

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO BRASS BANDS.

No. 3. VOL. XV.

MARCH 22, 1902.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

GREAT VICTORY!

The "Champion" Test Pieces win against all comers.

Ir is with great pleasure that we announce to our readers a remarkable success that has been achieved by the Proprietors of the "Champion" Journal. The Executive of the Scotch Amateur Brass Band Association invited all the leading publishing houses—including the Liverpool and Boston firms—to submit test pieces for the coming 1902 Season, which embraces the 1st and 2nd Class Championship Contests, to be held in September and October of this year, and after careful consideration it was decided to adopt the pieces from the "CHAMPION" JOURNAL! We can picture our enthusiastic friends throwing up their hats and shouting "Hurrah!!" on reading of this very great and signal success.

Well done Scotland!

They say that Scotchmen are known the world over for their great business abilities, cuteness and acumen, and our readers may rely on it that they made no mistake when they decided that the "Champion" Journal Selections were the best.

Again we say:-

Well done Scotland !!!

Passing Notes.

At a meeting of the Executive of the Scotch (A.B.B. Association, held at Edinburgh on Saturday last, it was definitely decided to hold four contests during the coming season, the dates being as follows:—Ist Class Bands, June 7th, at Clydebank (own choice); Oct. 25th, Edinburgh (Champion Journal). 2nd class Bands, Aug. 9th, Musselburgh (own choice); Sept. 27th, Edinburgh (Champion Journal).

* * *

SCOTCH SEMI-FINAL ROUND.

It has been decided to hold this semi-final at one of the following three places:—Glasgow, Edinburgh, or Broxburn. The

contest will decide the open championship of Scotland, the first prize will carry with it the right to play in the great £1,050 cup final at the Crystal Palace, and a cash sum of £20 as a contribution towards the expenses of attending the Crystal Palace. It is expected that the contest will be held under the auspices of all the Scotch Band Associations. None but Scotch bands will of course be allowed to compete. We would like to hear from any of our Scotch friends, giving their opinion as to what they consider to be the best and most suitable place for holding this constest.

* * *

MR. W. J. D. Mr. Sheriff, of Uxbridge, we are pleased to know, has just been appointed

bandmaster of the Herts. Imperial Yeomanry. In addition to the above he is bandmaster and conductor of the following:—rst County of London (Roughriders) Imperial Yeomanry; 2nd V.B. Middlesex Regiment; Uxbridge and Hillingdon Prize Band; Ealing Town Band; Haslemere (Surrey) Town Prize Band; Sheriff's Military Band; Uxbridge Orchestral Society. Mr. Sheriff is also drill instructor to three boys' schools at Uxbridge, and we should imagine his hands must be pretty full, and we are glad to know it.

Next week we shall go to GOOD FRIDAY, press one day earlier, viz.: on the Tuesday, as Good Friday being in that week, bands would not otherwise be able to obtain their copies before the Saturday. Bandsmen should therefore order their copies from the newsagents, who should have them ready on Thursday, 27th inst.

* * *

THE SEMI-FINAL ROUNDS.

The announcement made in our leader of last week's issue has created a very favourable impression in band circles all

It is the general conover the country. census of opinion that the right and privi-lege of competing for the 1,000 guinea cup should be decided by competition. By this step being taken the prestige to the band winning first prize will be all the greater, and the victory the more glorious, and the great daily and weekly press of the country will naturally take all the greater notice and interest in the event. We would like to give our readers the opportunity of stating their views on the semi-final round under the heading of correspondence. Letters to be inserted in next week's paper should be posted to reach the office of this paper (188, Strand, W.C.) not later than first post Menday



MR. FRANK R. HOWELL, B.M., LIVERPOOL.

It was in the year 1867, when, owing to the death of his father, he was placed in the Liverpool Blue Coat School, that Mr. Frank R. Howell first launched out Entering the on his musical career. institution he was immediately placed in the band as a side drum learner. His ambition soaring in higher channels, however, we afterwards find him playing the Tenor Saxhorn, and eventually, Solo Horn. His next move was to Solo Euphonium, the importance of which may be judged when it is mentioned that at that time the band of the Blue Coat School was thought to be one of the finest military organisations in Lancashire.

We next find him a volunteer, he having joined the 15th Lancashire Rifle Volunteers (now 4th V.B. The King's

Liverpool Regiment, and he remained with them some eleven years. During this period he took up the Tenor Slide Trombone which, after a month's practice, he played at a regimental concert with great effect. Having succeeded in mastering the instrument he set about forming a trio, teaching two members of the band the B flat, and he himself taking the G Trombone, which instrument he has followed up throughout his subsequent career, playing it under the baton of such distinguished conductors as Benedict, Halle, Stanford, Cowen, Bridge, Rodewald, Shepherd, Collinson, etc.

By trade, Mr. Howell is an organ voicer and tuner, having been apprenticed when leaving the Blue Coat School. He remained with the firm for many years after serving his apprenticeship, and formed the "Gray and Davison Brass Band," which, ultimately, developed into the "Liverpool City Prize Band," of which he is still conductor.

He also takes charge of the bands of the 2nd Lancashire R.G.A. Volunteers and the Liverpool Orphan Boys' Asylum, the latter numbering some 42 performers, which he trains from the raw material in reed, brass, and drums. Both these bands are engaged each season by the City Corporation to play in the parks. In addition to this, Mr. Howell has for the past three years been musical director for the "Eastham Pleasure Gardens Co." where his programmes have been well followed up by the enthusiastic bandsmen of Liverpool and district. He is also one of the "Liverpool Trombone Quartette."

As a teacher and conductor, his abilities are of a very high order, and that his efforts have been appreciated is demonstrated by the number of momentoes (gold medals, marble clock, gold and silver mounted batons, etc.) which he has been made the recipient of.

"En passant," it may be mentioned that Mr. Howell studied theory and harmony under the late Professor T. D. Richardson, than whom no more capable tutor could be found in the City of Liverpool; also that several of his compositions and arrangements have been most favourably commented upon by a number of "leading lights" of the musical profession in his City.

That he may have health and strength for many a year to give the benefit of his abilities to those around him, is the sincere wish of all who have the privilege of his acquaintance.

* * * NOTICE.

The "British Bandsman" is not sent out direct to Band Agents from this office, all the papers being delivered to the Newsagents all over the country by Wholesale Newsagents only. Any Band Secretary wishing members of his Band to be supplied with the paper weekly without any delay should give the Newsagent nearest him an order for the number he requires. By doing so, members of any Band will be able to get their copies every Thursday night or on Friday morning. Friday morning.

IMPORTANT.-If any of our readers do not IMPORTANT.—It any of our readers do not get the paper by this time, they should send a postcard to this Office, giving us the name of the Newsagent from whom the late copies were received. We can then have the matter put right at once. Every Bandsman should be able to get his copy each week in any part of England or Scotland on Friday at the latest. THE

"British Bandsman"

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No. 1 of the Weekly "B. B." Contains:-

NO. 1 of the Weekly "B. B." Con
TO MY READERS.
PASSING NOTES.
WE HEAR.
RESULTS.
COMING CONTESTS.
BITS IN BRIEF.
"CHAMPION" CONTESTS.
TRADE ITEMS.
MR. A. OWEN'S LECTURE.
MR. J. ORD HUME'S "CHATS."
THE "CHIEL"
YORKSHIRE NOTES. MR. J. ORD HUME'S CHAIS.
THE "CHIEL."
YORKSHIRE NOTES.
BRISTOL BITS.
SOUTH WALES NOTES.
EASTERN ECHOES.
HARROGATE NOTES.
LONDON NOTES.
LEATHERY LEICESTER.
SCOTCH NOTES.
NORTHERN NOTES.
LANCASHIRE NOTES.
"CHAMPION" JUNKS.
DUDLEY QUARTETTE CONTEST. — RE-MARKS.
SKINNINGROVE CONTEST.—REMARKS.
ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.
SPLENDID CARTOON.—"STRANDED."
PIANO PART OF "THE PRESIDENT"
MARCH.
PORTRAIT OF MR. CARL TAYLOR, Pr. sldent of S. W. and M. Association.

No. 2 Contains -

SEMI-FINAL ROUND FOR 1000-GUINEA CUP.
PASSING NOTES.
HOW TO RAISE BAND FUNDS.
RESULTS
COMING CONTESTS.
BITS IN BRIEF.
"CHAMPION" CONTESTS.
TRADE ITEMS.
MR. A. OWEN'S LECTURE.
MR. J. ORD HUME'S "CHATS."
SCOTCH NOTES.
LANARKSHIRE NOTES.
NORTHERN NOTES.
CAMBRIAN ECHOES.
EASTERN ECHOES.
EASTERN LINE.
HEBBURN. HEBBURN. BATLEY WALTHAMSTOW QUARTETTE CONTEST SKINNINGROVE CONTEST — MARC REMARKS.
SPLENDID CARTOON.—"SHALL I DIVIDE
THE PRIZE!"
PIANO PART OF "LOYAL HEARTS" PIANO PA MARCH.

If copies cannot be obtained from Newsagents, both numbers being already practically sold out-readers should communicate with this Office.

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LECTURE BY MR. A. OWEN.

"RICHARD III"
OVERTURE.
[Edward German.]

A LECTURE GIVEN AT THE REQUEST OF THE LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES ASSOCIATION, IN LONDON, DECEMBER 2nd, 1901.

Continued from page 27 last week.

Later, that marvellous, and one of the world's most famous composers, Mozart, followed the influence of Gluck in this direction, by showing how a distinct theme or phrase can be announced in the overture, though the theme or phrase is really developed from the opera, or greater work. Note, e.g., the introductory "Andante," in the overture to "Don Giovanni" the opening phrase con-sists only of thirty bars, whilst the (working out) figure in the last act of the opera consists of some 120 bars -which is known as the statue music. But the mind that designed, and the hand that wrote, this wonderful music for the entry of the statue in Don Juan had twelve months previously written that charming overture to the "Marriage of Figaro," which in itself is a veritable creation - and still the overture known as the "Magic Flute" is supposed to be his masterpiece in overture form, and is often quoted as "the despair of overture writers."

The overtures by Cherubini, Schumann, Auber, Rossini, and Berlioz speak for themselves, and are compositions of a high order (comparatively devoid of the mimetic style so prevalent in some ages), in which are to be found many rich impressions of musical thought, combined with fine examples of instrumentation, beauty in structure, and nicety of ensemble as to appeal to the musical student, and often acceptable to the artist who delights in grand and noble instrumental combinations, as if it were the highest claim to musicianship, as well as an indispensable condition in the domain of art.

But the supreme point of development was reached by the mighty Beethoven in his overtures, such as

the "Ballet of Prometheus," and his four overtures to his only opera "Fidelio," for in the No. 3, which is called "Leonora," Beethoven has, like Gluck, fully prepared the spectators for the work that is to follow; in fact, it becomes a real synopsis of the opera, with its recurring themes. of melancholy, revenge, anxiety, hope and love; and when these feelings appear to be worked up to a climax, one more striking theme than the rest appears in the form of a fanfare, so startling and unexpected (announcing the arrival of the State Minister) that it seems for the moment to confound the mind and hand of the would-be murderer, and holds him powerless to proceed, spell-bound like a baffled cur. This fanfare or trumpet-call, then is the motive that proclaims the rescue of Florestan the imprisoned man; then the last theme breaks upon us in unmistakable tones of thankfulness, winding up triumphantly with joy and delight, thus completing a true work of art, which to-day stands almost unapproached. Some might argue that the usual form of overture disappears here in Leonora No. 3, and rightly, in music, it is almost complete in itself too; but for tone painting and design and tells its own story.

Thus, as we justly concede preeminence to Beethoven for majesty, deep thought, and musical expression, so we must rightly award the palm or place of honour to Weber for romanticism, whose thoroughly descriptive overtures are too well known to require any special reference here, save that he so skilfully and systematically employed themes in his overtures, with impressions so thrilling, yet woven into one consistent whole, coupled with every artifice or device known for colour, or musical tonepainting, and last, but not least, perfected by such brilliant orchestration, and in such a manner that Weber may be 'considered the forerunner of Wagner, particularly in overture or Vorspiel writing. This practice, i.e., the identification of the "leit motive" is now universally followed, and few better illustrations can be found than in Wagner's overture to Tann-hauser, and the prelude to "Lohen-grin."

The overture of late has degenerated into little more than a formless fantasia, which merely consists of a string of melodies loosely run together and presented as a kind of preamble of what is to follow. I will not take up your time with any reference to overtures of this calibre.

But another form known as

the "Concert overture." has been evolved and developed during the last century, which is not associated with Opera or Oratorio, but intended to be performed as an independent piece, and may be described as programme music, inasmuch as some title or name is given to the composition as a guide to the audience, or as a means of conveying to the performers the circumstances which suggested the ideas of the composer, thus indicating the vein of thought or poetical fancy, or, in other words, to further illustrate the composer's intentions. Beethoven's "Weihe des Hauses," or "Consecration of the House" overture is a beau-tiful specimen of this class, but a fine example for concert use only is found in Mendelssohn's overture, "Midsummer Night's Dream," that marvellous work of a youth of some seventeen summers only, written in one month between July 7th and August 6th, 1826, and what is still more wonderful was the whole composition of the music of the drama (written seventeen years later) which he developed the music almost entirely from his youthful impressions and themes found in the overture.

Here, it will be noticed, is an example of the inverse method usually adopted by composers, viz-, the development of the overture from themes employed in the body of the greater work. The same composer's "Hebrides," "Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage," "Melusina," are almost unparalleled. Time prevents me from entering into the analysis of the overtures by the great masters, but volumes might be written upon them. that would serve a useful purpose to kindred associations and to the young tyro studying Form and Composition. I have called attention to this example of concert overture, not only on account of an interesting historical fact. but in order to show you how deeply a composer must study the details of the subject he chooses for inspiration before attempting to represent his ideas in sounds. Many fine speciideas in sounds. mens exist, but perhaps the bestknown are those I have mentioned above of Mendelssohn, though Beethoven, Schumann, Berlioz, Sterndale Bennett, and Sullivan all left examples of this class of independent Whatever may overtures. prompted Mr. Edward German to write his splendid overture to "Richard the Third," it shows that it is the result of deep thought, combined with genius and solid matured musicianship.

(To be continued)

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CHATS ON AMATEUR BANDS.

By J. Ord Hume.

THIRD SERIES.

CHAPTER II.

INSTRUMENT SLIDES.

A most important matter now presents itself, and which is really the foundation of tuneful and good-toned bands, whilst the non-attendance to this matter shows a badly - managed band at once as well as negligent untuneful and uninterested bandsmen.

"All movable parts of band instruments should work freely; they should be kept scrupulously clean; and the slides, besides working well, should be always perfectly clean, as well as being lightly greased." The strict adherence to this matter is really the very foundation of a well-tuned band, and without which no band can ever dream of being steadily in tune in the various keys.

Professional teachers of contesting brass bands will not allow any man to have a stuck slide at rehearsal, let alone at an engagement or band contest. It is also pleasing to note that the majority of amateur contesting band teachers follow in their professional brethren's footsteps in this respect, but the greatest of offenders are the non-contesting bands, many of whom very seldom care whether they play in tune or leave it alone entirely. There are hundreds of this class in our midst, and it is a pity they do not see themselves as others see them. have heard some of these "schottische and polka" bands at village fetes, etc., which were enough to turn one's hair grey; but they did not care so long as the noise went on, and so long as a big drum and a cornet kept going together. I am sure that this class of band would feel greatly improved if they would only attempt to tune up a bit, and to, at least, get their slides to work.

A band of this description is easily recognised by a simple peep in at their practice room! There the observer will note that the majority of the rusty instruments are hanging up on rusty nails or pegs around the dirty band-room, which may not have been swept for months, and in most cases the mouthpieces have been taken away by the respective players.

This at once shows to the casual observer that the only practice that these people have is when the band or a few of them meet for a "blow through," and even at that the mouldy members have been carrying their mouthpieces about in their pockets amongst tobacco dust, bread or biscuit crumbs, etc., etc., so that this accumulated dirt can be all the easier blown into their already overloaded weapons of annoyance.

I never did object to a bandsman taking his mouthpiece home so long as he kept it clean, but why on earth take home a mouthpiece regularly and leave the instrument? Yes; it is a mystery to any right-thinking bandsman, and I feel sure that no good bandsman would continually leave his instrument in the bandroom. slides must in consequence get stuck one after the other; the bandsman's interest in the band (although it could not have been very keen before) must certainly diminish, and so on, until untunefulness, negligence, and sticky slides all combine to spell one word, " Doom !"

(To be continued).

Trade Items.

Messrs. Woods and Co., the well-known musical instrument makers and repairers, of 152, Westgate Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne, inform us that they have a new catalogue and price list in preparation which will be ready at an early date. Mr. John H. Woods says his firm are feeling the anxiety of the bands to be equipped and ready for the Easter contests and the Coronation festivities, and he is very busy indeed getting all the wants supplied.

Messrs. Besson express great pleasure at the increasing interest shown in brass band music in the London district, as evidenced by the very successful quartette contest just held at Walthamstow. They inform us that the successful quartettes in both sections used "Prototype" instruments. They have orders in hand for full sets, both for Ilford Horns and Marylebone bands, and St. Paneras Band has just completed their set. Altogether, the London district promises great things.

Mr. Thomas Carr, of 20, Long Wyre Street, Colchester, presides over the destinies of an establishment replete with every kind of musical merchandise, both British and Colonial. The "Monarch" brass instruments are the firm's speciality so far as brass bands are concerned, but bandsmen will be able to procure anything, from a fiddle-string to a BB flat silver-plated and gold-tipped bombardon, by applying to Mr. Carr at the above address.

We hear that the Heap Bridge Brass Band, which is one of the good old Lancashire bands with a contesting reputation of over 20 years standing, have decided, after severely testing samples, to replace their old set with the "Hawkes" New-Contesting Models, and have ordered a set, plated and beautifully engraved, to go on with. We shall look forward to seeing the band a little more on the contest stage this season, and congratulate Messrs Hawkes on their enterprise and success.

Messrs. F. Dean and Co., of 30. Englefield Road, Dalston, London, N., musical instrument makers, are, we are glad to learn, very busy, and make a speciality of a reliable instrument "at less than half the usual prices charged," to quote the firm's circular. Bands should write for price lists and particulars.

Nazebottom Band's Latest.

A SINGING CONTEST.

The humorous singing contest in the Town Hall, Todmorden, on a recent Saturday evening, promoted by the Nazebottom Temperance Band, may be described as almost a repetition of the amazing success of last year under the like auspices. The attendance was large, and in all likelihood, but for the snowstorm which supervened, it would have equalled that of last season, when the place was crowded.

The committee who had the affair in hand offered £10 10s. in cash prizes, and a silver medal (gold centre) for best local was competed for by R. Howorth (Todmorden) and J. Whitwham (Hebden Bridge), the former repeating his favourite impersonation of a country lout supposed to be "soft," and the latter representing a company of amateur actors, including hero and heroine, villain, policeman, and comic character. The medal was presented by Mr. Leopold H. Rohrer, watchmaker and jeweller, Wellington Road, Todmorden. The cash prizes were as follows:—First, 4; second, £3; third, £2; fourth, £1; fifth, 10s. There were 30 entries, and 16 put in an appearance and sang.

As is almost invariably the case on such occasions, the character of the farmer's lad was rather overdone; but, though this was apt to become a trifle monotonous (especially considering the frequent repetition of old jokes therein), it at least afforded good opportunity for one interested in dialects, the competitors being from various parts of Lancashire and Yorkshire. For the rest, there was plenty of variety and fresh humour, and patrons had about three hours' enjoyment. Mr. W. Sunderland was the accompanist, and it would have been difficult to have found one more suitable for such a position.

Mr. E. Belcam, of Hyde, was the judge, and he awarded the first prize to F. Horsfall, of Leeds (who represented "Monety's birthday," with imitations of a jew's harp, tuning a fiddle, a crying baby, phonograph, etc.), and this announcement was the signal for a teamendary. the signal for a tremendous outburst of applause, this artiste being the one "fancied" by the majority. The second he gave to W. Wade, of Yeadon, for his versatile "Musical farmer." The third fell to H. Morris, of Manchester, whose song was of a beefsteak pudding which might have been used for almost anything — except food. Mr. Belcam said this vocalist had appeared before him on many previous occasions, and he was glad to be able to award him a prize at last, the fact being that he had changed his programme for the better. The fourth prize he gave to T Downey, of York. For the fifth, W. Walton, of Ashton, and W. Pickles, of Rochdale, had attained the same number of points; and, as there really was not time to "tie for it," he had thought it better to divide the prize between them. The medal for the best local he awarded to J. Whitwham, of Hebden Bridge, who was three points ahead of R. Howarth Todmorden. The awards gave general satisfaction. The winner of the first prize gave another song, and with this the proceedings ended.

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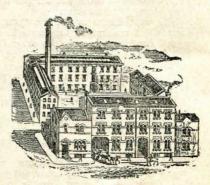


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LONDON NOTES.

By "X=Rays."

So the much talked of Association Quartette Contest has come and gone, and can once more be written down as a success, and a big one too. Well done Walthamstow! You certainly turned up in your crowds and were rewarded by seeing the cup and the premier honours taken off by one of your own bands.

I hear the Walthamstow Temperance is very proud indeed of their win, and it made them all feel like the proverbial old war horse—ready again for the fray. Well done, lads, have a good try for the other Association Cup.

What equal playing! I see that the prize winners are only one point behind each other, but as I listened to the playing I certainly thought Uxbridge were going to take the Cup to a prominent address in Uxbridge town!

Very glad indeed to see North London Temperance once again on the Association platform. We are pleased to see you there lads, and I am quite sure that you will be in the front rank where prizes are concerned.

Walthamstow Silver have already begun to astonish the public. They were engaged by the County Council to play at the opening of the Southern approach of the Tower Bridge on March 8th when they had a grand reception and played a splendid programme. I notice the good old "B.B. and C.F." March amongst the items and also a solo by Mr. Reay.

Fulham Borough gave a very good performance of "Iolanthe" at the Quartette Contest, and I hear they are going remarkably strong for the coming season. Sorry your Quartette performance did not please the judge well enough to get in the prizes, but you certainly played

Upper Norwood are highly delighted with their first prize. I certainly consider that their quartette played far and away above the other second section

Goldies' Military secured second prize and are highly delighted with their success. Mr. Goldie told me that he has an enormous number of engagements booked for the season.

Brixton Military made their first appearance on a contest platform and I certainly admire their pluck considering that their men had disappointed, and the party they put up was a scratch team.

Very sorry Gravesend are again passing through rough times. Never mind, lads, I hope you will come out all the better after facing your troubles.

Why were Luton not at the Quartette Contest? I understood they were having a good hard try to secure the other Cup, but for some reason they failed to appear.

Dunstable Excelsior are hard at work and look forward to a splendid list of engagements consequent on the Corona-

Watford Artizans are quiet just now as far as engagements are concerned, but are putting in plenty of practice under friend Greenwood.

Lymington Town Volunteers were greatly disappointed they could not get to the Quartette Contest owing to Mr.

Haskell's illness. I hope that he is quite well again by this time.

Sorry Northfleet have not yet come into the Association. Shall be glad to know how things are going with you.

I hear the Norwood Excelsior Band are busy with the "Champion" music. This is a Band I should like to see in friendly competition with the Upper Norwood. Why not join the Association and try your strength?

The L.B. and S.C.R. Locomotive Brass Band gave a grand concert in the Hatcham Liberal Club (New Cross) on Sunday morning, March 9th, when there was a capital attendance. Among the pieces played in grand style were March "Waggon Hill," "Gems from Sullivan No. 1," and "Gems from Sullivan No. 3," and March "Second to None" (Hume). Mr. B. Ginman ably conducted.

I have not heard from all the London Bands although I am obliged to hold over many until next issue. Do not forget, lads, I shall always be pleased to have news of your doings which will reach me promptly if you address it to "X-Rays," "-B.B." Office, 188, Strand, W.C.

* * *

WEST WALES.

Sir,—I think it is time that some of the doings of our Western bands were reported, and as you are starting on a new venture, I thought I would venture also. On behalf of my Western friends I wish you every success. Llwyddiant, Llwyddiant, Llwyddiant a'ch dilyno.

[Our Welsh Editor gives us his word that this is all right, and we hope it is !—ED.] Our bands, I think, are all very busy.

Pontyberem, I hear are in good form, and intend to repeat the success they had at Morriston soon.

Protheroe's Band are working hard for Ammanford.

Tycroes, also, are going strong. I hope their contest will be a success.

their contest will be a success.

Brynaman, I hear, intends to make some

of our older bands sit up very soon.
Gwaun-cae-gurwen is going strong for the

Ystradgynlais are pegging away at the test pieces for the coming contests, and intend to have a place in the prize list.

Cwmtawe have received their new instruments and are holding a contest on April 12th next. Success be yours.

Ystalyfera Temperance are rather quiet just now, but is it a calm before a storm? Seven Sisters are in want of a few players. Plenty of work and a good chance for young men, so bandsmen please note.

Neath Borough, I think, is the best organised band in the West. They intend to give a good account of themselves in the contest-field soon.

Trebanos Public, I hear, are very slow. They are in want of a few men. Why not advertise?

Abergwynfi is another young band that will be in the front rank soon. They mean business, and they have gone the right way about it. Stick well to practice.

Loughor Silver are in want of a bandmaster. Why not go in for a good man at once? There's plenty to be had and I hope to see you all right by the next contest.

There, Mr. Editor, are a few words from the Western district. If acceptable, I shall endeavour to send a note now and then. —"Allegro;"

BITS FROM BRISTOL.

By "Magpie."

Mr. Editor,—Your paper is a marvellous pennyworth, and I hope it will gain what you deserve for your enterprise—a very large circulation.

The B.C. Mission Band.—I am a false prophet, and glad of it. They intend going to Lydney after all, and, what's more, intend being among the best. Well done, my brave warriors, you have driven yourselves late, but go for it—neck or nothing. We have had a sample of what you can do at short notice. Practise hard and give your conductor a chance, and you shall have a first or second.

3rd V.B.G.R. hard at practice, and intended being at top at Lydney. Whoever beats them will have to play all the way. You have had a good start on your rivals, so ought to win. Well, we'll say first or second, so now we have settled the two prizes for Bristol, what will Mr. L. say? That's the question.

Hall of Freedom.—I must express in this column my profound sympathy with the members of this band in the loss they have so recently sustained in the demise of a young cornet player, only 20 years of age. When death lays its hand on any companion, it is sad, and "one touch of nature makes the whole world kin." I am sure the heart of every bandsman in Bristol goes out towards their brethren in the H. of F. Band in sympathy.

Bristol South is doing usual football matches, and being satisfied with that. O, dear! Bristol South PRIZE (capitals please).

Stapleton Band, as above (except prize).

Bedminster I have heard nothing of lately, except a parade at Royal visit. Why not try a contest, Fred?

Avonmouth and Shirehampton.—I hear they are both at low water mark. Come, lads, stir about, and let us have a better account of you. I hear we have a dark horse at Knowles, and I sincerely hope so, and also that Tommy will soon bring them to the front.

Argyle Hall, Kingswood, Air Balloon Hill, etc., still in same old groove. Can nothing arouse you?

nothing arouse you?

St. George.—I have not heard this band for some time, but am told they are putting in some good practices. I hope so, but is that the height of your ambition? Try a contest; it will do you more good than you can imagine.

Bristol City.—I hear this band have

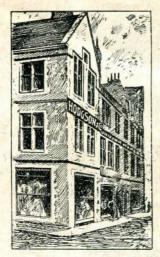
Bristol City.—I hear this band have the "Champion" Journal. We can have no greater guarantee of the excellence of your music, than that it is played by this band of thorough musicians. Is the rumour right that you are going to Wales this summer? We will be sorry to lose you, even for a short season, but we know our musical reputation is safe with you. Success to you.

Not heard any more about the Trombone Quartette. Saw two of them at the A.M.U. concert, and our Liza Hann swore there was another of them playing the grandfather fiddle.

Have you heard the entries for Stourbridge yet? They ought to be big.

When are the Bristol and Bath contests

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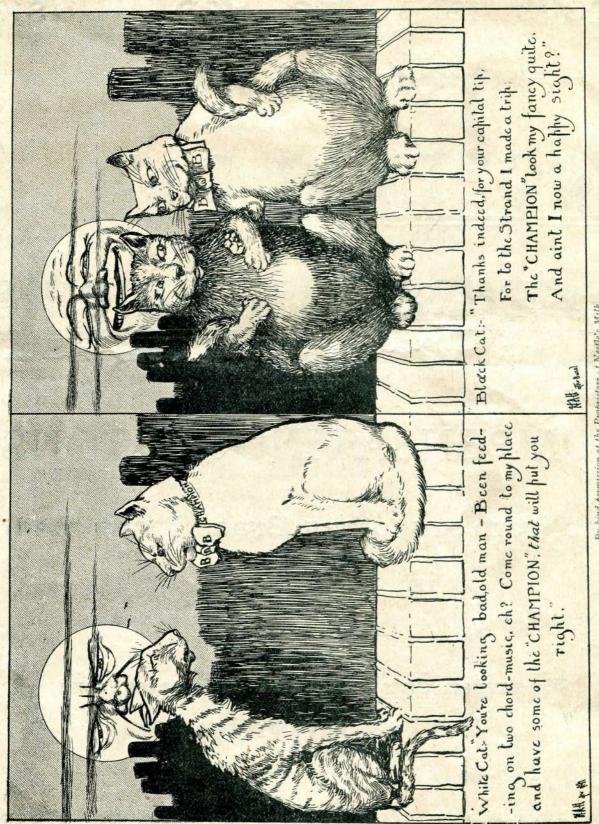
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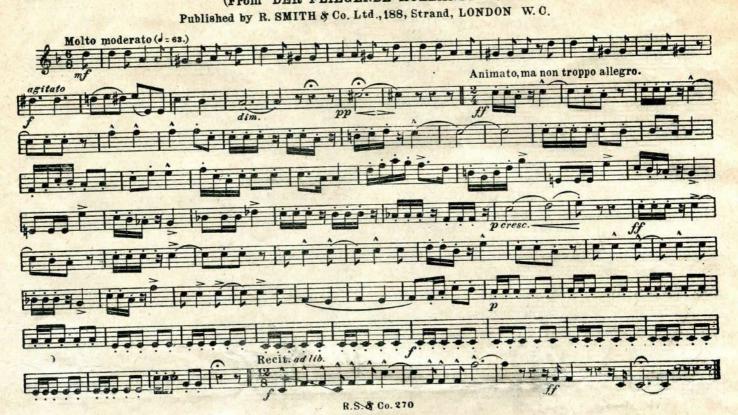


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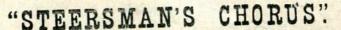
QUARTETTE.

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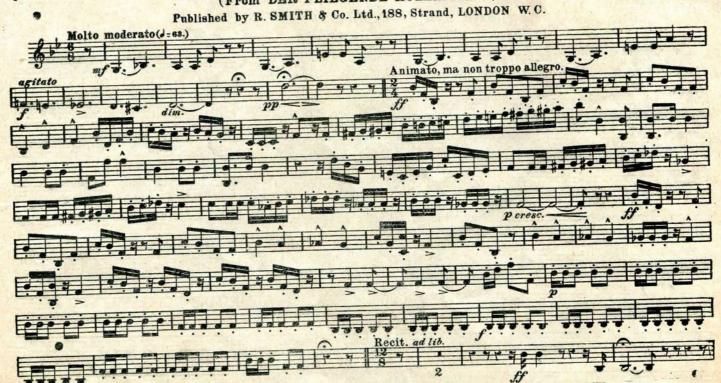
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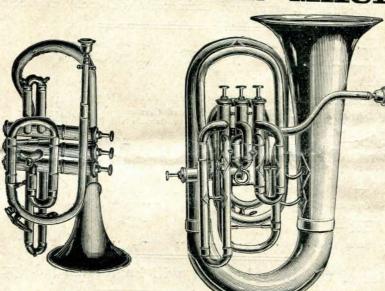
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The music should be forwarded to	
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HARROGATE NOTES.

By "The Prowler."

The Temperance Band have had their general meeting, although it is a bit late. Better late than never, however, and they intend having a go at Ilkley contest. I have not heard them rehearse the valses yet, so I don't know what condition they are in.

The Borough Brass Band held their first "smoker," at their headquarters, on Monday week, when a very enjoyable evening was spent. There was a splendid variety of talent, and last, but not least, two presentations. The first was the presentation of a side drum to the band, the donor of this handsome present being Mr. Hamilton, who, speaking on the abilities of the band, said it gave him great pleasure to make the presentation, and so long as the band continued to improve, and go on the upright manner in which they were doing, he would not say what else he would do for them. Mr. J. T. Booth and Mr. Valentine accepted the drum on behalf of the trustees of the band. The next item was the presentation of a marble clock to the solo euphonium player of the band, Mr. J. Winterburn, who has just lately come of age. This valuable present was subscribed for by the bandsmen, who wished to shew to their brother bandsman some mark of esteem. Mr. Valentine, in making the presentation, spoke very highly of the recipient's abilities, and likewise pointed out that during the whole of this last year he had only been absent from practice twice, and on one of those occasions he was ill in bed. Then Mr. Winterburn (in his maiden speech) thanked Mr. Valentine and the bandsmen for the kindness they had bestowed upon him. Well done, modest John! Your little speech was a knock out. Well, as this was the first smoker in connection with the band it will be hoped that it will not be the last, as everyone who attended this one was delighted with the entertainment, and many expressed their opinion that it was the best smoker they have ever been at.

Now, you big bands, get ready for the Knaresboro' band contest, August 14th. Sir Thomas Valentine again occupies the chair (tent). You supporters and bandsmen of the Boro' Band, who have any old cast-offs or any old pianos, motor cars, cottage houses or chequebooks to give away, kindly send them to the hon, sec. of the band, as they are going to have a jumble sale in aid of the instrument fund. Will the Boro' bandsmen also read, mark, learn and inwardly digest the announcement under the heading of the semi-final round for the £1,050 cup, which appears in the "11 Guiramento," and you have also " B.B." for March 15th? You have had some good rehearsals on it, and if the place of the contest is not too far away for you, why not have a try at it? You won't disgrace yourselves.

MIDLOTHIAN MEMS.

By "MidIothianite."

Musselburgh Trades' Band held their annual social last Friday evening, when a most enjoyable programme was carried through. Treasurer Simpson gave a statement of the accounts for the past vear, showing a credit balance at the end of the year, of £59 2s. 6d., which spoke well for the appreciation and patronage of the band in the locality.

Polton Brass Band held a most successful concert in the Springfield Hall the other Saturday evening, which was packed. These paper lads are going in for hard training, and are on the "cardush," hunting, I hear, to complete their silver-plated set of Besson instruments, and I wish them every success.

Bonnyrigg and District, are still hanging to it, and I believe they mean to shiver some of the league bands this season. They have secured some good men for the coming season, and mean to make up for lost time. Good luck ta yea!

The Midlothian Brass Band League has, I believe, only four bands left to fight the battles this coming season, namely:—Musselburgh, Bonnyrigg, Newtongrange, and Polton. I hear that the West Calder, Penicuick, and Westfield bands have all withdrawn from the League. I also hear that they are likely to get two new bands from Midlothian as new members. Good luck ta yea.

I see that the Peebles Band have secured their new set of silver-plated Boosey instruments, which are beauties. They are not content with that, however, but they want their new uniform made as quick as possible, to make a good shine for the first turnout. I hear that they are anxious to become members of the Midlothian League, but cannot be admitted, on account of being a few miles out of the radius of Midlothian. Cheer up, Wattie, and add more silver to your collection already gained.

I hear that the Penicuick lads have been in deep water for some time back. I believe the celebrated euphonium player and composer (Jack Antoniazzi) has left them to fill another situation in Wales. He will be sadly missed in their district. They have also lost their bass trombone player (Mr. Franklin). Hard lines on this band. However, buck up, and get your recruiting sergeant on the job.

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YORKSHIRE NOTES.

By "Shoddythorpe."

I have not much faith in Easter contests as showing what a band will do during the season! Twenty bands will compete and sixteen of these will often disappear from the arena for another year. At Whitsuntide a dozen will trot through their paces, and of these only six think fit to try again! It is hard for we scribes to say this or that band is in good form, when they don't work full time; most of them knock off at "breakfast time." Had I my own way some of these bands would be knocked off before breakfast!

I was going to give a resumé of the bands in this district, but find it impossible. Castleford say they are as good as ever. Thornhill may not have Messrs. Ward and Quarmby at every contest, but they are in fine form. Dewsbury Temperance are good. Armley and Wortley mean to compete at all the first contests. Leeds City I know not of their Batley have done much pracstrength. tice. Brighouse are better than ever. Holme are the best band for miles (when Hepworth are not there). Lee Mount are meditating on a tour. Wike 'say nowt," but, like the bird, they think a deal, and practice too. Hodgson, Ingham, and Fred Marshall are back again with them. Dike would be in more favour if they spoke to us more often. What is known of them has to be got when they appear.

Bandsmen: Remember Ardsley Contest. Mr. J. Walker is judge this time, so roll up! I get some beautiful letters from bands. If I did not know different, I should certainly say Sousa had no chance against them. Well, I would rather have these letters than none at all. Keep the pot boiling, and I will discuss the menu.

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BAND INSTRUMENTS.

CONTESTS. "CHAMPION"

BIRTLEY

Contest, Saturday, May 10th, 1902; 1st Prize, £10, and "Champion" Challenge Cup, 2nd £8, 3rd, £6, 4th, £4, 5th, £2, and 6th, £1; "Sullivan No. 3," "Beethoven," or "The Slave" may be played; Handsome special prizes. Judge: H. Barker, Esq., (Bradford); Sec.: Thos. Fish, 14, Craig Street, Birtley, Co. Durham.

CHEPSTOW

The Contest of South Wales. Grand Brass Band Contest at Chepstow Castle, on Whit-Tuesday, May 20th, 1902. British Bandsman Challenge Cup. Test piece—"Sullivan No. 1" (Champion Journal). Hon. Sees.: W. A. Waters, Fred Williams, A. G. Hoare.

CANNOCK

Horticultural Society. Prepare for the Annual Contest, when Test Piece will be from the Champion Journal. Full particulars later. A. Whitehouse, Linger Wood, Bridgtown, Cannock.

HUDDERSFIELD

Brass Band Contest (Band of Hope Union Demonstration). Greenhead Park, Whit-Tuesday, May 20th, 1902. Cash Prizes, £10, £7, £4, £2, and £1. Test Piece: "Gems of Sullivan No. 3" (Champion Journal). All Bands contesting except the winners of 1st, 2nd, and, 3nd wriges, will be allowed £1 to 2nd, and 3rd prizes, will be allowed £1 to-wards their expenses. Entries close May 6th. Judge: T. Valentine, Esq., of Harrogate. Full particulars on application to the Contest Secretary, A. Tiffany, Musical Instrument Dealer, &c., Lindley, Huddersfield.

KING CROSS

Subscription Prize Band will hold a Grand Brass Band Contest on Saturday, May 17th, 1902. 1st Prize, £15; 2nd, £10; 3rd, £5; 4th, £2; and 5th, £1. Test Piece: "Sullivan No. 3" or "Il Giuramento" (Champion Journal). H. Bennett, Secretary, 60, Ripon Street, Kingston, Halifax.

CLEVELAND

Steel Works Band will hold a Grand Brass Band Contest in the Recreation Ground, Grangetown, Saturday, May 17th, 1902. Test Piece: "Beethoven" or "The Slave" (Champion Journal). Prizes; 1st, £10; 2nd, £6; 3rd, £4; 4th, £1. Judge: B. D. Jackson, Esq. J. H. Burlison, Secretary, 31, Pochin Road, Grangetown.

HEBBURN

Contest on May 24th, 1902, for bands who have not won a cash prize exceeding £10 during 1900 and up to date of entry. Test Pieces—"Stillivan No. 3," "Beethoven," or "The Slave" (Champion Journal). Prizes: 1st, £10 (and "Deuchar" Challenge Cup value £15 15s.); 2nd, £5; 3rd, £2; and 4th, £1. Own Choice March Contest—1st, £1, 2nd, 10s. Crand messed to preferences. 2nd, 10s. Grand massed performance of the splendid Coronation March (composed by Mr. Percy Godfrey, Mus. Bac.) and published by the *Champion Journal*. Two Gold-centred Silver Medals for Solo Cornet and Euphonium, presented by J. Henry Iles, Esq., also three Silver Medals for Soprano, Solo-Tenor and Solo-Trombone in selection. -Judge, Albert Whipp, Esq., Mus. Bac., (Toronto). Entrance Fee, 10s., to be sent to Thos. Kirtley, 9, Arthur Street, Hebburn Colliery.

EAST ARDSLEY

Old Band will hold their Fourth Annual Contest on Whit-Saturday, May 17th, 1902. Test Piece, "Sullivan No. 3" (Champion Journal). — F. Saville, Secretary, East Ardsley, Wakefield.

STOURBRIDGE

The Titan Works Brass Band will hold their Annual Contest on Easter Monday, March 31st, 1902. Test Piece: 1st Section, "Beethoven"; 2nd section, "The Slave." Prizes—Section I., 1st Prize, £12 cash, and splendid Shield value £15 15s.; 2nd Prize, £7; and 3rd Prize £5. Section II., 1st Prize, cash £5 and Champion Journal Cup; 2nd Prize £3; 3rd Prize £2. Secretary, Rowland Jennings.

ABERGAVENNY

Grand Brass Band Contest will be held on Faster Monday, March 31st, 1902. Test Piece, "Sullivan No. 3" (Champion Journal). Prizes: 1st, £20, 2nd, £6, 3rd, £4. Judge, A. R. Seddon, Esq.

WALTHAMSTOW

Silver Band will hold a Contest on Saturday, July 26th, 1902. Test piece, "The Slave. Full particulars later.

NEWTOWN

(N. Wales). The Royal Welsh Warehouse Recreation Society will hold their Annual Contest on Saturday, June 21st, 1902. Open Contest. Test Piece, "Sullivan No. 3" (Champion Journal). Prizes, £30, £18, £8, £4. Adjudicator: J. Ord Hume, Esq. Welsh Contest.—Test Piece, "Welsh Airs" (Champion Journal). Prizes 215, 610, 620 Weish Contest.—Test Piece, "Welsh Airs" (Champion Journal). Prizes: £15, £10, £5. Adjudicator: J. W. Beswick, Esq. Quickstep (own choice) £2 2s.; £1 1s. Entrance fee: 10/6 (open contest); 7/6 (Welsh contest); to reach secretary not later than June 7th. J. M. Jones, Newtown, North Wales.

HASLEMERE

Southern Counties' Association. Annual Contest on Whit-Monday, May 19th, 1902, at Hazlemere. Test Pieces (1st "Sullivan No. 3." (2nd) "Faust No. 1." (Champion Journal).

CAERPHILLY

Contest. This Contest will be held on Whit-Monday, May 19th, 1902, when Test Pieces will be 'Sullivan No. 3," and "Songs of Yore. Full particulars later. T. Jones, Eisteddfod Secretary, Bryntirion, Caerphilly, Glam.

NORTHUMBERLAND

League. "The Slave" (Champion Journal) s the Test Piece at the League Contests at Albert Edward (North Shields), March 29th; Barrington. August 4th.

East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire Amateur Brass Band Association. Grand Contest at Hull, on Whit-Saturday, May 17th, 1902. Test Piece, "Il Giuramento," or "The Slave." Champion Journal. Full particulars later.

MURTON COLLIERY.

Grand Band Contest June 21st. Testpiece: "Sullivan No. 3." Secretary: S. Farmer, 38, Church Street, Murton Colliery.

WOLVERHAMPTON.

May 31st, 1902.

Champion Journal.

BATH

Grand Brass Band Contest will be held in connection with the Bath Royal Horticultural Society, on June 14th, 1902. Test Pieces, 1st section, "Sullivan No. 3"; 2nd section, "Alpha," both from Champion Journal. Prizes, 1st Section—1st, £25; 2nd, £15; 3rd, £10; 4th, £7; 5th, £5. 2nd section—1st, £6; 2nd, £4; 3rd, £2; 4th, £1. Particulars from Messrs. Pearson & Jeffery, Secretaries, 2. Northumberland Buildings, Bath.

BARMOUTH

Eisteddfod Band Contest will be held on Easter Monday, March 31st, 1902, when Champion Journal selection "Sullivan No. 2" will be test piece. R. Stead, Esq., Adjudicator. Full particulars from the Secretaries, Messrs. J. Adams and Rhys Jones, Glanymor, Barmouth, Wales.

HEXHAM

For Tyneside Bands. Hexham Contest on September 18th, 1902, when bands will have choice of playing either "Sullivan's No. 3," "Beethoven," or "The Slave," published by the Champion Journal. Fuller particulars later. Secretary, E. W. Robson, Fellside House, Hexham.

LANARK

The Douglas Colliery Brass Band will hold their 2nd Annual Contest on July 14th, 1902. Test pieces, "Sullivan No. 3" and "The Slave." Full particulars later.

NEW BRIGHTON

A grand Brass Band Contest will be held at the Tower, New Brighton, on August 16th, when splendid prizes will be given. Test piece from the Champion Journal. Full particulars later.

LOFTUS

Cleveland League Contests. Next contest on Life." Judge, J. Ord Hume, Esq. Hon. Sec., W. U. Wright, Brotton House, Brotton, R.S.O., Yorks. April 19th, 1902. Test piece, "A Soldier's

FELLING

Colliery Brass Band. The Grand Brass Band Contest for 1902. Bands may play any one of the following: "Sullivan No. 3," "Beethoven," or "The Slave" (Champion Journal). Full particulars later.

WHARNCLIFFE.

Silkstone Band Contest, Saturday, April 12th, 1902. Test piece: "Alpha" (Champion Journal). Secretary: F. Cookson, 19, Hunt Street, Hoyland Common, Barnsley.

Bandmaster J. W. A. ESKDALE, L.R.A.M.

NOW OPEN AS

Contest Adjudicator, Band Trainer (Brass, Reed or String).

Postal Tuition and Bandsmen's Classes a Speciality. Instruction cards for Students compiled ad lib.

NOTE CHANGE OF ADDRESS-

COATBANK, COATBRIDGE, N.B.

March 22, 1902.	
We Hear	
That Black Dyke will appear in Edinboro' during	g
the whole of Coronation week. That Lindley are getting ready for a good yea	r
on the contest field. That Batley are getting ready for the fray, and-	
That they intend to rub some of their last year' bad luck out.	
That Wyke are appearing at the forthcoming Wolverhampton Exhibition.	g
That Wingate's Temperance mean to exceed the	e
£210 they won last year. That Irwell Springs is on the same tack. That Denton Original will "go strong" thi	1 1
coming season. That Kingston Mills are so busy with engage	
ments-	
That they will not be able to do much con testing.	*
That Hyde Boro' are still active. That Ferranti's Hollinwood scored third in selec-	
tion and second in march at Stalybridge the other Saturday.	
That Musselburgh and Fisherrow Trades invite tenders for a new uniform, and—	
That Mr. James Alexander, 9, Belfield Crescent Musselburgh, N.B., will be glad to hea from you if you will send him a price.	,
from you if you will send him a price. That the band had a grand cinematograph show	v
on the 19th in aid of the uniform fund. That an effort is being made to re-form the Selb-	
Rifle Band, and— That the men will not do the "drills"	
That it will be either "Try again" or a "Bar gain Sale" with Selby Town Prize Band.	
That Beverley United paraded for "oof" las Sunday.	t
That they got some! That Beverley Borough have one or two good	,
things in view.	1
That they will come off shortly. That East Hull intends to show 'em all up this	S
That the Stoke Newington Military has just	t
"played out" for the first time, and— That a local gentleman (their president) enter-	

ust

That a local gentleman (their president) enter-tained them to dinner afterwards.

That a Devizes Town Band has just been formed.

That bands should be on the look out for Coro-nation engagements.

That many of them are!

That Manchester Bands are not happy about their parks.

That they object to outsiders.

That Gainsboro' Volunteers are practising three nights a week.

nights a week. That they are doing well under their new band-

master. That Britannia Ironworks are filling in some

That Britannia Ironworks are filling in some new players.

That Mr. W. Holdsworth is adding to his list of bands.

That he has got Seaham Harbour Bottle Works. That Guisbro' is another.

That Consett Ironworks is going to make things "hum" on Tyneside.

That Cleveland Steelworks and Consett seem fairly evenly matched.

That they are rivals, but—

That they are perfectly friendly.

That Hebburn Colliery are busy with their contest.

contest.

That Hebburn Colliery are busy with their contest.

That Bathgate Brass Band has just presented Mr. James Coutts, of the Broxburn Public, with a handsome gold badge and scart-pin in acknowledgement of services rendered.

That the social at which the presentation was made was a great success.

That Bo'ness is arranging for its park music. That its Council is thinking of paying for it. That Mr. James Lamb, of Broxburn Public, has got married.

That the members of the band have presented him with a handsome oak timepiece in consequence.

That his better half also had a splendid gold brooch handed to her.

That Kinneil contest will be "open" on 17th May.

That Bo'ness and Carriden will be "all there." That there is a "Bone" of contention at Doncaster.

That the case is hardly pleasant reading and

caster.

caster.

That the case is hardly pleasant reading, and—
That where harmony should have prevailed,
there harmony was not!

That the Kirkby-in-Ashfield Temperance have
been doing some good work for the Nottingham Hospital.

That Reading Boro' have just held a successful "smoker."

That the Muschburgh and Fisherson Trades

That the Musselburgh and Fisherrow Trades have just had their annual social, and—
That the finances for the year were very satis-

That the huances for the year were very satisfactory.

That the Cresswell Band have just done a kind action in playing at Staveley for the benefit of a member of the band, and—

That they realised £9.

That there has been a meeting to consider the turning of the Hadleigh Foresters' Band into a Towa Band.

Coming Contests

AND ASSESSMENT OF THE PARTY OF	oming	Contests.	
COMPSTALL	Mar. 29th	CAERPHILLY	May 19th
SOUTHPORT	Mar.29th	*HASLEMERE	May 19th
*NORTH SHIELDS	Mar. 29th	STANLEY	May 10th
BOOTLE	Mar. 20th	HOLMFIRTH	May 19th
*BARMOUTH	Mar. 31st	RHYMNEY	May 19th
*ABERGAVENNY		SOUTHPORT	May 19th
ILKLEY		*CHEPSTOW	May 20th
*STOURBRIDGE		*HUDDERSFIELD	May 20th
CLOUGH HALL (Kidsgrove)	The state of the s	NOTTINGHAM May 20t	
ELSECAR (Kidsgrove)		*HEBBURN COLLIERY	May 24th
WIGAN	A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH		
LYDNEY			May 24th
RUGBY		*WOLVERHAMPTON	May 31st
BARNET		HAWES	June 7th
MOUNTAIN ASH		TONDU AND ABERKENFIG	
CARLISLE	Mar. 31st	*BATH	June 14th
*WHARNCLIFF SILKSTONE	Apr. 12th	HAWARDEN	June 14th
YEADON		*NEWTOWN	June 21st June 21st
NANTYMOEL	Control of the Paris of the Par		
MORLEY		NEW BRIGHTON	July 5th
BELLSHILL			July 8th
CLIVIGER		WATERHOUSES	July 12th
DUBLIN		*LANARK	July 12th July 14th
DUBLIN		*WALTHAMSTOW	July 26th
RAWTENSTALL			The second second
WALSALL		*BARRINGTON (Northd.) *NEW BRIGHTON	Aug. 4th
BIRSTALL			Aug. 16th
*BIRTLEY NEW MILLS		*HEXHAM	Sept. 13th
		BANGOR	Sept. 13th
ANNFIELD PLAIN		*CRYSTAL PALACE (London)	Sept. 27th
BO'NESS* *CLEVELAND		*FELLING COLLIERY	
*EAST ARDSLEY	NA COLUMN TO THE REAL PROPERTY OF THE PARTY	*MALTON	
		*CANNOCK	
*KING CROSS, HALIFAX		SCOTTISH CENTRAL	
HULLSKELMANTHORPE		(An asterisk () denotes "Champion	
SKELMANTHURPE	May 17th	(All asterisk (*) denotes Champion	music.)
			100000000000000000000000000000000000000

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APOLLO WORKS, Vere Street. off Bristol Street, BIRMINGHAM.

Visitors are invited to inspect this up-to-date Model Factory. instruments taken in exchange. Easy Terms arranged. Anything sent six weeks on Bands wishing to save money should communicate with this firm.

Bits in Brief.

SHEFFIELD.

The following letter from Mr. W. T. Bestwick, who, we are glad to know, has again been appointed manager by the Parks Committee, speaks

"Dear Sir,—Having been again appointed by the Parks Committee, Manager and Superintendent of Music in our City Parks, I have engaged the following bands for the coming season, viz.: The celebrated Dannemora Steel Works Prize Band, conductor R. Richford; the Sheffield City Police Band, conductor Inspector Parkinson; the Grimesthorpe Prize Band, conductor H. Mercer; the Newhall Prize Band, conductor J. A. Dyson; the Recreation Prize Band, conductor W. T. Bestwick; the Upperthorpe Military Band, conductor W. T. Bestwick; the Upperthorpe Military Band, conductor W. Hanson; the Spital Hill Prize Band, conductor W. R. Fisher; the Nether Hallam Band, conductor Enoch Reed; also the celebrated Sheffield Temperance Prize Band, under their old and esteemed conductor, Mr. J. P. Davison, who I was very pleased to find, on visiting the band, had got back to his right and proper place again. Most of these bands are playing music from R. Smith's 'Champion' Journal therefore we expect to hear some grand programmes during the coming season.—Yours truly, W. T. Bestwick." the coming Bestwick."

the coming season.—Yours truly, W. T. Bestwick."

The Grimesthorpe Prize Band are now going in for all they are worth for season 1902. They are having good practices under Mr. G. H. Mercer who, at the present time is very busy with the band and private engagements at concerts, etc. The band has just had a smoking concert at the Steam Clock Hotel. A splendid programme was given by the band, consisting of selections, quartettes, solos, etc., and songs were sung by Mr. Joe Davis, Mr. Brookes, Mr. Oldroyd, and others. The most pleasing item, and most surprising, was a presentation by Mr. Mercer to four bandsmen who, during 1901, attended most practices. During 1900 prizes were given for similar reasons, and everyone knew beforehand, consequently they had to be divided amongst eight. But during 1901 there was no competition, with the result two were equal for first, with two more a little behind them for second. The first prizes were two splendid electro-plated teapots; the second prizes were two pocket-knives. It appears that Mr. Mercer, at the commencement of the year, intended giving these prizes, but did not let anyone know about it. He kept a register of the members who attended (or, more properly, of those who didn't). I think the Grimesthorpe bandsmen ought to be proud of their bandmaster and conductor. This year, 1902, prizes are offered for the best attendance at everything: practices, engagements, parks, etc. The band is engaged by Sheffield Parks Committee for the coming season, and, judging by the practice, will give a very good account of themselves. Just received first issue of the "British Bandsman," which I think is very much all-right, and is just the thing wanted.

Newhall Band, I hear, have engaged Mr. C. much all-right, and is just the thing wanted.

Newhall Band, I hear, have engaged Mr. C. Marsden, and intend going to Elsecar contest on Easter Monday. Well done, boys. Nothing ventured, nothing won, you know, is a very old saying. May success attend you, is the wish of—

Musselburgh and Fisherrow Trades' Band.

On Friday evening last the annual social of this band was held in M'Laren's Cafe, Mussel-burgh. There was a good attendance, presided over by Treasurer Simpson, and apologies for absence were intimated from ex-Bailie White, Councillor Kitto, Mr. Alex. Mitchell, and Mr. W., G. Forster

Councillor Kitto, Mr. Alex. Mitchell, and Mr. W. G. Forster.

Treasurer Simpson, in the course of his opening remarks, said they were met for the fourth time under the auspices of the Musselburgh and Fisherrow Trades' Band. This social gathering had become an institution, and he trusted it would long continue to be one. He would just refer for one moment to the fact that during last year the financial success of the band had been very striking and very great, considering the conditions under which it had been carried on. The year that had just closed finished with a balance of £50 as. 6d. (Applause.) That he considered to be a most satisfactory state of matters, and one which reflected very much credit on the committee and the more active officials. During the season the band entertained the people of Musselburgh to the extent of playing in different parts of the town somewhere like 40 programmes. He did not think he was wrong when he said that if there was one thing more than another that induced people to come and spend their holidays in Musselburgh, and not only spending their holidays, but spending their money, and thus benefiting the town, it was the way they were entertained by the band. He knew the band was only too pleased to entertain the people who came to the town, and as they were doing this for the town benefit, they were deserving of the support help had received, and perhaps more. He trusted it would be a long time before the merchants and the public of Musselburgh would stint in any way their generosity in this direction. After referring to the necessity of the band having a new uniform (tenders for which they are advertising for), the Treasurer went on to say that a great deal of the success of the band was due, to the manner in which their knowledge and practical training were imparted to them by Mr. Moore, the conductor, whose services, he was glad to see, were being continued by the band. Treasurer simpson also paid a high compliment to Mr. Alexander, the secretary, to whom, he said, much of Treasurer Simpson, in the course of his opening

menced morning. The S. Wood.

A resume of the balance-sheef appeared in monthly issue for February.

GREYS (ESSEX).

Greys and District Temperance Silver Band have got the "Champion" Journal, and are working hard at it, preparing programmes for the park this coming season. Mr. W. Layzell, their conductor, believes in "young blood," for he is at present coaching ten of them. Illness prevented the band sending a quartette party to Walthamstow.

BLACKBURN.

The Blackburn Public Band had a very suc-cessful social on Saturday, March 8th, in aid of the Band funds. They are working hard at practice, and have booked several engagements the coming season.

for the coming season.

All Saints' Band promises to be much better this year than for some time past, several of their old players having rejoined. There is no reason why they should not make a name for themselves on the contest field. What say you,

Blackburn Old Borough Band practices are not very well attended at present, the Bandmaster not being able to attend through other engagements. No doubt when he returns they will make up for lost time.

Blackburn Old Prize Band have been out playing to subscribers, and have been fairly successful. I hear they are going in for contesting again this season. They could not do better than enter for the contest at Cliviger, and meet Wilpshire and Ragged School Bands. Both intend competing. It would stir things up a bit in Blackburn to have three bands at one contest. Blackburn Ragged School Prize Band held their annual social on Saturday, March 8, when the band and a few friends sat down to an excellent tea, after which a pleasant evening was

the band and a few friends sat down to an excellent tea, after which a pleasant evening was spent in singing, dancing, etc. Mr. Brooks, the bandmaster, played a cornet solo in a masterly manner. Handsome medals were presented to two band members, J. Kenyon and S. Hill, for collecting the highest amount in subscriptions. Mr. H. Boyle, who made the presentations, hoped that the band would try to surpass their past successes, and, to encourage them, he promised to give a gold medal to the member who had the best record for attendance and punctuality at practice during the next twelve months. The band has decided to enter the concert at Cliviger on April 26th.

Wilpshire Band, I believe, intend having another try, and are preparing for the contest

wipshire band, i benefit as for the contest at Cliviger on April 26th. If they are successful I am informed that a good subscription has been promised them by one of their supporters.



MAIDENHEAD.

The Maidenhead Town Band have been practising very hard of late in order to give a good account of themselves in playing the programme of music given by them in the Town Hall last week, the result of which proved a great success. The crowded audience and unstinted applause given the band shows that it was greatly appreciated by all assembled. Sir Arthur Sullivan's grand selection, "Iolanthe," was included in the programme, and it was a great credit to the performers for the very excellent manner in which this fine selection was rendered. The Mayor honoured them by his presence as Chairman. They attended a military funeral of one of the local volunteers a few weeks ago, when Chopin's "Funeral March" was very effectively played. They also recently played at the Mayor's dinner to the old people in commemoration of the Coronation year. They are very busy now completing the season's programme for which they are securing all the latest and best pieces of music and are looking forward to what they justly deserve—a very successful season.—Harmony.

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No Alkali used to darken the Colour.

REFRESHING, NOURISHING, SUSTAINING.

Insist on having CADBURY'S (sold only in Packets and Tins), as other Cocoas are sometimes

substituted for the sake of extra profit.

Bits in Brief.

LIVERPOOL.

The visit of the Princess Louise and Duke of Argyll caused quite a stir in the city last week. The bands of the 1st R.G.A., 2nd V.B.K.L.R., 1st L.R.E., and Pipe Band 8th V.B. Scottish each furnished a guard of honour. The Liverpool Constabulary Band also played selections in front of St. George's Hall.

The 3th V.B. "Liverpool Irish" had their annual church parade on Sunday last. The band of the battalion, under Mr. J. Farrell, were in fine form, and it is a great pleasure to note the improvement in this band since he has had control.

ontrol.

Mr. F. Howell has, I hear, been again appointed to Eastham Gardens. The performances of his band last season were a great attraction, and I am sure that visitors will again be well catered for. At any rate, the arrangements could not be in more capable hands than those of "F.H."

not be in more capable hands than those of "F.H."

Birkenhead Borough were out at a P.S.A. meeting, and the marches played en route were "Champions" in every sense of the word. Mr. W. Jenkins (late solo cornet, New Brighton Tower) now has this band in hand, and under his tuition they are coming on rapidly.

4th L.V.A. are, I believe, certain competitors at Bootle. Good luck to you, Fred!

Birkenhead Postal is very quiet and does not make the progress it should do. The fault, I am sure, does not rest with the bandmaster.

Bootle Borough have not had their usual full practices lately, but will nevertheless pull themselves together and give a good performance on the 29th inst.

Wavertree Village Band, although only formed twelve months ago, is doing exceptionally well under Mr. C. Rimmer. The members have worked well together to make the band a success, and their ambitions look like being realised. The balance sheet for the year showed a profit of over £50, which I believe is to be applied to the purchase of new instruments and repairs. They are giving a concert on the 2nd prox, in aid of their uniform fund, of which more anon.

The entries for Bootle contest close to-day, and in next week's issue I will give a full list of competitors.—Highsee.

The Musical Trades Association.

ANNUAL DINNER

ANNUAL DINNER.

This annual event took place at the Midland Grand Hotel on Wednesday evening, March 12th, and was in every respect a great success. D. J. Morgan, Esq., J.P., M.P., the well-known chair, and was supported by many prominent endir, and was supported by many prominent E. Barnes, Esq., Mayor of St. Pancras, and Alderman Edgar Horne, J.P. (ex-Mayor of Derby), and Mr. E. W. Shackell, of Cardiff. The trade was very strongly represented by the majority of the leading firms, most interesting and effective speeches being made by Major G. D. Rose, President of the Association, C. H. Chatterton, Esq., E. J. Moore, Esq., and Louis Bamberger, Esq. During the evening a splendid musical and variety entertainment was provided, the artistes including Mr. John Coates, of Carl Rosa fame. Altogether the evening was a most pleasant one, and the Association are to be congratulated upon the amount of life and energy that was displayed on this occasion. We regret to notice the absence of our well-known brass instrument manufacturers, and the thought occurred to us that it would be well if our friends in this line would associate themselves with such an enterprise. Mr. H. E. H. Standish, of Messrs. Wallis and Sons, is the Secretary, and he will be delighted to forward any musical instrument manufacturers full particulars of the Association and the work it is doing. We were very delighted to see our old friend, Mr. James Wallis, who is the founder of the Association, present

WANTED A GOOD SOLO CORNET by the St. A bans City Prize Silver Band. Work found for a steady man in the Building trades, Apply H. Everett, Hon. Sec., 17, New Kent Road, St. Albans.

VORK BOYS' INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

WANTED, a RESIDENT BANDMASTER and YARDMASTER, salary £50 per annum with rations, quarters, coal, gas, etc. Must be a good player, able to teach well. A capable and willing worker will find a comfortable position.—Apply with copies of testimonials to—THE SUPERINTENDENT.

Rays' Industrial Sabool, Verb. Boys' Industrial School, York.

SCARBOROUGH.

SCARBOROUGH.

A social gathering in connection with the Scarborough Borough Brass Band took place at the Falsgrave Temperance Hall on Wednesday. An excellent tea was provided, and about 70 sat down. In the absence of Councillor W. Taylor, Mr. R. Plaxton presided over the after proceedings. The chairman proposed "Success to the Scarborough Borough Band," and mentioned that a committee of gentlemen had been formed to further the interests of the band. Mr. Plaxton went on to say that he had a very pleasing duty to perform, and that was to present Mr. Blackburn, their worthy bandmaster, with a useful timepiece that had been subscribed for by some of his admirers and friends as a token of their esteem and regard, and wishing him every success in his undertakings in the future. Mr. Blackburn, in thanking the subscribers for the present, said it had come to him quite as a surprise. The band had done good work in the past, but there was no reason why it should not do better in the future if the bandsmen stuck together. The remainder of the evening was spent in harmony.

* * * BROXBURN.

BROXBURN.

The Public Band have been engaged by Mr. Hamish M'Laren, entertainment organiser, to give performances at various places in the west of Scotland, commencing on Thursday, 20th March, and terminating on Sunday, 23rd March. According to present arrangements, one performance will be given at Alexandria on the Thursday, three on Saturday at Port-Glasgow, Greenock, and in the City Hall, Glasgow; and two on Sunday in the Waterloo Rooms, Glasgow, and at Clydebank. The band will consist of 25 players. They will reside in Glasgow, and their expenses from Glasgow to the various places will be paid. This is the first engagement of the kind the band have had, and it has been offered to them on account of the premier position they occupy among Scottish bands. It is hoped that this engagement will lead to something even better in the future. Mr. Wm. Kane, the conductor, is busily engaged in selecting an attractive programme.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

R. J. HAYNES. **NEW & SECOND-HAND** BAND INSTRUMENT DEALER

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CARNARVON.

Croesaw calonog a phob llwyddiant ir "B.B." wythnosol.

Croesaw calonog a phob llwyddiant ir "B.B."
wythnosol.

I am sure every true bandsman was filled with
joy on the appearance of the weekly "B.B.",
the proprietor is to be congratulated on the excellent and up-to-date paper presented before
us. The splendid and interesting articles by
such famous men as Alex. Owen and J. Ord
Hume, besides the cartoon and band news from
all parts, are well worth six times the price. I
sincerely hope that the bandsmen of Great
Britain will appreciate Mr. Iles' enterprise by
well supporting him, and do our utmost to have
a good circulation for the paper.

On St. David's Eve, a grand promenade concert
was held at the Pavilion, Carnarvon, the chief
feature in which were the Nantlle Vale Band,
who played a grand programme of Welsh airs.
By special request they also gave a splendid
rendering of "Sullivan's No. 3 Gems," from the
"Champion Journal."

I understand that the Nantlle Band have
several engagements already booked for the
coming season, and it looks as if it will be a
record year for them as regards engagements.
On Easter Monday they are engaged at Pwllheli
sports, at which place they are very popular. It
is a pity they did not enter some of the contests
that are held on that day at Denbigh, Colwyn
Bay, or Barmouth; but I am given to understand
that if they would enter that all other bands in
North Wales would not compete with them;
hence they keep clear of these small contests.
But I hope they will "buck up" and enter some
of the big events during this season.

Waenfawr Band are very quiet now; they
were a very promising young band a few years
ago.—Gomer.

*Our Welsh Editor assures us that this means
in English, "A hearty welcome, and wishing suc-

*[Our Welsh Editor assures us that this means in English, "A hearty welcome, and wishing suc-cess to the "Weekly B.B." We are accordingly pacified.-Ed.] * * *

CLEVELAND.

Mr. James Hill, solo trombone, of Cleveland Steelworks Prize Band, writes:—"Will you kindly correct the statement in Cleveland Notes (March 8th issue) stating that I won the Cumberland solo contest, as such was not the case. The winner was Mr. Hoyley, of Kingston. I played No. 1, and was five points behind the winner."

We omitted to mention in the judge's remarks of the Skinningrove contest that Brotton Temperance were awarded the gold medal for best trombone player, as well as obtaining first prize. We gladly make this announcement and congratulate the band.

TWO COMPLETE SETS OF INSTRUMENTS

(BOOSEY AND BESSON)

FOR SALE, either separately or the set.

P. H. DAVIS.

Maker and Repairer,

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INSTRUMENT MAKERS AND REPAIRERS. BAND

152, Westgate Road, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE

J. H. Woods begs to announce that his contract with Besson and Co., Ltd., having expired, he has resumed the old established business of Woods & Co,, where Repairs to Band Instruments of all makes will be promptly, skilfully, and economically done on the premises as hitherto.

BEST HOUSE IN THE TRADE FOR REPAIRS. SPECIALITY CORNETS (own make) £5 10s., £4 4s., £3 3s., each Cash.

Easy Terms arranged if desired. Sent on 10 days' approval. Please note that business is still carried on at

152, WESTGATE ROAD, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Bradford Solo Contest.

Bradiford Solo Coffeest.

Bandsmen have Mr. Reuben Y. Walton, a well-known Bradford band enthusiast, to thank for his energy which provided them with a solo contest at the Temperance Hall on the 8th inst. There was, unfortunately, only a moderate audience, and Mr. Walton will, we regret to say, sustain a financial loss, but the success, musically, was beyond doubt. The contest was for euphonium and trombone players, and six players entered for the former and seven for the latter instrument. Mr. Charles Jeffrey officiated as judge, and his award gave general satisfaction. Mr. J. E. Ward (the Yorkshire representative of Messrs. Higham, Mauchester) and Mr. W. Halstead, of Wyke band, ably assisted the competitors as accompanists. Below we give the

JUDGE'S REMARKS:

TROMBONE.

No. 1. Handel Haley (Cleckheaton Victoria).

Maestoso: Rather boisterous; low note not a good one. Andante: Very good tone and style, nicely played. Allegro mod.: Played with some go in it, which is quite right; the repeat was also very good; the only fault was the bottom note, which was not so good, but your top register was very good. A very good performance. (First prize.)

note, which was not so good, but your top register was very good. A very good performance. (First prize.)

No. 2. Alfred Hollings (Kirkstall Old, — Opening very good, but I am hearing so many slipped notes; a good style of playing. Solo very good; nice tone. 1st variation: Moderately played, with the exception of slips. and variation: This is much better. 3rd variation: The execution here is not distinct. 4th variation: Only moderate.

No. 3. T. S. Meredith (Bradford Rifles).

Opening allegro: Rather uncertain, and sounds rather rough. Andante: Very good; but the tone is not to my liking. Tempo di polka: This goes well; your execution and shifting is very good indeed. The trio very well played, but the tone sounds rather coarse; but a good performance. (Second prize.)

No. 4. J. Lockwood (Batley Old).—Opening: A good tone, but these bad slips spoil you. Solo very well played, 1st variation: This is going very well. 2nd variation: Not so good; you do not seem to tongue and shift together, 3rd variation: This is much better. 4th variation: Not well done; rather jumbled, not distinct.

No. 5. E. Milner (Armley and Wortley).—

No. 5. E. Milner (Armley and Wortley).—
Andante: You are playing this opening too
slow and too rough; the cadenza is not distinct.
Andante solo: You are playing this much better, but you have it too slow, which makes it
lose its effect. 1st variation: Not neat. 2nd
variation: The triplets not distinct; andante
much better. 4th variation: Too piercing; if
you wish to execute on a trombone well, you
should subdue your tone.

C. Varley (Richardshaw Lane).-Good style of playing, but the tone was far from being good, especially in the bottom of the in-strument. I can hear places not exactly in tune, and as you get to the end you seem to get ex-hausted.

No. 7. Angus Crowther (Wyke). — Allegro: Opening very good. Theme: You play this rather rashly. 1st variation: Not quite so neat. 2nd variation: Is not exactly in tune. Andante: Good style. Tempo polaca: Rather too boisterous. Tempo di polka: If you wish to play this neatly, you should play more subdued.

EUPHONIUM.

No. 1. A. Midwood (Cleckheaton Temperance).—Cadenza: Fairly well played, with the exception of a slight stumble in it. Solo very nicely played; phrasing very good. 1st variation: Rather muddled in execution. 2nd variation: Much better in second variation. Andante: Very well rendered; nice tone. Cadenza: Very good. Finale: Execution not clear; wants more practice in execution. (Cleckheaton execution.

No. 2. Tom Parkinson (Cleckheaton Victoria).—Introduction: Very nice opening, but cadenza not distinct; afterwards fairly played; next cadenza execution fairly good, but top A flat not a good note. Solo nicely played, but in one or two places the phrase is broken by breathing in wrong places. 1st variation: Very good indeed, but why don't you play the runs as marked? There is no retard. and variation: Very well done. Last movement very good indeed; but when you take these runs to the bottom you take your own time, which should not be.

No. 3. Leonard Lobley (Bradford City).—Introduction cadenza: Capital. Andante: Played splendidly, with grand expression and phrasing; cadenza also good. Theme: Grand style and a beautiful tone. 1st variation and also 2nd variation: Very neat and cleverly done. Andante: Grand, graceful expression. Presty. The runs superbly done; just a slight hitch in cadenza; but this is a magnificent performance. (First prize).

No. 4. William Garside (Linthwaite). Opening: Very good; nice tone; cadenza, slight slip, but further going nicely; next cadenza cleverly done. Solo: Very nice phrasing indeed. 1st variation: Cleverly done; also and variation: The slurring correctly done; minor very well rendered, with good taste. Next lento beautifully played. Allegro: A real good finish. No. 3 and this have been two very good performances; but the solo of No. 3 was more difficult, so I am bound to give him the preference. (Second prize.)

No. 5. Mark W. Ambler (Queensbury).—Opening: Fair; good tone and style. Cadenza: Very good: Solo fairly well rendered, but you play it too tame; it requires more soul putting into it. 11 rest variation and also 2nd variation: Cleanly executed. Next lento well done, but marred by slips. Cadenza: Well played. Allegro: The slurring very good. A fair, good performance.

formance.
No. 6. Peter Malling (Shelly).—Solo: Very formance.

No. 6. Peter Malling (Shelly).—Solo: very good tone, but is in want of expression. rst variation: Very neatly done and variation: The execution very good. Andante: Nice tone, but played too cold. Next cadenza: You did not mark the quavers according to copy; bottom note rather muffled. Finale: This is marked resolute; it was well played, but wants a little more life.

CHAS. JEFFREY, Adjudicator.

Answers to Correspondents.

the question. Our correspondent, "X-Rays," simply gave the facts as he received that, and we do not think you are fair in suggesting that anyone's name was purposely omitted. P.P., CRES.-We regret that we cannot re-open

omitted.
F.W., Witton.—Yours to hand, with thanks.
C.R.S.—Many thanks for cuttings and card. Glad to hear you were so successful. The "B.B." is "booming big."
KELVIN BRIDGE.—Thanks for news, but most of it is a little too old for use. Events should be sent up as soon as ever they happen—ten days after is a little too ancient!
MODERATO.—Thanks; that's the style. You will see we have used them in the "We hear" column.

MODERATO.—Thanks: that's the style. You will see we have used them in the "We hear" column.

H. E., St. Albans.—Very sorry, but really too old for insertion now. We must impress upon you (and all our correspondents) that news intended for insertion in the coming week's issue, must reach this office NO LATER THAN THE MONDAY. News should be sent up to us as soon as ever it happens, and not kept three or four weeks before sending.

A. R., Leeds.—You may be certain the instrument offered you is not a Besson Class A. The name of this firm is bound to be engraved on the bell, if genuine. Your enquiry reminds us of a case we gave prominence to in the April, 1890, issue of the "B.B." It was a case in which a flute was sold as a genuine Thibouville-Lamy, when in reality it was not of this celebrated make, but of some cheap and inferior manufacture. Messrs. Thibouville-Lamy, and Co. requested us at the time to warn our readers that, without exception, all their instruments had both their name and trade mark engraved thereon. The same fact applies to Messrs. Besson and Co.'s, and all other of the leading makes.

ALFRED HAYS,

Sole Agent for "Buffet" Band { 26, OLD BOND STREET, Instruments (GRAND PRIX, Paris 1900, and all leading Exhibitions & 4, Royal Exchange Buildings, since 1830).

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The Editor does not hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by his correspondents.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Advertisements intended for the next issue must reach the office not later than Monday morning, and all enquiries regarding same should be addressed to the "MANAGER, BRITISH BANDSMAN," 188, Strand, London, W.C.

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