

## Membrane Instruments

AND

## Sonorous Substances.

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**W**E are indebted to the Orientals for our knowledge of instruments of the Drum kind, which have been in use from very early times. With the exception of the Kettledrum, no great improvement has been made in them by Western nations.

They can only be called 'musical instruments' by courtesy, as none of them (again excepting the Kettledrum) produce sounds of definite pitch. They are, however, valuable as emphasising accent and rhythmic patterns. The membrane is to these instruments what the reed is to the wind and the cord to the stringed instruments—the source of the sound-vibration. The membrane may be stretched either on a hoop as in the tambourine, in which case the simple sound of the skin is alone produced, or this sound may be intensified by a resonator as in the Drum.

The simplest form of Drum is the Tabor, which, in conjunction with a little pipe, was much used 300 years ago at rural merry-makings. The performer held the pipe in his left hand, and the Tabor was suspended by a string from the little finger, being struck by a drumstick held in the right hand.