

NEW BOOKS.

THE PIANIST'S A.B.C. PRIMER AND GUIDE.

It is said that a prophet has no honor in his own country and in like manner we, in these colonies, look with coldness on the works of local authors, being under the impression that nothing worthy of notice can be produced outside of the United Kingdom. This is a mistake which will be rectified in time. We have been led to make these remarks through perusal of a bulky volume of over 700 pages, entitled *The Pianist's A.B.C. Primer and Guide*, by Mr. W. H. Webbe, a well known musician of Auckland. This is one of the most comprehensive musical treatises that we have had the pleasure of examining for a considerable time. The author is not alone a musician but also a literary man of no ordinary ability. He has in addition to the purely educational portion of the work collected and arranged in his primer a valuable mine of information regarding the history of the pianoforte, and notices of many eminent composers and players. In his preface the author states that his primer is not intended to supersede similar works but rather to supplement them. Here we differ from Mr Webbe, for we believe that if any young pianist studies this work carefully—and there is very little difficulty in doing this, for the writer has the faculty of condensation and of arranging his matter in a methodical manner—he or she will have little need of any other. As showing the wide scope of the book, we may mention that among the subjects dealt with are scales and intervals, touch, accentuation, phrasing and rhythm, the art of practising, the pedals, elementary harmony, counterpoint, composition, analysis, sight reading, expression, musical forms, examinations, the American organ, the pianoforte, musical history, composers, schools of music, etc. The work is well printed and is written in a clear and attractive manner, and the matter is put in a style which can be easily comprehended by the youngest child. Mr Webbe is to be highly complimented on the book, which has been very well received by the leading musical journals of the United Kingdom and America. The publishers are Messrs Forsyth Bros., London.

CONVENT SCHOOL, NEW PLYMOUTH.

THERE was a large attendance of ladies at the Sacred Heart High School, New Plymouth (says the *Daily News*) to inspect the pupils' work, and subsequently to witness the distribution of prizes. Compared with last year, when the standard of merit was very high, the work on view this year was a most creditable display, and showed in many respects a decided advance both in the art of designing and the manual dexterity in finishing. The Mountmellick work was, as usual, very handsome, and the white work was a step in advance of the excellent production of previous years, while in ornamental bed and pillow coverings some most artistic specimens were shown. There was a creditable display of paintings, especially of floral subjects. One of the most noticeable art productions was that of paper flowers, which were wonderfully true to nature, and arranged with commendable skill and taste. The little kindergarten folk had a corner for their worked outline drawings, and a capital display they made, several showing signs of budding genius. Altogether, the Rev. Mother and Sisters may well feel proud of their pupils for demonstrating so thoroughly the excellent results of their teaching. Among the exhibitors were Misses Kennedy, Brewer, Beamish, J. Burke, Connell, Brennan, Bourke, Hearne, and Arundell.

The prizes were distributed by the Mayor (Mr. E. Dockrill).

Mr. McDiarmid, hon. sec. of the local centre for Trinity College Musical Examinations, stated that one of the candidates from the school had gained the highest possible number of marks—the first time that such a creditable result had been attained since the centre was instituted in New Plymouth.

After the prizes had been handed to the recipients, the Rev. Father Treacy moved a hearty vote of thanks to the Mayor for his presence on the occasion.

The Hon. W. T. Jennings warmly seconded the motion and made a few remarks particularly appropriate to the occasion.

The following was the prize-list:—

Good conduct—Boards, Katie Kennedy; Lena Bleasel; day pupils, Maud Buchanan and Elsie Bennett.

Christian doctrine—Senior division, Jessie Connell; junior division, Mary O'Connor; preparatory division, Kathleen Bennett.

Amiability—Boards, Mary Franklin; day pupils, Olive Cook.

Politeness—Boards, May Bent; day pupils, Ruby George, Florence Baddley.

Attendance—Alice Fischer.

Civil Service Class—General proficiency, Ruby Clarke; diligence, Freda Bent; English and composition, Lucy Ryan; arithmetic and Euclid, Freda Bent; geography and physiology, Lucy Ryan.

Class VII.—Reading, Alice Hearn; writing, Mary Brennan; English and composition, Josie Bourke; Euclid and arithmetic, Josie Bourke.

Class VI.—Highest marks, Annie Cave; writing, Lena Beamish; reading, Annabel McJanet; Euclid, Annie Cave; algebra, May Bent; English and composition, Lena Beamish.

Class V.—Highest marks, Maude Buchanan and Minnie Pote; diligence, Leita Brewer and Gladys Newland; composition, Dolly Brewer; English, Gertie Pipe and Mary Rawstron; reading, Mary O'Connor; arithmetic, Monica Emery and Mary Franklin; algebra, Monica Emery and Eily Ward; geography, Ruby George; general improvement, Ida Pote; writing, Dolly Brewer.

Class IV.—Highest marks, Bertha Anstice 1, Olive Cook 2; diligence, Winnie Bennett; reading, Dorothy Stott; writing, Hilda Stoddart; general improvement, Lena McGregor; arithmetic, Floesie Arundell.

Class III.—Diligence, Lena Bleasel.

Class II.—Highest marks, Violette Foote; diligence, Mary Calgher; reading, Dora Watt; spelling, Marion Hardy.

Class I.—Reading and writing, Meta Payne; arithmetic, Bella Oliver; spelling, Nellie Francis.

Preparatory.—Reading, recitation, and music, Katie Bennett; tables, general improvement, and music, Elsie Bennett; spelling, Hanna Hadfield.

Kindergarten.—Work, Dora Watt; gifts, Mary Calgher.

EXTRAS.

Senior division.—Needlework: Plain needlework, Alice Hearn; Mount Mellick, Leita Brewer; lace, Mary Brennan; fancy needlework, Katie Kennedy; drawn threadwork, Mary Jones; flower making, Katie Kennedy.

Junior division.—Needlework, Florence Baddley and Lizzie Bourke; plain needlework, Edna Cook.

Oil painting, Katie Kennedy; linear drawing, Alice Hearn 1, Monica Emery 2; French, Ruby Clarke; piano (special prize), Jessie Connell; 1st division, Lena Beamish; 2nd division, Gerty Pipe; 3rd division, Eily Ward; singing, Annie Cave; violin, Josie Bourke; devotedness, Annie Gray and May Guthrie.

RETURNING TO THE FOLD.

The Danish poet and novelist, Johannes Jørgensen, has become a Catholic.

Mme. Marholm, who was one of the distinguished German Protestant women's suffragists, has recanted and professed her conversion to the Catholic ideal of the Blessed Virgin for the uplifting and perfection of women.

Canon Gregson, M.A., well known in Melbourne, and who recently became a convert to the Catholic Faith, has, we (*Tribune*) are informed on reliable authority, been ordained for the diocese of Westminster.

Miss Kennedy, teacher of elocution at the Chicago School of Oratory, Miss Spooler and Miss Wolverne, of the Spooler Dramatic Company, were received into the Catholic Church at St. Rose's Home, Ocean City, Md., recently by Rev. J. D. Downing.

Rev. Alphonsus Haubrich, of the Order of Franciscan Minors, who recently seceded from the Order and announced his intention of entering the Protestant ministry, has recanted and returned to the true fold, and is now in Rome, where he awaits the penance to be imposed by his superiors.

On the first Sunday in November in the chapel of the convent of the Sacred Heart, New York, the Rev. Andrew R. L. Gunn, formerly a chaplain in the British Army, was received into the Catholic Church. Mr. Gunn is a married man, with four children, and was in the first expedition for the relief of General Gordon at Khartoum. He saw many years' service, after which he was connected with a pastorate in Jamaica, which he left four years ago to go to the United States.

A private letter to Rev. Thomas J. Campbell, of the Jesuit Fathers, New York, received from China, announces that Captain Herbert G. Squires, well known in military circles in New York city, and now attached to the United States legation in Peking, has become a convert to the Catholic faith, and has been received into the Church in the Chinese capital. Captain Squires was formerly a member of the Seventh Regiment, United States cavalry, and fought with distinction under the late General Custer. For six years he was military instructor at St. John's College, New York. He resigned his commission in the United States army and subsequently became the military attaché of the American legation at Berlin. After the expiration of his services in Berlin, he accepted the office of military attaché under Minister Conger in China, and played an important part in the recent troubles in Peking, in the defence of the lives and property of Americans in that city. In uniting with the Catholic Church Captain Squires is joined by his wife and other members of his family.

Among the names of Anglican clergymen (says the *London Tablet*) who have been received into the Catholic Church since the publication, in September, 1896, of the Bull, *Apostolica Curæ*, on Anglican Orders, are the following:—Rev. David Lloyd Thomas, rector of Grainsby, near Grimsby; Rev. Henry Patrick Russell, vicar of St. Stephen's, Devonport; Rev. Arthur Heintz Faive, sometime vicar of Burton, Cheshire, and curate of St. Margaret's, Princes road, Liverpool; Rev. B. W. Maturin, of the Society of St. John the Evangelist, Cowley, Oxford; Rev. H. Mather, curate of St. Bartholomew's, Brighton; Rev. John N. L. Clarke, curate of St. John's, East London, Cape Colony; Rev. A. St. Leger Westall, curate of St. Saviour's, Croydon; Rev. W. Evans, of Splottroad, Cardiff; Rev. Hamilton Macdonald, a naval chaplain attached to H.M.S. Vernon; Rev. George Alston, of Llanthony Abbey, and later a member of the Cowley community at Oxford; Rev. A. B. Sharpe, vicar of St. Peter's, Vauxhall; Rev. Thomas Barnes, curate of St. Peter's, Vauxhall; Rev. H. A. Fuller, M.A., of Trinity College, Dublin; Rev. W. R. Clarke, curate of Aughton, Ormskirk; Rev. Edmund Jackson, of Barnsley; Rev. Hubert Hickman, vicar of St. Mary's District Church, Frome; Rev. W. Duthoit, LL.D., chaplain at Gotha; Rev. Edward H. Bryan, vicar of Hansall; Rev. C. R. Chase, vicar of All Saints', Plymouth; Rev. John H. Filmer, curate of St. Margaret's, Roath, Cardiff; Rev. Edward Arthur Harris, curate and precentor at St. Alban's, Holborn; Rev. Archibald Charles Hentley, curate of St. Peter's, London Docks, and of St. Mark's, Jarrow; Rev. G. T. Gorman, curate of St. Clement's, City road; Rev. M. J. Richards, chaplain at Malling Abbey, Kent.

Mr. P. LUNDON, Phoenix Chambers, Wanganui, is still busy putting people on the soil. He has also hotels in town and country For Sale and To Lease. Write to him.—“*.”