

The Worshipful Company of Musicians.

On Tuesday, October 26th, the Livery Dinner of the above Company was held at the Mansion House, the Master, Sir George Wyatt Truscott, Bart., Lord Mayor, presiding over a numerous assemblage of the Liverymen and their guests. After the loyal toasts the silver medals of the Company were presented to Miss Ellen Custance Edwards, of the Royal College of Music, and Mr. Rudolph O'Donnell, of the Royal Military School of Music.

In proposing the toast of "The Worshipful Company of Musicians," the Rev. H. R. Cooper Smith, D.D., Master of the Vintners' Company, referred to the formation of the Company in the reign of Edward IV., and the granting of its Charter by James I. in 1604, and claimed that, notwithstanding its ancient and worthy past, it was essentially a "live" Company, which carried on a real and good work in the present. At one time it had fallen into a condition of lethargy, but that was now changed, thanks chiefly to the labours of three men, Frederick Bridge, John Stainer, and T. Lea Southgate. It justified its existence by its activity in encouraging the practice of the art. The Exhibition held in 1904 did much for the cause of music, and the Lectures and Catalogue since published were a lasting memorial of the interest shown by the Company in the art of music. In coupling the name of the Lord Mayor with the toast, he might say that during Sir George Truscott's year of office all the music performed at the Mansion House had been by native artists.

The Lord Mayor said that in the past the duty of the Company had been to suppress bad music; now its care was to foster good music. The interest shown in this was evidenced by what it had been able to do to encourage the practice of the art, as, for example, in its latest prizes offered for compositions scored for a military band. He was proud to think that his Mastership of the Company had been combined with his Mayoralty of London, a circumstance that was unique in the history of the Company. He was glad to think that the connection between the Mansion House and the Musicians' Company was likely to be maintained in the future, in the person of Mr. Ernest Cooper, who had recently been elected Alderman of the City of London. He thanked all, especially the Deputy Master, Mr. Crews, for their courtesy and help, and in conclusion announced several gifts, viz., a mallet from Mr. Crews, a silver cup from Mr. Ash, and a silver cup from members of the Court of Assistants, to commemorate his year of office.

The new Master, Dr. T. Lea Southgate, was then sworn in, and after being invested with robe and chain, was installed in the chair by the outgoing Master. The Senior Warden, Mr. Alfred H. Littleton, and the Junior Warden, Mr. Arthur F. Hill, were also sworn in.

The Lord Mayor proposed the health of the new Master, a gentleman who, he said, had worthily earned the position of head of this ancient Company. On his own behalf he sincerely thanked Dr. Southgate for having delayed his passage to the chair in order that he (the Lord Mayor) might become Master during his Mayoralty, a graceful compliment for which he should always feel indebted to him. The new Master had done much in suppressing bogus and inferior degrees, he had worked hard over the Loan Exhibition of 1904, and equally hard over the publication of the Lectures and Catalogue. He wished him a happy and successful year of office.

Dr. Southgate, after thanking the Lord Mayor and the company for the way in which the toast had been proposed and received, said:—"Allow me to express to all the members of our ancient Company my deep appreciation of the great honour conferred upon me in appointing me Master. During my year of office, I will endeavour to uphold the traditions of this old City Guild, and to do my best to promote the welfare of the Company, and assist its efforts in aiding the art of music, and especially in assisting British composers, artists, and performances. The long past and more immediate past work of the Company have already been dealt with. I think that the condition

which obtains to-day, the earnestness of our Court, and the ready response we always receive from the members of our Livery, afford an earnest for like activity and useful work in the future. You know of our last scheme, the encouragement of the writing of music for a military band, a scheme that promises to be an all-round success. The carrying out of this matter has entailed a vast amount of work on some of us. Only think of the task of examining 119 of these complicated full scores, to see if there was anything worthy in them! Our aims were to point out to our young composers that there was a new and useful field they might well cultivate. For such music as we desired to reward should be useful not only for military purposes, but also available for use by the numberless municipal, mill, factory, and other bands which play in the open air to many thousands of our people. I believe our scheme will not only help our warriors, but it will interest and delight the people—and, what is most important, aid British art. Let me say that without the generous and hearty aid of the band of the Grenadier Guards, and the patience and skill of its bandmaster, Lieut. Albert Williams, a distinguished Doctor of Music of Oxford, and a member of our Company, we never could have got through the task we set out to accomplish. Our hearty and renewed thanks must go to these excellent performers and their bandmaster for the great services they have rendered. Now, you will like to hear the result of this competition:—Fifty guineas, given by S. Ernest Palmer, Esq., an Hon. Freeman of the Company, to Percy E. Fletcher, for a 'Suite' of three movements. Twenty guineas, given by Captain A. S. Beaumont, a member, to Walter Wesché, for an 'Overture.' Fifteen guineas, contributed by the Committee, to Percy E. Fletcher, for a 'Grand March.' Ten guineas, given by Charles T. D. Crews, Esq., a Past Master, to F. Cunningham Woods, M.A., Mus. Bac. Oxon., for a 'Suite' of three movements. Ten pounds, given by J. Henry Iles, a member, to A. von Ahn Carse, for a 'March.' The prize works will be performed at an early concert which the Court is arranging."

Sir Frederick Bridge, in proposing "The Visitors," enlarged upon the claims of the Company to more support, and expressed the hope that many of the visitors would give it.

Col. Balfour, Commandant of Kneller Hall, responded, and the guests then repaired to the Saloon to hear a short programme of music performed by Miss Florence Barrow, Miss Dilys Jones, Miss Ellen Edwards, Mr. Ivor Walters, Mr. Jamieson Dodds, and Mr. Rudolph O'Donnell.

The London Operatic and Dramatic Society.

At the Cripplegate Theatre on the 26th inst., the London Operatic and Dramatic Society produced Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta, "Trial by Jury," and Sydney Grundy's farcical play, "The Arabian Nights." The success of the operetta was seriously affected by the orchestra, which played, for much of the time, in overpowering strength. There was far too much brass for so small a hall, and the intonation of the strings was by no means perfect. Mr. W. T. Cotter as the *Usher* provided a fund of humour, and the part of the *Learned Judge* was ably sustained by Mr. C. Edward Benton. Miss Jessie H. Rose (the *Plaintiff*), Mr. Cyril W. Bywaters (the *Defendant*), and Miss Florence Wendon (*First Bridesmaid*) sang the music with much care, and the chorus had been well drilled, but the orchestra placed all at considerable disadvantage. Quite a delightful performance was given of the farce, which affords a variety of character studies. Mr. Theo Ager as the egregious *Joshua Gillibrand* shared the chief honours with Miss Rita Gill, the sour and dour *Mrs. Gillibrand*. Their acting was excellently done. Miss Rhoda Whaley as the vivacious india-rubber girl, *Rosa Columbiar*, never allowed interest to flag while she was on the stage. Miss Esmé Proudfoot as *Daisy Maitland* had the real Yankee twang, and made the best of her part. Miss Minnie Blake was not quite sufficient as *Mrs. Hummingtop*. Mr. Ernest J. Borrow (*Arthur Hummingtop*), Mr. Charles Hounsfeld (*Ralph Ormerod*), and Mr. Fred Gill (*Dobson*) carried their parts with distinction, the whole