Omaha Young Men's Christian Association and the Work It is Doing

RGANIZATION and organized Christian faith upon any one. Young Men's Christian association.

Seventeenth and Harney streets and a are played in the midst of clean surroundforce of about fifteen secretaries, the ings. Omaha s'asociation maintains physical, educational, religious, employment and boys' departments, not only for the benefit of its embers, but for the city at large. And the Gate City is not unappreciative of this great work, for the cost of the new \$320,000 building, grounds and equipment, which have been in use since the spring of 1907. was largely subscribed by Omaha residents, regardless of their creed and connection with the association. The home of this institution, which, though broad-minded and consectarian, is fundamentally religious, is visited daily by many people from other cities and states, who are invariably surprised at the extent and scope of the work done. There are reading and game rooms, two gymnasiums, a swimming pool and bath rooms, a pool and billiard room, a cafe and lunch rooms, the latter known as the "Spa!" lecture, club, study, recitation and office rooms, and 102 dormitory rooms. general charge of the association work,

General Secretary B. C. Wade, who is in says that with the five new man who have toined the secretarial force within the last three months the ranks of the hired workers will be stronger during the coming venson than ever before.

Local Work Has Grown.

"A year's experience has demonstrated that work in the new building is to be approximately threefold larger than in the old," says Mr. Wade. "In a general way this will hold true as to property cost, number of members, daily attendance at the building, amount of current expenses, etc. Results in some departments are already beyond threefold, while others have not yet acquired momentum. While the general work and amount of current expenses will be three times as great, the amount neceseary to be raised by subscription will not be seriously larger than before."

For its support the association depends membership fees, dormitory, locker and other rents, educational fees and sub- pleted. This is one of the most popular scriptions. It has been stated that the phases of the activity of the association, the average member pays about & per cent of upwards of 109 men sometimes attending. The average Omaha youth probably does confining its activities to filling and finding years. He is a carriage maker by tract, the actual cost of his membership, the Among the boys the attendance is even not know that in the educational departbalance being covered by subscriptions greater. Training for Bible and Sunday ment of the Young Men's Christian asso- twelve months ending April 20, 1908, 645 ap- tables and other furniture and equipment made by citizens and business men and by school class teachers is given in a teach- ciation he can join practically any kind plications for positions and 340 applications for the building. other incomes to the association. During ers' training class which is intended to of a class or club that he desires. In spite for men were received, and 21 places were the year ending April 30, 1908, the general co-operate with the churches. This is a of possible ideas about mere arithmetic and filled. expenses of the Omaha association were characteristic of the association's work, the spelling classes, the department offers a about \$46,000, so it is evident that a great church, school and home always being con- wide range of studies at about the cost of work must be done in the community.

to the association in this city, the boys' noon meeting is especially intended, al- lety of clubs are also popular features, cal department is the only thing recalled homelike room can be rented for \$8 a enthusiastic under the leadership of E. F. The cots that are used were donated for membership of over 700 making this the though many of the most regular attendants among them being electrical, literary, de- by a mention of the "Young Men's Chris- month with heat, light and bath privileges, largest junior department in the country, are church members. Only the best speak- bating and reading clubs. New clubs are tian Association," yet it is only one of five while other rooms rent for as much as \$27 And yet among the 2,000 senior members ers are secured, there is usually special organized as often as there is a demand big departments. An idea of the extent of a month and accommodate several mem- whole association experience has been in And in other ways, both great and small, of this essentially religious institution at music, and following the meeting a "fel- for them. least one-half are not members of a church, lowship luncheon" is served in the lunch J. W. Miller is the educational secretary there were 1,679 men and boys since 1906. He was the Young Men's Christian association is and the church members comprise Protest- room of the building, where new men and and has had thorough training for the gymnasium classes last year, and about such great demand that there is always formerly at Ottawa, Ia., where as a part-putting its impress upon the community. ants. Catholics, Jews and followers of old meet and get acquainted. This has place. Previous to coming to Omaha he 27,000 swims and 93,000 baths were taken a large list of men waiting for them. In ing memento they gave him a beautiful and it is a notable fact that much is done other beliefs. All of which indicates that, been characterized as the brightest spot in had charge of the office and enrollment during the year. while an aggressive religious policy is pur- the association's work. In addition to the departments of the largest business college. A prominent feature of the winter boarding house register is kept for the winter sued, no attempt is made to force the Bible classes in the building was started Omaha. Besides the activity is basket ball, and thirty-two benefit of all young men, whether mem- debtedness on the new building was started Omaha.

effort are found in every part. Billiards and pool can be played at the of the complex life of twentieth association building by members and their century America, but there are friends without the disagreeable features few organizations that look encountered at the regular pool rooms of after the physical, mental and the city. Two billiard and four pool tables moral welfare of their members, keep them are set up in a large room in the basement in employment and attend to the develop- and these are kept busy during the part ment of their children. Yet there are insti- of the day when the men are not working. tutions that succeed in doing all this, and Members of the boys' department are not Omaha possesses such a one. It is the allowed to play and no smoking is permitted. In fact, all the virtues of these With a magnificent home building at two games of skill are preserved and they

Wade and His Staff.

All matters of business and management connected with the association and its work are controlled by a board of directors, which is made up of representative men of the community. In direct oversight of the work is the general secretary, B. C. Wade, who has been in Omaha with the association since 1904. He is a native of Wisconsin. a printer by trade, and will complete his twenty-first year of service in association work this fall. In direct charge of the office is R. O. Babcock, the business secretary, who has until recently been an employe of the Nebraska Telephone company in its business and other offices for ten years and has had ample training for his present position. The religious department is in charge of L. T. Crossman, who arrived in Omaha about two weeks ago to take his new position. Several years of general and special training have been spent by him in preparation for association religious work.

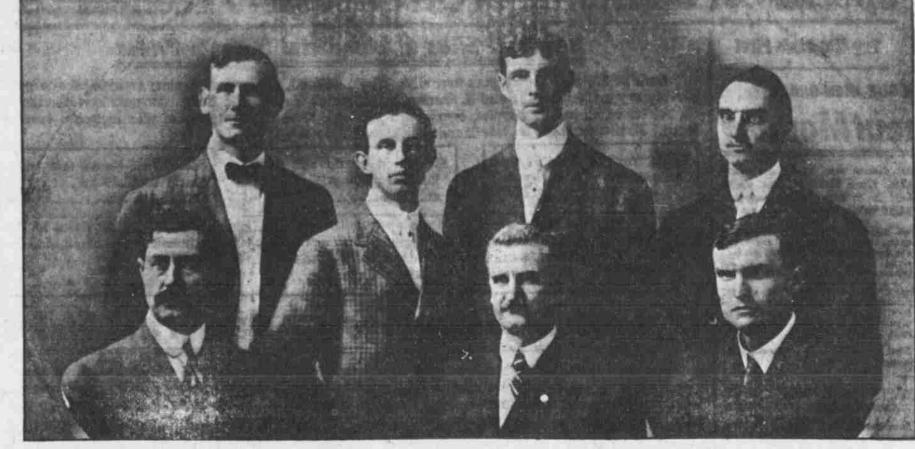
"Although no new features have been devised for the coming year, the usual work will be followed up with special vigor," said Mr. Crossman, "and the regular Bible classes. Sunday afternoon meetings and other features will be in operation."

Religion Sane and Wholesome,

and wholesome, and is conducted so as to the coming fall and winter. attract men to the highest standard of man, the association steps in and bridges Lockwood at Shanghai, China, during the certain profession or vocation were delivement, and regular gymnasium classes have in the building, and meals and lunches can over the difficulty by getting him actively past year. Mr. Lockwood is in charge of ered by prominent Omaha men. engaged in doing things.

their various subjects after the meal is com- Omaha building. sidered in its efforts.

Approximately 2,800 men and boys belong For the non-churchman the Sunday after- classes if there are ten applicants. A var- the gymnasium, swimming pool, and physi- and Harney streets. A very pleasant and



Standing-J. C. Pentland, Physical Director; W. E. Harper, Employment Secretary; L. T. Crossman, Religious Work Director; R. O. Babcock, B. Sitting-J. W. Miller, Educational Director; B. C. Wade, General Secretary; E. F. Denison, Boys' Work Director, OMAHA YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION SECRETARIES.

At present there are three such classes. This fall a series of three lectures will be teams during the coming season, according places to room and board is available, so The religious branch of the work is same and a number of new ones are planned for delivered at the association building by Guy to present indications, as the minor teams that many a stranger in town has been

all the Young Men's Christian association To aid business men in searching help and was opened a year ago last spring. Swim-A supper served at actual cost to the work at that point, where a new \$100,000 members and friends in securing an im- ming, boxing and wrestling classes have Bible students is a weekly feature, the building was opened last November. Judge provement or change in their occupation, also been a regular part of the physical many classes adjourning to small rooms William H. Taft making the principal ad- the association maintains an employment department's work since the present in the association building for the study of dress as he did at the opening of the department in charge of W. E. Harper, quarters were occupied. Nineteen years of

conducted in mills and offices under the classes and clube, there are lectures, en- match games were played last season. bers or not, and no fees are charged. Comdirection of the religious work director, tentainments and practical talks conducted. There will be no state league of association plets information about only the best Carlston Lee, Ph. D., Ll. O. Last spring cannot afford the expense. Though the workers of the association are banking, automatic telephony, electricity Several expert swimming exhibitions, Christian manhood. Practical religion is busy emough at home, they do not fogret and wireless telegraphy were the subjects athletic contests and other public events always in evidence, and where the church the activities in foreign countries, and over of practical talks, and nine life work talks have given the public an opportunity to and Sunday school fall to interest the young \$400 was paid toward the support of W. W. on what it means to be a members of a see the big gymnasium and other equip-

> who has been in association work since 1900 service in association work is the record of and in Omaha since 1906. Common labor Physical Director J. C. Pentland, who has

been conducted ever since the big building be procured for from 5 to 25 cents. An ex-

"Home" Comforts Enjoyed.

Over 100 men are comfortably housed in the dormitories on the fourth and fifth floors maintenance, and offers to organize new To the mind of the average individual, of the association home at Seventeenth addition to the domitories, a rooming and gold watch chain.

directed to a sultably home.

When the roomers at the building are hungry, they don't have to leave the association home to get a bite to eat. A cafe and "spa" or lunch room are maintained perienced cateress is in personal charge of this department, and it is operated with the intention of paying expenses, but no profits. Besides the regular dining room, which accommodates 100, there are four smaller private rooms, which are in great demand for banquets, private dinners and

Share of the Boys.

And, of course, the boys have their place bers. in the big building, and a mighty fine. The school boys are not the only ones place it is, too. There are eleven large who benefit by the association's open rooms on the second floor which the junior policy. The paper carriers also get their members have for their own exclusive share, for about thirty-five of them who use, and the gymnasiums and swimming live at a distance from the newspaper ofpool are open to them at stated times. The fices are allowed to sleep in the boys' demembership is one of the largest, if not the partment rooms on Saturday nights, so largest, in the country, and is active and they will not have to walk to the offices. Denison, the boys' work director. A the purpose by The Bee and the Worldthorough believer in boys, Mr. Denison's Herald. its work may be gotten from the facts that bers, who are the only persons allowed to this branch of the work, and connected which the public is only just waking up to.

the most willing workers, and they raised almost \$4,000 by their own efforts, 400 of them hustling for subscriptions.

The boys' symnasium classes, night school, Bible classes and Sunday afternoon meetings, which are conducted with the co-operation of the boys themselves, are among the regular features. Last season a strong basket ball team, the Kangaroos, played fourteen games and wen nine of them. An annual feature with the boys is the summer camp, when from twenty-five to fifty get together with several secretaries for a ten days' outing at a nearby quiet lake. The 1908 camp is now located near Valley, Neb., where a good take promises plenty of fun under competent leaders, and the last few days of vacation will be well invested.

Co-operation with the home and the pub-He school is one of the chief aims of the department, and aside from the usual Young Men's Christian association secretray and tent at the last high school cadet encampment, this was forcefully shown during the last year in the state boys' conference, a number of mothers' conferences, the grade school athletic meet and the

nature study club. Thirty-four delegates from Omaha, Lincoln, York, Hastings, Crete, Fremont, Columbus and other Nebraska towns attended state boys' convention, and the entire expense was borne by the Omaha Inda, The mothers' conferences are conducted by Secretary Denison in an effort to bring the association and the home closer together and to discover the needs of the boys,

School Boys Take Part.

Almost all of Omaha's public grade schools were represented in the athletic contest held last June in the association's gymnasium, and the school teachers felt great benefits in their work from the meet. The association also had representatives at several schools in the spring and early summer, teaching the boys how to play games during their recess periods.

Perhaps the boys' department's greatest work this summer was the promotion of the School Garden club, which was organized last spring with 600 school boys as members. A member of the secretarial force who is an expert gardener has been bustly engaged all summer in teaching the lads how to grow things. And the policy of the association in its general work is forcefully shown in this club, for among the 600 members, who had gardens and received free instruction by the association's representative, only a very few were members of the association, the remainder being cutsiders, many of them poor, in whom an equal interest is taken with the mem-

for nonmembers as well as members in an

What the Musical Critics of The Bee and the Sun Hear in Europe UNICH. Aug., 11.—In my last its a great lesson because it is a lesson that with Geraldine Farrar as "Nedda." His honors of the house amid the festival Let us consider for a moment the perform- All opera connoisseurs know the difficulty of today have no vocal school simply letter to The Box I made some has been handed down for 400 years. Bonci singing was, of course most admirable and scenes.



make her debut in "Faust." She used the for great smoothness. Work dillgently to stage name of Mme. Edvina, but her real gilde gently from one tone into the next name is the Hon. Mrs. Cecil Edwards, a sister of Lord Kensington. She sang with from her teacher, Mr. Jean de Reszke. Her voice was very satisfactory and her acting was far from uninteresting. The Mephistopheles music was sung by Mr. Nivette at very short notice and sung devilishly well, actually and figuratively. He was a very appropriate and orthodox presentment of the person of "his saturic owness," judging from the slight acquaint- as you could abroad. ance we have with the gentlemen in quesclor Mr. Marcoux was the basso announced for the part and he is a great favorite. - We had an opportunity of hearing him on a later date, of which we were very glad. Of the artist Sammarco I had heard a great deal, and I expected a great deal. Nor was I in the slightest degree disappointed. Seldom have I heard such lovely high rich baritone sounds, full-orbed

and glowing. His work marks him an intelligent and upright singer. Bonci. There is not the ripe, red luscious it was 2 years old) and it was "as fresh as highness or the purple-golden ray of mel- a 2-year-old!" I told you of Tetrazzini. lowness in the voice of Bonci, but it is Sammarco was the "Figaro" and a jolly an ideal tenor voice of that silvery, good one he was indeed, I have spoken ing would call it) which is delightful when we heard Marcoux, (already alluded to) heard alone, and which through an ensem- and his voice is the most wonderful thing scenery, or like a crystal stream through willow bordered meadows. Art ideal bass, but he is most emphatically a afterwards an announcement that she strikes the note when Bonci sings. He is singing-not for you, not for royalty, not for the gallery-but he is singing to illuminate, to unfold, to vitalize his part. He is actually the character he plays. I was simply delighted at his interpretation of the characteristics of this well known part. When he opened the first act, I thought I should be disappointed, for the voice sounded a trifle querulous, almost approaching thinness, but thoroughly in keeping with the old man who found nothing in life after all his study. When Bonci emerged as the young Faust, leaving be hind him the vesture and garb of the old artist, Mons. Gilibert (pronounced some- describe this glorious woman's satisfying doctor, he left behind also the voice effect and henceforth his singing glowed and gleamed, and in the celebrated "Salve Dimora" fervently wished that the musical world might just once listen to that gem of not prepare the people, by much pantomimic suggestion, for the fact that he is going to sing a high C. No, he merely happens have a "C" incidental to his aria, and he sings it and leaves it when he has sung In Puccini's beautiful "La Tosca." based it and goes on, and you are wont to take the darling little mastersinger in your arms and hug him for his love of art.

No. Bonci could never hold a high note against a stop-watch, striding down to the footlights meanwhile, with eyes riveted on the noisy gallery. Never! Because Boncl a patrician among singers. His art is artistic. Oh, why won't students and professionals take instruction from such an artist. Every time he sings he is giving the choirist instruction. Imitate his style his smoothness, his legato, his nuances, his diminuendo. Now I can hear some people may. "Oh, yes! if I only could study him what foy!" Bosh! You wouldn't learn Because, you can't be a fine cabinotmaker until you have first learned carpentry. Learn to "saw" straight, learn

lesson in Omaha. Don't try to see how We had the unusual pleasure of hearing high and loud you can sing every time you practice. Sing your scale slowly and work without the slightest suspicion of "slur" on the one hand or "jar" on the other. lot of style, which she doubtless received Dig earnestly until people wonder at your "diminuendo" or power of diminishing a tone. Look in a mirror and see that you are not singing as though you had the lockjaw, nor yet, as though you were chewing gum. Be honest with yourself. There are other lessons, but that is enough, if you work it, to keep you fully occupied for awhile, and you can do this in Omaha just

> So much for Bonci, and his art, and the inspiration he imparts to one who goes to learn in a quiet sober studiou; manner, not with hysteria of ecstasy, but with seriousness of mind.

It was a new "Faust" that we saw that evening. The production was so great that the opera (of which I was almost tired before) was glorified and exalted.

The old "Barbiere di Biviglia" was another rejuvenated delight. It was given In the name-part we had the delightful in London just ninety years ago (and then "pieroing-sweet" quality (as Mrs. Brown- above of his singing. In the part of Basilis in its way that I have ever heard. It would be perhaps strange to speak of an baritone quality that at times you know stayed specially for that. And how glad not in an ensemble which voice is bass and we were that we had done so. Destinn things and here they are. Unless one has which is baritone. If five or six baritones stands on the mountain of art. looking deep, but never wide or spread. tellectual depth but not unemotional. In were asking you all the time, "is it not the part of Bartol we had that spiendid so?" Talk about convincing! I cannot thing like Jhee-lee-berr, not Gilbert, as I work. I can only sit down under a linden Auditorium, but never have you really shine, through the branches. We have now heard him until you have sat listoning to heard three Mozart operas here in Munich art, and then methought that only the few him in opera. He is a splendid singer and and I will make special mention of them would see it anyhow. You see Bonci does a masterful actor. Think of that cast! next week. Tetrazzini, Marcoux, Gilibert, Benel,

on the famous Sardou play. Mile. Cavalleri BAYREUTH, Aug. 28.-Few Americans Now here, I will give away a great lesson role of Buron Scarpia was done to the life before the throne. But as Cosima Wagner free to every singer and would-be singer by Signor Scotti. Him you also have lay til the doors of the villa were sealed. and student of singing in Omaha. I say

"Madame Butterfly." Those two glorious Regenten theater,

yet young when we left, but although it Wagner? was told us by a London manager that she had closed her London season we saw would sing four days later. Of course, we were singing you would still hear the bass straight at the sun. She is a great singer; of Marcoux. It is not like an organ pedal; she is a great artist; but through all she it is like a powerful ringing metallic string. is a great womanly, loving, living creator. if that means anything to you. I learned Her singing is so wonderful that she seems something about the bass voice while to sing because she cannot express just listening to Marvoux. It is deep, deep, so what she wants to otherwise. Her manner In- is so direct that it seems as though she have heard it spoken in Omaha.) You tree and let the memory of it come streamhave heard this man in concert at the ing through my thoughts like warm sun-THOMAS J. KELLY.

Sammarco, all in one work, while Zuechi IN THE TWILIGHT OF WAGNER Bayreuth and the Festspiel Gloom of Song.

had the title role. This woman has been visit the sacred Festspielhaus at Bayreuth icered at somewhat in New York, but in these days. In two audiences of about if I am not entirely mistaken in my judg- 1,500 persons each The Bee's correspondent ment, she has some great success before estimated that there were not over 300 her. She is tall and thin and her facial speakers of the English tongue, and of movements when she sings are frequently these a goodly percentage surely halled exaggerated, but while it may be true as from Great Britain. Passing through the some London critics say, that there is only crowds in the entractes one could hear one who ever could sing that part, and she, occasionally a few words of English, and Ternins, there is nevertheless no possible none of either French or Italian. At least dental of the fact that Cavailleri created a dozen of the Americans present were a very positive sensation the night we residents of Paris, where Van Dyck and heard her. She acts on the stage as though Grandjean were singing in "Lohengrin" she had never lived or moved or had her and "Tristan and Isolde." A dozen more being anywhere else. I may this after were professional singers who were studymuch deliberation. Put her name down, ing Wagner parts with Reuss-Belce you will refer to it later, unless, as before clinging hopefully to the suburbs of Wahn stated I am utterly misguided. The trying fried in the hope of receiving a summons heard in Omaho, in "Pagliacci," I believe while Sirgfried and Eva bravely bore the fully interpreted, but that time has nast.

Wagner's dream of creating a national at Covent Garden, London, and like Bonci. You would like to, Well, get unmusical dramatic critic. I have neither German drama for the German people has intimated that more would fol- ready. You can learn a big part of the time nor space to mention every good deed been realized at last at Bayrouth. The in these operas nor every good doer. I can audiences have become almost exclusively only pick out the torchlights, and I must German, and chiefly Bavarian German at mention Garlin, who in "Tosca" and in that. Berlin smiles in a superior way at "Madame Butterfly" (Pinkerton) achieved Bayreuth performances. Vienna, in spite great success. This artist was entirely an of her rage at Fellx Weingartner for darunexpected pleasure to me. His voice is ing to make cuts in the mighty scores, a noble, luxuriant tenor and his singing continues to believe in itself. Dresden together with his voice thrilled me with is satisfied with the graphic conducting enthusiasm. Never shall I forget his sing- of Schuch, and Munich, though it sends ing nor that of Scandiani (Sharpiess, a few hearers to Bayreuth, keeps faith United States consul), in the first act of with Motti, Fuchs and its own Prinz

voices soared over the tumultuous It is by no means remarkable that orchestral waves, like huge eagles over an Americans have dropped Bayreuth from Atlantic storm. It was worth coming from their consideration. Of certain character-Omaha to London to hear. Another levely latics in the performances which have singer was Madame Le Jeune in that helped the development of present conditenderest of tender parts, Suzuki, Madame tions something shall be said later. The Butterfly's faithful servant. Oh, Suzuki, town itself and lis enterprising, high how you made our eyes weep, and made minded citizens are not a little to blame. our hearts ache sore unto breaking for They have not treated American visitors you "Poor Madame Butterfiy!" For the with overpowering cordiality and they are fifth time I have heard this tragic story in receiving them now not only with coldness music, and I want to hear it at least a but positive intolerance. This attitude, let hundred times more, even if I should be it be understood, exists openly in official carried out sobbing; and I shall always circles. Americans are not needed here any want to hear Madame Le Jeune as Suzuki. more. Bayreuth has an immense German In the part of Cho-Cho-San, the clientele. The seats are all sold six or "darling little child-wife" of "that devil eight months before the festival begins, of a Pinkerton," we had the never-to-be- and those who attend the performances forgotten privilege of hearing Mile. Emmy come not as disinterested spectators, but Destinn. When in Berlin last summer, as devotees, in many cases even as everyone said "you must hear Destinn; she fanaties. Let the Americans stay at home. is the greatest of all the singers." We What do they, who place Jean de Rezzke could not hear her then as the season was above Von Bary or Burrian, know about

It may be that some Americans are still contemplating a visit to Bayreuth, where the body and, alas! also the spirit of a Titan of music sleep in solenin silence. Those Americans ought to know some personal acquaintance with some one living in Bayreuth and can make his arrangements through that channel he must engage his rooms months in advance and only through the Wohnungs Comite, or residence committee, which manages all the available apartments in hotels as well as private houses.

place has been allotted to him at the price

oughly good, and most of them are downright bad. Furthermore, paying the highest price does not save one. He may find himself allotted to a closet up four flights of stairs in a noisome flat or in a fairly good chamber in a private house. If he is dissatisfied and goes to the office of the Wohnungs Comit he is curtly informed that he had made a contract and will have to keep it. If he wishes to change his place of abode he must pay for the one he gives up. Food in Bayreuth is poor. The restau-

rants-which may be many blacks from your allotted abode-are of the type one finds in remote German villages. prices are not high, but one would willingly pay more to get something appetizing and to eat in a pleasant place. The beer is of most distinguished character. No other boer could or would have it. And the outward aspect of the town itself is one of combined antiquity, sloth and negligence. There was a time when Americans were willing to endure all this because they be-

Wagner reverently, beautifully and truth-

who was as interesting as a wooden Indian. Edyth Walker as Kundry forced out plerc-The American was Clarence Whitehill,

formerly of Mr. Savidge' forces, a respectable, honest performer without distinction. The Klingsor, Berger, was a the Beyreuth public. mediocrity. All the small parts except the first and second flower girls (Frieda Hempel and Bella Alten) were in much worse hands that at the Metropolitan. Carl Braun sang Titurel with a noble tone, and there was one superb interpretation, that of Gurnemanz by Dr. Felix von Kraus. Here indeed is an ideal Wagnerian interpreter, a singer of glorious art with a sonorous and pliable bass voice of beautiful quality and a mastery of emission, phase and enunciation guided by a complete and poetic appreciation of Wagner's drama. If Bayreuth could provide a east of such singers it would be beyond criticism, but Dr. von Kraus was alone, and the superlority of his art did not seem to impress tiself upon the audience.

In "Lohengrin" the principals were even worse. Mme. Fleischer-Edel, who achieved a brilliant failure at the Metropolitan, sang Elsa, She has improved backward with great rapidity. Dr. Von Bary, a fat and plegmatic tenor with a good voice and a most deplorable ignorance of the art of singing, was the Lohengrin. Max method of interpreting Wagner has been York will not listen to Wagner unless it is Dawison of Hamburg, was a marvellously formed under the influence of Bayreuth, sung. In Germany it is not regarded as bad Telramund. Edyth Walker played and the bellef of Bayrouth is the doctrine havoe with the music of Ortrud, but Allen of Cosima Wagner. Hinckley, a young American, sang the that of Nicola Celse-Winkel of Hamburg. Wagner, and that love grew out of an as the Herald. In so far as the principals intimate acquaintance with this music were concerned the performance was below made through the art of such singers as the standard set in America by the Castle Lilli Lehmann, Heinrich Vogl. Emil Fis-Square Opera, company.

pleture. "Parsifal" was conducted by Dr. Muck, lately conductor of the Boston Symand management of the stage and the groupings of the people were quite as good as they were in New York, but not better. The orchestra was excellent, but not flaw-This committee furnishes the applicant less, and the well known effect of the with a printed form asking whether hotel sunken and hooded orchestra pit had I's or private house is preferred and stating usual value. The chorus, picked from the the bottom and top prices for each. When best material of Berlin, Breslau, Dresden this form has been filled out and sent to and half a dozen other cities, sang magnifi-Bayreuth the applicant receives another cently. Such accurate intonation, such form telling him that a room at such a phrasing, such enunciation, are never heard

Biggfried Wagner conducted "Lohengrin" in a style best described as luose-jointed. There was no firmness in his grip of his forces, and precision and unanimity were both frequently absent from the performance. But the staging of the opera, for which Mr. Wagner was chiefly responsible, was beautiful and even inspiring. The acenery was designed not only with great stagecraft, but with a fine feeling for pictorial art, and the rich and harmonious color scheme of the costumes was admir-

be attained in the conditions surroundings featspielhaus. lived that in Bayreuth they would hear

August 4 and 5. The Parsifal was Burrian, here without a flaw in the intonation and proclaimed that beauty of vocal tone was ing high notes and acted like a woman plain the nature of Beyreuth performances what is demanded. In other words, the scorned even before the stainless knight re- of foday. The spectacular features of the singers neglect the tone-producing quality tra-receive adequate treatment, and these of the consonantal outline. features are potent in their influence upon

left for them to hear.

the vocal melody of Wagner's works lies laughed to scorn. the pronounced difference between the American and the German attitudes toward these great creations. For whatever This place has wrought the destruction of Berlin, Dresden, Frankfort or Munich may German vocal art and there are almost say about it, their opinion about the true no real singers in Germany today. New

New York and the rest of America have King respectably. The best singing was a passionate love for the solo music of cher, Marianne Brandt, Jean de Reszke, But now let us see the other side of the Nordica, Tornina, Van Rooy and others, whose names are familiar to lovers of the music drama. Bayreuth has never heard, phony orchestra. His direction of the and today would not wish to hear, such work was that of a master. The scenery performances of "Tristan and Isolde" as the Metropolitan opera house has known. On the other hand, New York has never heard such orchestral and choral art in these dramas as Bayreuth, even in these days of the decadence in Germany of the art of singing still hears.

Here at the fountain head of Wagnerism it is an unahakable belief that America knows nothing of the true spirit of Wagnerian interpretation. As a matter of fact, which can be incontestibly proved from Wagner's own writings, it is Bayreuth, not America, that misunderstands the regenerator of the lyric drama. In New York, is worshiped; here the devotees kneel be fore the altar of Cosima and Siegfried Wagner. What Wagner wrote about the Marriage is a poor eye opener for those correct method of interpreting his works who are blinded by jealousy. Wagner. What Wagner wrote about the is forgotten and only what Cosima and Slegfried say about it is observed. Bayreuth makes the radical, the fatal

mistake of believing that Wagner placed upon the "death pale paper" all those ex-The arrangement of the action of the quisitely beautiful and passionately sigmany people on the stage was worthy of nificant phrases for the solo voices merely the study of stage managers all over the as conceptions never to be realized. These world. The mass effects were splendid in phrases are here sung in coarse, unmusical te their composition, while the characteriza- tone, are chopped into scattered and musiction of the action of groups and of indi- ally formless fragments, and are violently viduals was masterly. Every one in the wrested out of their organic union with a lot of people standing around waiting for chorus had something special to do buy the fast. Wasper's captilland of the buy the fast. chorus had something special to do, but the text. Wagner's cantilens-or, as he every item was perfectly fitted into the called it, "melos"- exists only in the orgeneral scheme. Only with a very intelli- chestra and in the chorus. If the first gent chorus and many rehearsals could oboe sang one of these phrases as the first such results be reached. They could never tenor does he would be ejected from the is that the man does the most of his kick

a New York season.

All this, too, is the result of deliberate

The singing of the chorus in "Lohengrin" practice here, and not the outcome of unwas even better than it was in 'Parsifal." avoidable conditions. The Wagner singers your afterward.—Chicago News.

with exquisite phrasing, study and color, inessential to the true interpretation of These comments should serve to make Wagner. The drawing, not the color, is dramas, even those which may be called of the pure vowel sound and focus their musically spectacular-chorus and orches- entire attention upon a rugged enunciation

This, as the Sun has many times asserted, is diametrically contrary to the To the thoroughgoing Bayreuth Wag- truest philosophy of singing ever preached nerite a performance of one of the great by any teacher, the philosophy of Richard music dramas means handsome scenery Wagner. The master over and over inand costumes, a splendid orchestra and sisted that singing must be the translation chorus, clear and even violent enuncia- of text into vitalized power, that this must tion of the text by everyone on the stage, be done by the musical tone and that the and intelligent action. No demand is made primary source of the musical tone was for an exposition of the musical content of pure vowel sound. Wagner demanded the work except by chorus and orchestra, clear articulation of the words, but neither So long as the principals act and hammer more nor less than the Italians and the out the outlines of all the words in their French have demanded it for three centext they may sing in harsh and disagree- turies. But Wagner cried out with great able tones and distort Wagner's wonderful yearning cries for a high and inspiring melodic phrases as they please. No one musical tone and for an interpretation in cares. And yet these people believe that which this was aided by but not sacrificed they are hearing all that the great genius to an intelligible pronunciation of the word. The true Wagner method is the true Schu-In this extraordinary want of regard for bert method. But in Bayreuth this idea is

The decline of German opera in New York is traceable directly to Bayreuth, necessary to sing it and almost no one learns to sing.

While Cosima Wagner lives these conditions will probably not change, because the master. In the festspielhaus reigns the young Siegfried. The atmostphere of the place reeks with selfishness, narrow ambition and personal greed. All is for the glory not of the dead, but the living. While extant misconceptions of the true interpretation of Wagner continue that giory is easily attained, and when Biegfried Wagner, after a performance of "Lohengrin," enters the theater restaurant laden with flowers, he is received by a concourse of people standing and utterance of glad shouts of acclamation. Almost does wonder that the indomitable spirit of the dead does not rise and with one flery blast of the old temper drive the money changers from the temple. W. J. HENDERSON.

Pointed Paragraphs.

A woman is known by the acquaintances

Even the prude isn't averse to sitting in the lap of luxury. among true music lovers. Richard Wagner factory pair to draw to.

Waste quickly makes way with the for-tune of a fast young man. Speaking of marble hearts, it is more satisfactory to give than to receive.

but the bargain-counter habit goes on for Even a strong-minded female dislikes he idea of standing up for herself in a street car.

Women may come and women may

It's strange how many people are ready to come to our assistance when we don't need them.

When a rich man is seriously ill he

What a lot of trouble some children to have keeping their parents in the way they should go. One difference between a man and a mul-

ing with his mouth.