



MUSIC AND THE THEATER are intimately associated with each other in the social life of the people. It is not easy to think of one without the other, nor of any cultural development or intellectual growth without either. Through the means of music and drama, together in play or opera, or separately, appeal is directly and potently made to something in man's nature not otherwise reached. Music stirs him or soothes him; he is aroused or calmed in sympathy with the mood of the "concord of sweet sounds" and the player sways his hearers with a power all may feel but none can understand. The composer, inspired by lofty thought or majestic conception, sets down his notes, and the skilled musician gives them life and reaches souls less gifted than the

creator, but able to feel what cannot be expressed. Thus Music hath its part in all affairs of man, whether it be the symphony orchestra, the great choir, a soloist, a band, or merely a merry boy whistling his few notes along his careless way. The mother sings her babe to sleep, the busy workman hums an air while active at his task, and all mankind finds in music the expression of an impulse to something above the things of earth. In this Drama shares, but to a lesser extent, for it is not so universal in its appeal nor so general in its application. But the union is close, and the harmony indissoluble. How well Omaha's esthetic growth is reflected in provision for the exemplification and enjoyment of these twin arts may be learned by information here and hereafter presented.

By HENRIETTA M. REES.

HEAR YE! Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Who of the subjects of the great King Ak-Sar-Ben has a longing for great personal enjoyment? Who of the loyal subjects of the great king would wish to indulge in great mental recreation and refreshment? Who from among the large numbers of his followers of men, women and children feel the need of some means of self expression—something to cheer them when sad, to occupy them when lonely, and to give voice to their joys and gladness, something which they can do for themselves just the same as they go swimming, play golf or tennis, or bowl as an outlet for their physical energy? Let all of these gather together as soon as they can and start for a pilgrimage this winter into the realms of music. To some this is an unexplored region, while others have already spent more or less time within its borders. But it is a vast realm and there is yet unknown

territory for everyone to find. There are many guides at hand to help one, as the many pages of this paper today devoted to the music teachers of Omaha amply attest. Few indeed can explore any part of this wonderland without their friendly leading upon the right course, pointing out both the dangers and the beauties as they go along. And the pilgrimage itself! What thrilling adventures it contains. What experiences of ecstatic rapture and soul-satisfying delight mix with the baffling difficulties and disappointments which must be met and overcome. The student who attains becomes a veritable hero in the undertaking. Like Odysseus of old, he and his musical companions set sail upon the tonal sea. Many fall in the first encounter with difficulties they meet. They soon come to the lotus-land of "sweet forgetfulness" of practice hours and instruction and from there on sail to that terrible island where many others are destroyed by the Cyclopean monster of

bad habits. Others are banded about from teacher to teacher by the winds of the least suggestion, always drifting upon the musical sea and getting nowhere by their constant shifts. Sometimes the Circe-like enchantment of poor instruction holds many heedless ones in its thrall and delays the careful ones, making them to go down into the depths of despair before they start again upon their onward course. The siren voice of outside pleasure calls them, the Scylla and Charybdis of technical intricacy and personal incompetence must each be passed, and he who attains must escape the toils of the Calypso nymph of ragtime and tawdry music, ever struggling toward the haven of that which is the best. On the other hand, there are the pleasant experiences as well. When one has gained the friendly harbor or a certain amount of proportionate proficiency, what delight it is to furl one's sails in the calm waters and to find

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Boyer