

## I.

### Wind Instruments.

---

**I**N common parlance, wind instruments signify those that are blown directly from the player's lips, either with or without a vibrating tongue or reed. In combination these constitute the 'wind band' in the orchestra, and practically the whole strength of the military band. They are commonly classed in two divisions, as the 'wood-wind' and the 'brass-wind,'—terms which are recommended by custom rather than by accuracy; the further division of the 'wood-wind,' into flutes and reed instruments, introduces a better basis for classification, as these definitions neglect the question of the material of which an instrument is made, and are based upon the means employed for tone-production. If to these two, 'flutes' and 'reeds,' we add 'cup-blown' or 'lip-reed' in substitution for 'brass,' we have three definitions which are both accurate and practically convenient.

#### FLUTES.

In ancient Greek times the word 'aulos,' commonly translated 'flute,' appears to have been used in a very general way, and indeed usually signified an instrument in which a reed was employed as the medium for production of tone. Confining our attention, however, to the period covered by the history of the Musicians' Company, the name flute has always signified an instrument in which a lamina of air is employed to excite vibrations