

PRIZE PHANTASIES.

At Bechstein Hall on June 22 were performed the six String quartet phantasies which gained the prizes recently given by the Worshipful Company of Musicians at the instigation of that enthusiastic amateur violinist, Mr. W. W. Cobbett. The chief prize (£50) was awarded to the composition of Mr. William Y. Hurlstone, whose lamented and premature death is recorded in another column. Those who listened to this charming work had no difficulty in endorsing the verdict of the adjudicators—Sir Alexander Mackenzie, and Messrs. W. W. Cobbett, Alfred Gibson and Hermann Sternberg. Rich in its subject-matter, Hurlstone's Phantasy is a composition of distinct merit in its musicianly and pleasure-giving qualities. Its three movements are deftly connected by a metamorphosis of two themes, and as the entire work is commendably concise it is a welcome example of linked sweetness *not* long drawn out. The remaining prize phantasies are by Messrs. Frank Bridge, James Friskin, Joseph C. Holbrooke, H. Waldo Warner, and Haydn Wood. Of these the compositions of Mr. Holbrooke and Mr. Friskin stand out above the rest: the former by virtue of its attractive *Adagio* and the latter in the quality of its humour—a sense that is not greatly possessed by most young English composers, judging from the lugubrious products of their pens. The phantasies were played by the Saunders Quartet, and pleasant relief was provided in a charming song, 'The blind boy,' by Mr. Hurlstone—one of his last compositions—most feelingly sung by Mr. Charles Mott and accompanied by Mr. Henry R. Bird.