NEW PUBLICATIONS.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AND THEIR HOMES. By Mary E. Brown and William Adams Brown. Folio, pp. 380. New-York: Dodd, Mead & Co.

This is the regal volume which, with its 270 illustrations in pen and ink (i. e., fac-similie reproductions by photo-engraving process) by William Adams Brown, and its hundreds of pages of descriptive and historical letter-press in which both authors co-operated, was originally designed as a catalogue of the musical instruments collected by Mrs. John Crosby Brown, and recently given by her to the Metropolitan Museum of Art of this city. The scope of the collection and some of its unique features have already been referred to in the public prints, and there will be ample opportunity to speak more fully on the subject when the instruments shall have been placed on public exhibition. That the collection contains many interesting and valuable specimens is indicated in this remarkable catalogue by the list of names and the enumeration of the countries whence they come, rather than by the drawings, which, it may as well be remarked at the outset, are likely to be disappointing to those who take up the book for study purposes. As a collector Mrs. Brown has for years enjoyed the sensation of being practically alone in her choice of a department. With the opportunities of large wealth and wide acquaintance, which were hers, it would have been but natural had she devoted herself to the accumulation of instruments with an artistic rather than a scientific value. She did not do this, however, and when the instruments are placed in their future home the public will discover that they open new fields of ethnological study. Had this fact with all its bearings been constantly before the minds of the compilers of the book we fancy some features of it would have been treated differently. The pen and ink sketches and the patient literary collaboration of mother and son are an admirable memorial of the refinement and gentleness of the Brown household, but a book given to the public under the unusual circumstances surrounding this work—a book unique in subject and magnificent and sumptuous in size and attire—should first of all be designed to emphasize the scientific value of the collection. Had the authors been actuated in all things by an appreciation of the scientific principle, they would have known that the illustrations should have been much more accurate and minute than they are. That in the case of fretted instruments the number of frets and their relative distances from each other, in fine instruments the number of finger holes, in keyed instruments the number of keys and the character of the action which sounds the strings, in reed instruments the kind of reeds and in stringed instruments the number of strings and the manner of their disposition are the details which ought first of all to have been made plain by the pictures. We refer to this because in nearly every one of the plates, and in the descriptions besides, we have met with disappointments in an effort to study the nature of the instruments in the book, or even to assign them to the various classes and sub-classes in which musical instruments are commonly divided. We cite a few instances: The "Yang-Kin," of China, is called a "foreign harpsichord" in the plate, a name entirely misleading, because the picture and description both show that the instrument belongs to the dulcimer kind. In the descriptive letter press it is assigned, with equal incorrectness, to "the zither family." Now the strings of the "Yang-Kin" are sounded by being struck with bamboo hammers, while those of all instruments of the harpsichord kind (such as spinets, virginals, etc.) were sounded by being twanged by various kinds of plektra, set in jacks. The zither is also twanged by the thumb, armed with a metallic plektrum and the unarmed fingers. In the Chinese instrument, moreover (as a specimen in the possession of the writer shows), a diagonal bridge is so placed between the two outer bridges, across the sounding board, that each string, or group of strings, tuned in unison, gives out two tones, which stand related to each other as the first and fifth of the scale, a fact of great importance to an understanding of the theory of Chinese music, in which the "circle of fifths" plays quite as significant a part as it does in Occidental music. But of this division of the strings no mention is made in the book and it could not be learned from the drawing. Again, in the plate devoted to instruments from Germany, what is obviously an old pianoforte is called a clarichord, and a "fagott" is described as "a kind of bassoon" when these two instruments are the same. Instruments which look like clarinets are in some places called oboes and in others clarinets, plainly in ignorance of the fact that the essential difference lies in the mouthpieces, that of the oboe having a double, that of the clarinet a single reed. A glance at the instruments themselves should have shown to which class they belong; the picture can give no clew. Other shortcomings are due to the same want of scientific method and knowledge. One of the most interesting instruments of the Chinese is the "Cheng." It consists of a bowl-shaped wind reservoir in the top of which are placed a row of bamboo pipes having in their lower end a brass tongue which moves through a slot. This brass tongue so arranged is known to instrument-makers as a "free reed" and its principle is that applied in the manufacture of harmonicons, accordeons, mouth-organs, etc. It is also used in a few stops of the grand organ, having been introduced by a Russian builder, but this fact does not by any means justify the statement: "The principle embodied in this instrument is really that of our grand organ." The principle embodied in our grand organ, the fundamental principle, is that of the penny whistle. The reed stops, "striking" and "free" are used only to obtain certain "color effects." In the account of the Chinese flute an interesting subject is touched upon in the following paragraph:

> It has six finger-holes and two holes for the breath. The pitch varies according as the wind passes through one or the other of the latter. The hole not in use is covered with a thin membrane. (Page 42.)

The use of what seems a second embouchure on Chinese flutes has always been puzzling to writers, but it seems to us needlessly so. If one were to take the trouble simply to get a new flute from China it would be found that the hole between the embouchure proper and the finger holes is covered, as the paragraph above quoted says, with a thin membrane; and that this membrane has a good deal to do with determining the quality of the instrument's tone. Nearly all Chinese instruments are screechingly loud and the vibration of the membrane gives to the Chinese flute a reedy tone that effectually accentuates its voice when played either singly or in concert with other instruments. When the writer once asked a Chinaman why the hole was covered he was told that it was to make the flute "holler better," which was his naive and circumscribed manner of saying that the membrane had a purpose other than the mere closing of the hole. Still the fact that on the writer's flute the use of the second hole as an embouchure raises the pitch of the instrument exactly a third may be evidence in favor of the theory that a change of pitch, as suggested, may at least be a secondary purpose, though then the characteristic quality of tone would be lost.

We do not cite these shortcomings from what we consider the truest and best purpose of a book of this character, simply to be critical, or in order to depreciate the book itself. In its beautifully printed pages there is enough of value to justify it many times over, despite the blemishes which we feel in duty bound to set forth. The enthusiasm to which the collection bears witness is of so rare a quality and its object is so much loftier than that striven for by collectors generally that it must challenge the heartiest admiration from every one interested either in music or ethnology. The book is an equally great monument to that enthusiasm. The essays on the music of China, India, Japan, Africa, the Arabs, Turks, Persians, and the Indians of North America show great patience and diligence in research, and are really valuable compilations. Concerning them we feel but one regret, which is that the authors were not a little more discriminating in their citation of authorities. "A book's a book although there's nothing in it," is evidently their motto. It is grevious to a judicious student to see so careful and critical an authority as Ambros quoted beside so unsafe and irresponsible a writer as Rowbotham, who has been utterly discredited in nearly everything that he has written of late, even in his own England, where the criticism of musical historians has never been made a fine art as it has in Germany. Rowbotham's love of antithesis and general wordiness should have suggested to Mrs. Brown and her son the advisability of reading his statements with suspicion. Almost the first quotation in the book is one of Rowbotham's slap-dash utterances, characteristic of the manner in which he handles his subjects. Speaking of the Chinese he says: "The people who were acquainted with gunpowder, but never invented a gun; who knew of the polarity of the magnetic needle, and yet never thought of applying it as a compass." We believe it is one of the things that are pretty well established that Europe got the mariner's compass from the very people who, for the sake of paradox, are held up by this historian as so deficient in ingenuity that they knew of no way to utilize their knowledge of the peculiar property of the magnetic needle. Mrs. Brown's magnificent book can do much to popularize a knowledge of the music of strange peoples, and for this it deserves praise. For purposes of study it would best be used as a starting point for original research.

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Proposals.

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TO CONTRACTORS.

BIDS OR PROPOSALS for clearing and removing all timber, brush, grass, and other vegetable growth from the lands that are required for the purpose of locating thereon the East Branch Reservoir, on the East Branch of the Croton River, and on Reg Brook, in the town of South East, Putnam County, New-York, as called for in the approved forms of contract and specifications on file in the office of the Aqueduct Commissioners, will be received at this office until WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 1889, at 3 o'clock p. m., at which place and hour they will be publicly opened by the Aqueduct Commissioners, and the award of the contract for doing said work will be made by said Commissioners as soon thereafter as possible.

Blank forms of said approved contract and specifications therefor, and bids or proposals and proper envelopes for their enclosure, and all other information, can be obtained at the above office of the Aqueduct Commissioners on application to the secretary, or at the office of Division Engineer George B. Burbank, at Brewsters, New-York.

By order of the Aqueduct Commissioners.

JOHN C. SHEEHAN, Secretary. JAMES C. DUANE, President.

STOCKS CONTINUE DULL.

GRANGERS MUCH DEPRESSED.

THE MARKET CLOSES IRREGULAR, BUT STEADY ALL ALONG THE LINE.

SALES AT THE NEW-YORK EXCHANGE—FEB. 27.

THE GENERAL LIST.

STOCKS.	Actual Sales. Op'g.	High'st.	Low'st.	Final.	Closing. Bid.	Ask'd	No. Shares sold.
Albany & Sus	..	..	..	..	155	165	....
Atch T & S F	51⅞	52⅛	50⅝	50⅝	50⅝	50⅞	33,170
Atlantic & Pac	7¾	7¾	7¾	7¾	7¾	7⅞	200
B & NY AL pf	..	..	..	..	104	..	....
Buff R & Pitts	..	..	..	..	..	35	....
Buff R & P pf	..	..	..	..	80	90	....
Burl Cir & Nor	..	..	..	..	20	35	....
C Col & Aug	48	48	48	48	44	50	100
Canada South	55⅛	55⅝	54⅞	54⅞	54⅞	55	900
Canada Pacific	51⅝	51⅝	51⅝	51⅝	..	..	100
Cen Iowa pr new	22	22	22	22	22	23	15
Central NJ	95½	95½	94¾	95	94⅞	95⅛	4,425
Central Pacific	35⅝	36	35⅝	36	35⅛	35¾	45
Ches & Ohio	20	20	20	20	20	20⅛	500
Chesa O 1st pf	18⅛	18⅛	18⅛	18⅛	17¾	..	100
Chesa O 2 pf	..	..	..	..	18	..	....
Chic & Alton	43⅝	43⅝	43⅝	43⅝	43½	44	100
Chic & East Ill	87	97	97	97	96½	97	100
Chic & Eli pf	..	..	..	..	136	140	....
Chic & Alton	..	..	..	..	168½	166½	....
Chic & Northwest	106⅞	106⅞	106¼	106¼	106¼	106⅜	3,850
Chic & Nor pf	139⅞	139⅞	139¼	139¼	139½	140¼	50
Chic M & St P	62	62⅛	61⅛	61⅝	61½	61⅝	12,850
Chic M & St P pf	97¾	98¼	97⅝	97⅝	97	97⅛	3,170
Chic Mil & St P	..	..	..	..	18	19	....
Chic St L & C	..	..	..	..	38½	41	....
Chic St L & P	..	..	..	..	32⅝	32⅞	125
Chic St P, M & O	32⅝	32⅝	32⅝	32⅝	32½	32½	200
C St P M & O pf	91⅛	91½	91½	91½	91½	92	200
Chic Bur & Q	101¾	101⅞	101	101	101	101¼	2,750
C Rd & Pacific	96½	96⅝	96	96	96	96¼	1,032
C I St L & Chic	109½	109½	109½	109½	109½	109¾	300
Cin W & M	½	½	½	½	½	¾	500
Cin W & M pf	1⅝	1⅝	1⅝	1⅝	1⅝	1¾	100
Cleve & Pitts	..	..	..	..	157	157½	....
C C C & Ind	73	73	73½	73	72½	73	400
Col & Cin pref	..	..	..	..	25	27	....
Col H V & Tol	..	..	..	..	23½	26¼	....
DM & Ft Dodge	7¾	7¾	7¾	7¾	7	8	100
Del L & W	141¾	141¾	140½	140½	140½	140¾	16,990
Del & Hudson	..	..	..	..	136¾	136¾	....
Denv & Rio	16¼	16¼	16¼	16¼	15¾	16¼	100
Den & Rio pref	42½	42½	42½	42½	41⅝	42½	10
DT & TV ctfs	22½	22½	21½	21½	21	21½	600
E Tenn V & G	..	..	..	..	9	9¼	....
E Tenn 1st pf	68⅞	68⅞	68⅞	68⅞	69	70	50
E Tenn 2d pf	..	..	..	..	22	24	....
Ev & Ill	..	..	..	..	93½	94½	....
Green Bay	7	7⅛	7	7⅛	7⅛	7¾	240
Harlem	252½	252½	252½	252½	251½	..	100
Houston & Tex	..	..	..	..	12	14	....
Illinois Cent	109¼	109¼	109¼	109¼	109	109½	100
Ill Cent pf lines	..	..	..	..	95	98	....
Keo & Des	..	..	..	..	3	10	....
K & DM pref	..	..	..	..	..	25	....
Kings & Pem	..	..	..	..	29½	30½	....
L E & W	18	18	18	18	17½	18½	1,200
LE & W pref	57¼	57¼	57	57¼	57½	57½	1,535
Lake Shore	104½	104½	104	104	103½	104	1,720
Long Island	95	95	95	95	94½	96½	50
Louis & Nash	60	60⅛	59⅝	59⅝	59⅝	59⅞	508
L N & Chic	46⅞	46⅞	46⅞	46⅞	46	47	100
Manhattan Con	100	101⅞	100	101⅞	101	101⅛	7,750
Manhat Beach	..	..	..	..	9	10	....
Mar H & O	..	..	..	..	12	14	....
Mar H & O pf	..	..	..	..	38½	50	....
Mex Cent	..	..	..	..	13⅝	14¼	....
Mich Cent	89	89⅛	89	89⅛	89¼	89½	316
Mil L & W	..	..	..	..	77½	78	....
M L S & W pref	103½	104½	104	104½	104½	105	600
Minn & St L	..	..	..	..	5½	7	....
M & St L pref	..	..	..	..	10	14	....
Mo Kan & Tex	..	..	..	..	13	13½	....
Mo Pacific	71½	72	70½	71	70⅞	71	5,225
Mobile & Ohio	11½	11½	11¼	11¼	11½	11¾	300
N Y C & H	90	90	89⅞	89⅞	89	90	700
N Y Central	109	109	109	109	108¾	..	573
N Y C & St L	18	18	18	18	..	..	10
N Y L E & W	29½	29½	29½	29	29	29½	3,250
N Y L E & W pf	68	68	67½	67½	67½	68	200
N Y & New	47¾	47¾	45½	45½	45½	46	11,450
Nor & West pref	51½	51½	51	51	51	55	550
N Y Out & Western	17½	17½	17	17½	17¼	17½	210
Northern Pacific pref	62⅞	62⅞	62½	62½	62½	62¾	450
N Y Sus & West pref	32½	32½	32½	32½	32½	32½	200
Oregon Transcon	33½	33⅞	33½	33½	33½	33½	2,600
Oregon Riv & Navi	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½	100	100
Ohio & Miss	23⅞	23⅞	23⅞	23⅞	23⅞	23⅞	100
Oregon Sh Line	48⅞	48⅞	48⅞	48⅞	48⅞	48⅞	200
Pacific Mail	37¼	37¼	37	37	36⅞	37	300
Phila & Reading	47¼	47½	46⅞	46⅞	46⅞	46⅞	18,100
Richmond & W Point	26⅞	27	26¼	26⅞	26⅞	26⅞	9,540
Rich & W P pref	80	80	79¾	80	80	80	800
Sugar Refin Co	84½	84½	84½	84½	84½	85	200
St L & San Fran pf	63⅞	63⅞	63¼	63¼	63¼	64½	200
St P & Du pf	88	88	88	88	88	88	100
Texas Pacific	21¼	21¼	21¼	21¼	21¼	21¼	210
Tenn Coal & Iron	36⅞	36⅞	36	36	36¼	36½	950
Union Pacific	65⅞	65⅞	65¼	65¼	65¼	65¼	2,140
Wab St L & Pac pref	27	27	27	27	27	27	200
Western Union	86	86	85⅞	85⅞	85⅞	86	1,140
Wheel & L E pref	65⅞	65⅞	65⅞	65⅞	65⅞	66	250
Total shares sold							106,140

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Atlantic & Pac 4s	85⅞	85⅞	85¼	85¼	85¼	86¼	20,000
Can South 2d	96⅞	97	96⅞	97	96⅞	97	20,000
Ch & E Ill 5s	103	103	103	103	103	106	1,000
Den & R G W 1st mn'd	81	81	81	81	81	83	3,000
Erie 2d Con	102⅞	102⅞	102⅞	102⅞	102⅞	102⅞	2,000
Ft W & D C 1st	93⅞	94⅞	93⅞	93⅞	93⅞	94	12,000
Han & St Jo con	124	124	124	124	124	124	2,000
Mex Nat B ctfs	20	20	20	20	20	20	1,000
Oregon Imp 1st	102⅞	103⅞	102⅞	103⅞	102⅞	103⅞	12,000
Phil & R 1st pref inc	84	84	83⅞	84	83⅞	84	21,000
P & Read 2d pref inc	71¾	71¾	71¾	71¾	71¾	72	2,000
Phil & Reading 4s	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	93	8,000
R W & O con	110⅞	110⅞	110⅞	110⅞	110⅞	111	5,000
St L A & T H con	98⅞	98⅞	98⅞	98⅞	98⅞	99	20,000
Dal & Man 1st	106⅛	106⅛	106⅛	106⅛	106⅛	108	3,000
Total amount							$141,000

MINING STOCKS.

Astoria	.20	.20	.20	.20	.20	.20	1,200
Amador	1.65	1.70	1.65	1.70	1.60	1.70	400
Barcelona	.80	.80	.80	.80	.80	.80	500
Brunswick	.12	.12	.12	.12	.12	.12	500
Best & Belcher	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	100
Caledonia	2.30	2.45	2.30	2.45	2.30	2.45	500
Con Cal & Va	8.50	8.75	8.50	8.75	8.50	8.75	200
Cashier	.05	.07	.04	.04	.04	.05	1,400
Caledonia B H	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	150
Con Imperial	.75	.75	.75	.75	.75	.75	1,700
Crown Point	1.70	1.70	1.55	1.65	1.65	1.70	1,000
Eureka	.50	.56	.50	.56	.50	.56	200
Exchequer	.92	.92	.90	.90	.90	.90	500
Horn Silver	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	100
Little Pittsburg	.31	.31	.31	.31	.31	.31	600
Middle Bar	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05	300
Plumas	10.12½	10.12½	10.12½	10.12½	10.12½	10.12½	100
Plymouth	.09	.09	.09	.09	.09	.09	900
Rappahannock	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.50	500
Mutual Smelting	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.60	1,400
Sullivan Con	1.05	1.05	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.05	600
Silver King	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	200
Sutro Tunnel	.57	.57	.57	.57	.57	.57	200
Sutro Tunnel cert	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	200
United Copper							13,110
Total sales							

CLOSING PRICES OF BOSTON STOCKS.

Boston, Feb. 27, 1889.

	Yesterday.	To-day.		Yesterday.	To-day.
At & Top 1st 7s	119½	..	Rutland pref	37	....
At & Top L G 7s	110	110	Wis Cent R R com	15½	15½
At & Top R R	51⅞	50¾	Wis Cent R R pref	....	....
Boston & Albany	213	213	Allouez Min Co (new)	3	3
Boston & Maine	169	170	Calumet & Hecla	260	260
Chic Burlington & Quincy	101⅞	101⅞	Catalpa	16	17
Con Chic	25	25	Franklin	14	14
Eastern R R	80½	80½	Huron	..	....
Eastern R R 10s	125½	125½	Osceola	15¼	15
Flint & P M	20	20	Pewabic (new)	3	3
Flint & P M pf	96½	97	Quincy	67	66½
Kan City S & Ft S	..	..	Bell Telephone	224	225½
Mass Central	..	..	Boston Land	2⅞	2
Mass Central 5s	..	..	Mass Gas	34	34
Mex Central	13⅞	13½	Tamarack Mining	141	140
Old Colony	169½	169	San Diego L Co	22	22¼
Old Dom S S	6	5	West End Land	27½	27
Rutland com	4	....	Lamson & Co's Ser	57⅞	57½
Total shares sold					106,140

CLOSING PRICES OF PHILADELPHIA STOCKS.

	Bid.	Asked.		Bid.	Asked.
Pennsylvania	55¼	55⅝	Jersey Central	35½	35¾
Reading	23 7/16	23¾	Oregon Trans	33½	33⅞
Lehigh Valley	54⅝	54⅞	St Paul	61½	61⅞
North Pacific com	26½	26¾	Reading Gen'l	92	92⅞
North Pacific pref	62¼	62½	Reading 1st pf	84	87¼
Lehigh Navigation	52	52½	Reading 2d pf	71	71⅞
West N Y	14	....	Reading 3d pf	58	58⅞

RAILWAY EARNINGS.

Wednesday, Feb. 27—p. m.

The New-York, Lake Erie and Western Railroad sends in its report for the month of January showed a gain in net earnings over both 1888 and 1887. The gain is small, but considering the alleged diversion of the corn traffic to Baltimore, by irregularities on the part of the Baltimore and Ohio Company, the showing is remarkably favorable.

The Philadelphia and Reading's statement for January, of course compares with the period in 1888, when the company's operations were by strikes. But its net earnings for the month were $205,000 greater than in the preceding month of December, notwithstanding the "dulness of the coal trade."

Union Pacific begins its new year with a gain of $190,200 in gross earnings, with an increase in the operating expenses of only $18,200, leaving the gain in net earnings at $172,000 on 1888, and $91,000 on 1887.

WHAT WAS DONE IN STOCKS.

The stock speculation continues dull. To-day's transactions aggregate only 102,614 shares. Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe stock was the feature; and with recorded transactions of 33,000 shares, its price was down to 50 5-8, closing at 50 3-4 against 51 7-8 last evening. The principal sellers of the stock are well known; they were not investors nor frightened "bulls"; the buying is more of a mystery, which later on, will be explained, when yesterday's and to-day's sellers try to recoup. The raid on Atchison affected the whole line of granger stocks so that there was more or less hesitation in the buying, which gave a temporary advantage to the "bears" in the making of prices. The attack on Philadelphia and Reading also was continued, and it closed at 46 7-8, against 47 3-8 last evening. And St. Paul was sold down to 61 1-2@61 5-8.

In the morning's stock loan market, Atchison, Reading, and St. Paul were in new, active demand, although seemingly yesterday's buyers of Atchison freely offered to loan their contract purchases. Union Pacific, all the Oregons and the Northern Pacific were exceptionally strong, with only moderate transactions. Manhattan also was a feature in advancing to 101 3-4@101 1-4. Richmond and West Point ruled firm and closed up to 26 3-4. The Eastern trunk lines were dull and steady at small concessions.

The speculation continues narrow and concentrated with the majority of the room traders enlisted on the side of depression; because "there can be no advance on such a dull market." Yet there is a steady absorption of stocks as well as of bonds, which will exert an important influence when the prominent sellers try to liquidate their contracts. The market closed irregular but steady.

THE DAY IN THE BOND MARKET.

Government bonds were dull and steady at quotations as follows:

	Bid.	Ask.		Bid.	Ask.
U.S. 4½s, 1891, reg	107⅞	108¼	U. S. cur. 6s, 1896	122	....
U.S. 4½s, 1891, cou	109	109¼	U. S. cur. 6s, 1897	125	....