

Music in the Home.

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I Introduction

- a. Definition of music
- b. Effects of music
- c. Influence of music in general

II Discussion

- a. What is the home
 - 1. Without music
 - 2. with music
- b. Objects of music in the home

III Conclusion

- a. Effects on moral natures.

Music in the Home

Music is the art which employs sound as a medium of artistic expression for what is not in the province of literature of sculpture painting of acting or architecture.

Music embodies the inward feelings of which all other arts can but exhibit the effect. Music is inexpressive, but is one of the qualities that place it on the highest level of art excellence, and to have a marked influence on the literature as well as be fitting the player.

Music has a higher mission than merely to please the ear. It is the art which appeals to the heart which must affect our character.

Oh how many wearied marches have the songs been a means of cheer. How often have they inspired the fighting soldier when almost ready to give up in the face of overpowering forces?

Even when the light of reason has gone out, music follows man into the darkest period of his existence. Music is one of the chief joys of those unfortunates who are confined within the walls of insane asylums, and it is a fact, but little known, that many a shattered mind has been restored to reason, through the soothing influence of this art.

Who can imagine a Fourth of July Celebration without music?

When far from home and friends, what language is so powerful to keep alive affections and pleasant remembrances of our birth-place as that of music?

The strongest heart that has endured many trials and braved many dangers, the heart that has learned to give its emotions yields to the few notes that made up the little tune, "Home Sweet Home," and this simple strain has been the means of bringing many a wayward wanderer home again.

The psychological effect of music directly upon the emotions is a much more complex matter. It has been said, that an infant, (in the arms of one of New York's most famous musical critics) was seen weeping at the sound of a sorrowful minor mode, then, immediately change to smiles, when the music was altered to a joyous refrain.

Here we have an effect of music upon the mind, that is much more difficult of analysis, for the same melody or composition will not produce the same effect upon two different persons, even if they be equally emotional and musical.

The distinctions being insisted upon between tone-hearing and music consciousness between sense-training and conceptive development of music^{the} idea rests upon a spiritual scientific basis, and includes more than appearance upon the surface. The whole problem of education is involved.

What is education, and what is character? A failure to understand this

means disaster, be the seeming results of work ever so brilliant.

What is the crying need of the hour in this matter of education? Is it not discovering and un storing the infinite capacity of man to realize the law of "Spirit of Life," and know that the Knowledge of God is within that man who is the image and likeness of infinite and omnipresent intelligence. In other words, is it a training of sense material that we need or an uncovering and unfolding of sense spiritual?

Music is not the work of a vital thing but education, and that education which shall lead to a knowledge of the Son of God, into a perfect man.

From constantly seeing musical articles in the home papers and magazines, the people are led to think more and learn more about music. To know music is to love it.

If the members of home feel tired, weary with the cares of the day, how soothing will the strains of a beautiful composition be to the nerves.

No matter how vile and low a person

may be, there is always a tender spot in his heart, and, though in not all cases, the majority of individuals will pause to listen to the strains of a sweet melody.

A melody if heard in youth and again in old age, by the same person, will recall to the mind pleasant or sad memories. The name of the composition may not be recognized, but the melody will seem familiar.

Music should be made a part of our home-life, of our school-life, and without doubt, it will in the course of time become an important part of our national existence.

Music is a social art, it fills many hearts with the same emotion, it sets many minds to work, and like no other art, oratory perhaps excepted, it arouses large bodies of men to almost superhuman action. We scarcely ever meet for any great object, but that music is drawn in, and is made to serve a purpose. It binds together rational natures, therefore it has a moral

influence in the family, and for this reason all thinking people love to foster it at home. A musical home is a happy home, it could not be otherwise.

Without music, the home would seem gloomy, the time drags on monotonously, with no gleam of light to cheer the inmates of the home, no means by which we spend our leisure moments for enjoyment.

Shakespeare has said, "The man that hath no music in himself.

nor is not moved by concord of sweet sounds,

Is fit for treason, stratagem, and spoils."

No family can afford to do without music. It is a luxury and an economy, a reliever of sorrow, and a spring of enjoyment, a protection against vice, and an incitement to virtue. When rightly used, its effects, physical, intellectual and moral are good.

To make home attractive, music is one of the best of arts for so doing. Contribute kindly feeling, love, music will help in this work.

Music aids greatly in keeping out angry feelings, for it hath charms to soothe the savage.

music is one of the most powerful known incentives to conversation. To appreciate this statement, the first opportunity of attending any social gathering, notice how dreary and how dull the time seems, till some one begins to play or sing. Immediately conversation follows, parties seem more sociable, and a pleasant time is enjoyed by all.

What would our colleges, schools and universities do without music? They would ~~better~~ ~~be~~ compared to a Theological School or some other strict institution of learning.

It is said that music is employed in hospitals, where operations are being performed, which is true, shows us that music has great power to soothe and calm the aching nerves.

The family where good music is cultivated: where parents and children often mingle their voices together in song is the family where peace, harmony and

love prevails.

There is no better cure for bad humor and no medicine more pleasant to take than that of music. Music hath charms, it makes one feel that he has something for which to live, instead of sighing all his days.

It is often lamented that the piano is heard instead of the monotonous spinning wheel and the click of the shuttle. It is a matter of rejoicing rather than muscles of iron, and fingers of steel, driven by the tireless elements, now perform the laborious work of cloth manufacture, and give leisure to cultivated refined tastes in the household.

Music is one of the greatest attractions and amusements for both old and young.

Why should the farmer's household not be as cheerful as that of the city man? There is nothing any better than to have the family join in a hymn or song, or listen to the strains of some beautiful musical composition. The songs sung by the mother to her little child will

be remembered by it in after years,
and may serve to save it from ruin.

Music means not merely tunes adapted to particular emotions, ~~and~~ of notes, a warping voice, a strain of melting sweetness. No voice can be acted as well as sung.

The heart may make music when the lips are dumb. A simple word may be full of music, and quicken the pulses to new, and better emotions, the soul to higher joys.

The harmony of a well ordered life is most graceful music, the tender cares and caresses of the mother, her fond solicitude to make home all it should be, all these make a household of music. If only sound were music, how many thousands would be denied that peace. Some people can not sing or play, yet with natures as fine as harps.

Music is the companion of man. It follows him through joy, and sorrow, it is with him in sickness and health, it is a delight in prisons as well as on pleasure ground. What would socials, concerts,

and various other places of amusement do without music?

It is heard in Sunday School, and in Church. How much more enjoyment is added to the service, by having the song service about twenty minutes before the service proper. It is an outward manifestation of reverence to God. Take the music from the Sunday School, what would remain?

We love music in youth as well as in old age. It is a delight in the school-rooms, as well as in the home-circle. Is there any other companion as tender and as faithful and as soothing as good music except the Word of God?

There is not found a nation or a tribe without music. If there it is universal and has such a marked impression on the physical, mental and moral powers of the individual, why not everyone of us strive with all our might and main to possess some musical talent, if not with our voices or on musical instru-

ments, strive to speak kindly to our friends, and enemies as well. Always wear a pleasant smile, and speak a cheering word to those we meet. We not only feel better ourselves, but we cheer our fellow beings. This is music, to be sure for as was mentioned, music affects to the feelings and emotions of individuals.

The first place where we can display our music is in the home. Whether rich or poor, is not the question whether we can or can not have music in the home.

But however limited music is, used in the sense we use it, however limited the talent, its endeavor and accomplishments, will be influenced by all that surrounds us, chiefly by our home life and by our friendships. At home we find the place of our activity. The moment one begins studying music at home, with the intent of making it our life work, he is planting in a little space a seed that may become a very great tree.

One will naturally put into music in the beginning the thoughts and habits that many years of home life have planted in him.

By coming in contact with good music we are always elevated, and refined, our imaginations are quickened, they are turned toward noble objects our emotions are purified and love and sympathy are aroused.

If, then music is so inspiring and elevating in itself, again, let me urge that we all try to make it more impressive on our fellow-beings, remembering the oft quoted Bible expression that "Charity begins at home."

Maud Smith