

JULY 15, 1925.

MUSICIANS' COMPANY DINNER.

VALUE OF MILITARY BANDS.

A Court dinner of the Worshipful Company of Musicians, which was held last night at the Stationers' Hall, was made the occasion of the performance of a series of compositions by Orlando Gibbons in commemoration of the tercentenary of his death. During the evening the Company's medal, given by Mr. W. W. Cobbett for the encouragement of chamber music, was presented to Mrs. F. S. Coolidge, in recognition of her efforts for the encouragement of chamber music in the United States.

SIR HUGH ALLEN, who, as Director of the Royal College of Music, had nominated Mrs. Coolidge for the honour, said music was rightly called an international language. It united all peoples, and those who fostered it were doing a work of the greatest importance.

After the presentation by the Master of the Company (Mr. E. B. Hoare), Mrs. COOLIDGE, replying, said she especially valued the medal as an English honour.

The MASTER formally welcomed the two newly elected Freemen of the Company (Colonel J. A. C. Somerville, the retiring commandant of Kneller Hall, and Sir Frederic H. Cowen), and COLONEL SOMERVILLE, responding, said he looked forward to the day when the military band would take its proper place in the world of music. It had never yet been recognized as a distinct branch of music. It was fundamentally the music of the open air, and, while the orchestra attracted its thousands, the military band attracted its tens of thousands. Therefore it was of immense importance as a factor in raising the public taste, and he hoped that leading composers would more than in the past produce music especially for the military band. SIR FREDERIC COWEN also replied.

Those present included:—

Sir Samuel Hoare, M.P., Lady Maud Hoare, Lord and Lady Charnwood, Lord Frederic Hamilton, Dr. Charles Macpherson, the Duke of Bronte (Sir Alexander Nelson Hood), Lieutenant-General Sir Edmond Elles, Lady Emmott, Dr. and Mrs. Crouch, Mr. W. W. Cobbett, Sir Homewood Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hill, Mr. S. Chapman, Miss Chapman, Miss W. Lockey Hill, Miss Lillian Shattock (of Boston), Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Edgar, Sir Cato and Lady Worsfold, Dr. H. L. Eason, Lord William Taylour, Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Truscott, Sir Arthur Chapman, and Sir James and Lady Boyton.