

TELEPHONE 3923 MADISON Sq.

Intended for

Dr. Cahill

10 "O wad some power the giftie gi'e us
To see oursel's as ithers see us." 2

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IMPROVED ELECTRIC MUSIC

IMPROVEMENTS have recently been made in the "telharmonium" which make it possible for that instrument to reproduce the tones of all the principal orchestral instruments instead of being limited, as before, to organ-tones. The beauty of this instrument, however, is that it is capable of producing all sorts of entirely new tones of its own, and it is to

be hoped that it will not be used simply as an imitator. Our readers will remember that this device does not transmit music; it produces musical tones directly by means of alternating electric currents, and by combining these currents in different ways, which may be done by the operator at his keyboard, different qualities of tone may be produced. Evidently if the operator deliberately seeks to make a tone like that of a violin, he is simply producing an imitation. We have already, to be sure, organ pipes purporting to imitate trumpets, horns, viols, etc., but their use deceives no one, whereas the imitation by means of the telharmonium might be made so perfect that it would actually deceive the hearer. Says *Engineering News* (New York, May 26), describing the improved instrument:

"The inventor, Dr. Thaddeus Cahill, of Holyoke, Mass., has now completed his third arrangement which is the largest 'telharmonium' yet assembled. . . . In the older system the more notes sounded on any one keyboard, the less loud each single note became. This 'robbing' has been prevented by a rearrangement of the electrical circuits to eliminate the effects of the reactions of the many circuits acting together on the receiver. A new receiver has been designed, having a diaphragm some ten times the diameter of a telephone receiver, but only three times as thick. Due to the arrangement of the energizing magnets and of the air passages, a single receiver responds satisfactorily, it is claimed, to any sound from deepest bass to highest treble, to a single note of a pure tone or to a full chord of composite tones. The many generators are built of greatly increased capacity, especially in the high-frequency machines for producing the higher pitched notes. It was noted in the earlier article in *Engineering News* that the 'voices' of various orchestral instruments could be reproduced. In the latest 'telharmonium,' with a number of switchboards and keyboards for several musicians, there has been possible an approach to orchestral tones and a departure from the limitation to organ or single-instrument tones alone."