pleasure to others, to prove that their school is making good provision for cultural training, and to show that they have, in practical music-making, at least one good way of employing leisure hours.

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

(No. 165: Constructed by R.W.C.)



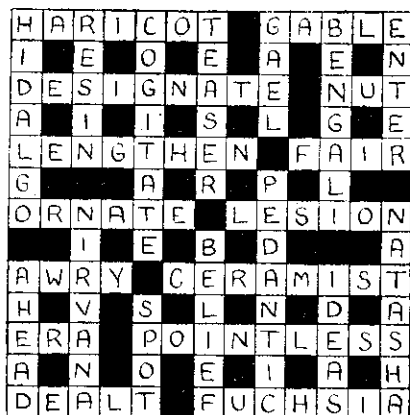
Clues Across

1. Two ugly ones, or three little ones?
5. Distorted dream.
8. Opponents of Negro slavery.
9. Said to be a low platform.
10. Go, rogues! (anag.).
12. "Youth's a stuff will not —."
13. Transfixes.
16. Can he cry? (anag.).
18. Assists by means of 9 across.
21. Necessary for the Poets' Pub, perhaps?
22. Where castles are often built.
23. Fissure.

Clues Down

1. Sober, but do you find it sad?
2. So tired (anag.).
3. Work found in 21 across.
4. One of the three little 1 across loved one.
5. Get a bean (anag.).
6. A very much diminished dictator.
7. Breaks off.
11. Hauling into cart?
12. Makes a getaway from S.S. "Peace."
14. It is inverted under a tangled chain in the wine.
15. Gambol.
17. Near a sphere of action?
19. Is Eve possessed of a memory like one.
20. Measure found in 16 across.

(Answer to No. 164)



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