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THE STATE OF GUJARAT.

Newspaper article from the "Hindū",
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Prof. Ināyat Khān R. Pathān
on H. H. the Gaekwar's
Musical Establishment.

aining. Seven series of vocal music, Chhauda Manjari Bal Sangit malas Garbhavali, Guides for Sitar, Dabla, Harmonium, Fiddle and Ratnavali (the album of songs) etc., are published for the use of students, and by this the people in different parts of India such as Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Delhi, Rangoon, Colombo, etc., are benefited. In my opinion this is the system by which a beginner can make the speediest progress possible, while describing this I cannot but mention the name of the late Prof. Maula Bux the great who was the only helping hand to H. H. the Maharajah in carrying out his laudable object. He did yeoman's service for the advancement of music. He devoted the greater part of his life for its improvement and his labours were crowned with success.

H. H. THE MAHARAJAH'S MUSICAL ESTABLISHMENT.

There are three departments of music in the State, Calavant Khata, the Band and the musical education. Prof. Murtaja Khan is the best durbar-singer and Jamaluddin Binkar Karambux Tabla player are the noted musicians in the Calavant Khata. There are several dancing girls, nakals, tamashas, Lalits, Rashan chowkies and many other similar interesting things under this department. This department exists from very olden times in Baroda and it is a mark of the ancient royal amusement. This belongs to Khangi Khata. The Band department has three bands belonging to the military. Now-a-days many natives of Baroda have accomplished themselves in band-playing and a few scholars are trained in Piano playing and Band-mastership. A stringed band, Pipe Band, an Indian-concert are also invented newly by the department. Indian music is played in the Bands according to the European Harmonical system which is very creditable to the State. The Musical Education Department has four music schools for the boys and music classes in almost all the Girls' Schools. The students in all the vernacular Schools are taught poetry according to the musical system. The accomplished students are appointed as teachers in the departments. Some students go out for the improvement of this art. Scholarships and certificates are given to the students according to their proficiency in this noble art. All these departments are under the superintendence of Dr. A. M. Pathan, L. R. A., &c., L. L. C., &c., who was sent to England by the State and gained distinction there. Many improvements have been made in these departments. H. H. the Maharajah can thus be called the first modern prince who has done so much for the musical revival and India is really indebted to him for this. It is a sure sign that better days are in store for us and that we can look forward with bright eyes and prospects.

H. H. the Gaekwar's Musical Establishment.

Hindu

28/8/1909

(BY PROF. MAYAT KHAN R. PATHAN.)

It is a well-known fact that oriental music in India has been decaying day by day. Not only the music but almost all the ancient sciences and arts have been fast disappearing since the ruin of the Hindu Empire. The Hindu scientists and artists were no doubt patronised and recognised by some of the Moghal Emperors but the effect was not of long continuance. By the change of time music fell into low hands and its scientific study was abandoned. This has lowered the value of music in the eyes and estimation of the public. At present it has gone down to the very lowest stratum for want of proper encouragement. Having all this in his view, and with a mind to mend matters H. H. the Maharajah had travelled through Europe where to his utter astonishment and in contravention of the existing order of this land he found music to be a subject of their education and where it was recognised and appreciated thoroughly well. After his return, when he found the Indian music superior to European music on a comparison between the two, he took a great pity for the ravages which the music of our land has sustained. Since then he has been taking great care for its improvement. To advance and improve it, was to him a matter of greater pride than merely to enjoy it. There is the loss of morality and money by its abuse. May this example set by H. H. the Maharajah be imitated by other princes and potentates, so that this divine art may again shine forth with all its splendours.

MUSIC SCHOOLS.

H. H. the Maharajah first opened a free Indian music school in 1882 A. D. in his capital at Baroda and invented the system of Indian musical notation (*sangil lokhan padhati*) for the benefit of the people.

ADVANCEMENT IN THE ORGANISATIONS.

Day by day the school made progress and seven standards have been appointed. Two more music schools were opened in the districts of Navasarai and Pattrar which have been going on successfully. Very recently a musical school has been established in Amerily district. The vernacular and College students are generally enlisted in the school and are taught both vocal and instrumental music, sitar, tabla, harmonium and fiddle, etc., systematically. Instruction is given there for about two hours in the evening by the Professors and teachers, and students are examined annually and promoted to the next higher class in accordance with their proficiency. There is a library of almost all musical instruments and books of India open for students.

MUSICAL TRAINING TO THE FEMALES.

It was thought necessary to give musical training to the females as God has endowed them with special voice and genius for music. Music is an ornament to them. It was also adopted to prevent males from going astray; for young men being at first actuated by

idle fondness for music often frequent public houses and then lead an immoral and base life. They very often, rather always, miss the very point and deviate from the right path. This is due to a sad want of musical training on the part of the females. The presence of accomplished ladies in our own houses will surely remedy the defect which has been turning so many youthful minds adrift. It must also be admitted that respectable and good girls' music is much more appealing and effective than that of the public women, for the effect of musical performance depends largely upon the purity of the actor's heart and soul. H. H. the Gaekwar has introduced music as a subject of education in the Girls' School and its districts. The peculiarity lies in the fact that they are not taught the common thumerry. *Dadra* but divine songs in different rags and tals. *Guzrati* and *Marathi* Balasangit malas *Bagavant Garthavali* and *Narsimha Mehta*'s manner are the several text-books for the girls. At present many girls have come out as lady teachers in music. This new introduction has removed a long-felt want in Baroda where even the big families have appreciated its value and have allowed their females to be conversant with it.

THE NOTATION.

The musical notation introduced by H. H. the Gaekwar is so successful that it has drawn admirers both from home and abroad. Mr. Griffish, the eminent English musician, has much appreciated it and commented on it very strongly. It is the easiest system for musical