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THE TIMES.

On the present occasion, however, the quartet gained enormously in impressiveness by the superior performance, and, indeed, the beautiful slow movement created a very unusual impression.

DAILY NEWS. A second hearing certainly gave me a different idea of the composition, possibly because the performance was better in every respect . . . The slow movement, with its Scottish first subject and its really beautiful second subject, is music in the best sense of the word. Mr. McEwen has the gift of thematic invention, and he knows how to develop his themes in an interesting manner. So many modern composers of chamber music allow us to see that the development sections of their works are the merest music-makings; Mr. McEwen is not of those musical manufacturers. The quartet should be in the répertoire of chamber concerts, and we ought to hear others of the composer's works.

DAILY TELEGRAPH.

Its merits are such that a second hearing serves to increase regard and admiration. The Andante quasi Adagio, with its characteristic Scottish folk-tune theme and beautiful second subject, is, indeed, admirably written and exceedingly interesting, while the Vivace, in which—as also in the Finale—the composer makes special and very effective use of the viola, is scarcely less STANDARD.

The first and second movements are built up with themes possessing character expressed in Scottish musical idiom and treated with pronounced skill. Of the two the second is the treated with pronounced skill. Of the two the second is the better. This is an Andante quasi Adagio, which shows that the composer has the power to express depth of sentiment. The succeeding movement, headed Vivace, is bright and vigorous, these attributes being heightened by a central section in slow tempo containing some charming passages for the viola. In the Finale, reference is made to the principal themes of the preceding movements, and an effective climax closes an interesting and scholarly composition.

OBSERVER.

The work is a masterly composition, strong and fresh in thematic material, -Scottish musical idioms are freely used-and ingenious, free, and picturesque in treatment.

SUNDAY TIMES.

The part-writing is always interesting and scholarly, and in the second number—an Andante quasi Adagio, built up with an expressive melody—there are several passages of great beauty. The Vivace, containing a charming slow section, is a captivating movement and the Finale will probably improve on intimacy.

PALL MALL GAZETTE.

The work, to begin with, is cast according to a true and rightly classical mode; it is throughout clever, and perhaps the most telling criticism upon it lies in the obvious fact that too often its liveliness does duty for life. Scottish it is in every detail of its being; and Mr. McEwen has without any question adapted the Scottish manner of musical thought to his really good sense of harmony, counterpoint, and instrumental combination.

MORNING ADVERTISER.

The succeeding quartet—one in A minor, by Mr. John B. McEwen—touched the mainspring of modern development, so far as the term can be applied to music that is necessarily limited in its power of expression. There were moments when it seemed almost as if the composer were writing for a quartet of strings, with the sound of the orchestra in his ear. Full justice, however, must be rendered him for the admirable manner in which he caught the peculiar glow of Scotland's pathetic minstrelsy.

THE WORLD.

It was a work well worth listening to, for it has great freshness of feeling and shows no little skill. It is Scotch, and is not ashamed of its nationality, nor does it attempt to hide its origin beneath the thin disguise of an English accent. Mr. McEwen's themes are mostly in the nature of Scotch folk-songs, and their varied expression gives him all the musical contrasts he needs. He uses them discreetly and does not get beyond the limits of chamber music, as so many modern writers do in their most expressive moments. . . There is a refreshing natural note in the whole and in the slow movement we have moments of real the whole, and in the slow movement we have moments of real beauty, while in the trio of the Scherzo there is an impressive and cleverly used viola solo.

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