

VIENNA.

Its Sights and Pleasures.

Strangers visiting Vienna for the first time often bring with them quite a wrong notion of the real character of the city and its inhabitants, a notion which in many cases, is due to overdrawn descriptions of the so called Viennese life. For this reason we may be permitted to give the candid, though well-meant, advice to all strangers who wish to make themselves thoroughly acquainted with Vienna, first to get rid of all preconceived ideas before coming to this capital, and then to judge according to their own impressions. This, however, is not quite as easy as it may appear at first sight. The peculiarities of the city and its inhabitants, the fine blending of eastern and western culture, which gives such a peculiar charm to Viennese life, the abundance of things worth seeing — all these demand time and leisure thoroughly to grasp and digest. Nevertheless even a globe trotter, much pressed for time, who thinks a day or two sufficient "to do" any town, might get a fairly good idea of Vienna in that time, and carry away deeper and more lasting impressions than from any other place. But the ordinary traveller who comes here to see the renowned old Imperial town with all its quaint characteristics, will do well to take his time and not to allow any courier, be he ever so good, to hurry him from sight to sight.

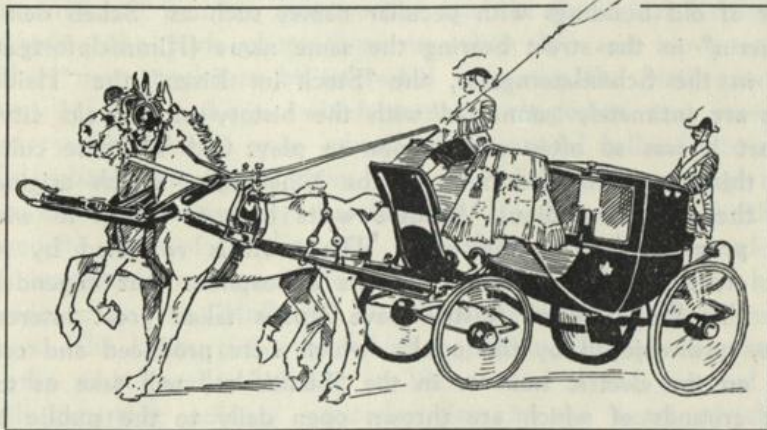
It must not be forgotten that many centuries have gone to the building of Vienna and that thousands of artists have been busy working at it. At a time when many a capital of to-day was but an insignificant little place, there existed on the banks of the Danube, on the very site where Vienna now stands, a homestead of culture and refinement. At every step we come upon the

venerable tokens of its great and glorious past. We can trace its existence far back into antiquity when under the name of Vindomina it was an important Celtic settlement, and later the eagle-eye of the Roman colonizers was quick to recognize its splendid and important position on the Danube, nearly midway between the Alps and the Carpathians. Here the Emperor Claudius in his turn established the fortified camp Vindobona, signs of which are discovered whenever foundations are dug in the centre of the town. Later it was the Babenbergs who chose Vienna as their residence; and with the election of Rudolph of Hapsburg as Emperor, the fate of the city on the banks of the Danube was finally settled. Under Rudolph the IV from the House of Hapsburg, Vienna reached a degree of prosperity that probably represented the highest standard of culture in those days, a standard which found expression in enduring monuments like the Cathedral of St. Stephen and the old University. But it cost many a hard fight and struggle to obtain and maintain this exalted position. Its splendour attracted the war-like peoples of the East. Over the broad road of the Hungarian plain, which began at the very gates of Vienna, hords of barbarians dashed against this bulwark of Western Culture. The wild wave of humanity surged and thundered against the fortified city. But Sultan Soliman's autumn campaign was as unsuccessful as the severe siege of the year 1683; the citizens and soldiers withstood courageously the vehement attacks of the Ottoman hords — attacks rendered the more terrific by the use of explosive mines — until at last, on the heights of the Kahlenberg, there appeared the welcome rescuers.

The ways and peculiarities of the Viennese are deep rooted in the distant past. Ever since the days of the great migration of nations when the Germans, the Romans and the Huns fought for the control of the Danube a continuous mingling of races has gone on. Spaniards and Italians, Greeks, Hungarians, Slavs and Turks dwelt in the old houses of the town and many of them attracted by the splendour of the Court and the luxurious life, settled down and intermarried with the citizens. In the more recent history of the city, which in common with other munici=

palities, often suffered severe disturbances from within and from without, some world-historic events stand out, such as the Napoleonic occupation followed by the glorious days of the battle of Aspern within a few miles of Vienna, where Napoleon I. saw himself defeated for the first time; and the Vienna Congress which divided anew the great Conqueror's booty. In the year 1848 Vienna fought to free herself from the absolutist, and thereby laid the foundations for the constitutional government that

was to follow. The bastions encircling the inner city were demolished in the year 1858. Vienna was thus able to grow and expand. In 1873 the famous International Exhibition drew attention to Vienna as a centre of culture



and refined art. Since then the capital has grown steadily and, by the incorporation of the outlying suburbs, has become the Greater Vienna of to-day, divided into 21 districts (Bezirke), with a population of more than two millions.

The strange but undeniable fact, that all strangers, no matter from what part of the globe they come, fall victims to the undefinable charm with which Vienna seems to enthrall her visitors, is mainly due to that curious blending of an old-world atmosphere with an entirely modern and up to date present. Those who would feel pulsation of Viennese life should stroll through the liveliest parts of the town where beauty and fashion reign supreme, and join the loungers on the "Graben", the "Stephansplatz", the "Kärnthnerstraße" and the "Ring" either at midday or between

six and seven in the evening; but those who prefer to peep into the distant past and dream of the glories of old days need only turn into some of the narrow side streets where they will find old palaces, their façades hoary with age and having fine architectural ornamentation, as well as humble, little houses, as weatherworn as the former, nestling up to them. These narrow streets full of the romance of past ages, set us dreaming of ancestors who lived in the "Good old times". There are a number of old buildings with peculiar names such as "Schab den Rüssel" the convent "Zur Himmelspfortnerin" in the street bearing the same name (Himmelfortgasse), "Der schmeckete (riechende) Wurm" in the Schönlaterngasse, the "Stock im Eisen", the "Haidenschuss" and many others; all of these are intimately connected with the history of the old city and speak volumes of the important part it was so often called upon to play. Old Viennese culture is as closely associated with these things as with the Song of the Nibelungen, which originated at the court of the Babenbergs, or the sweet melodious Viennese waltz both of which in widely different epochs made a triumphant progress through the world. The town is ennobled by its glorious past, the many works of art created within its walls, and its atmosphere that engendered so much that is beautiful and lofty. The Emperors of Austria have always taken great interest in art, and many are the art treasures, now enjoyed by the public, which were produced and collected by the Hapsburgs. A short ride on the electric tram or in the "Stadtbahn" will take us to the Imperial Castle of Schönbrunn, the grounds of which are thrown open daily to the public by permission of the Emperor. In the avenues and side-walks with clipped hedges like those of Versailles, it would seem as though the spirit of the pleasure-loving throng of the century that ended with the great revolution were still lingering, and as though the sand in the hour-glass had ceased to flow in this lovely Rococo garden. The wide expanse of the sky above the graceful silhouette of the "Gloriette" which stands just above the rockery, looks down upon the modern throng in fashionable garb with as much unconcern as it did on the merry court society, among which the then youthful

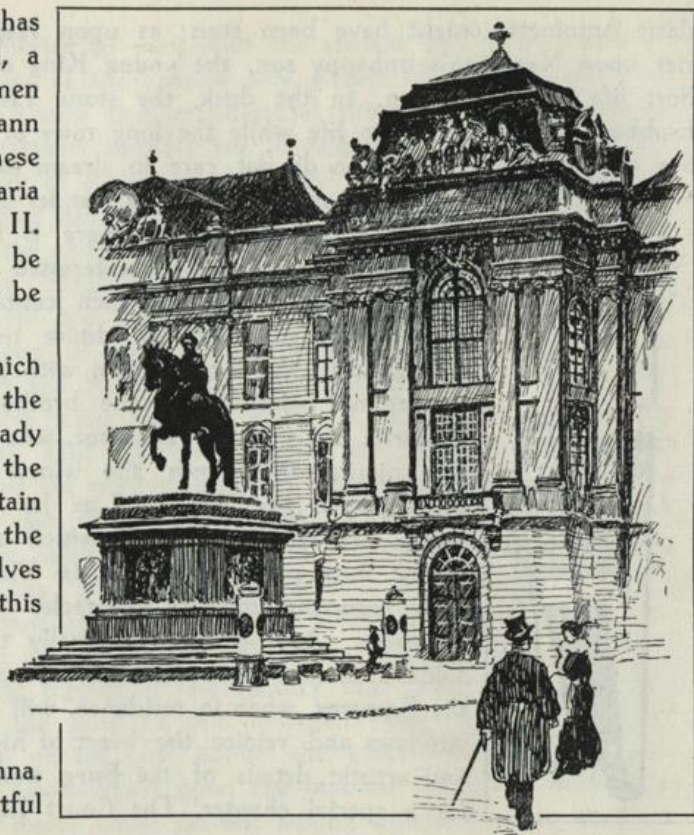
Marie Antoinette might have been seen; as upon Napoleon and his proud staff of generals; and later upon Napoleon's unhappy son, the young King of Rome who spent the last few years of his short life in Schönbrunn. In the dusk, the stone Tritons of the fountain and the statues in the shrubbery seem to come to life while the long rows of windows in the castle reflect the last golden rays of the sun. Those who do not care to dream near the silent water of the

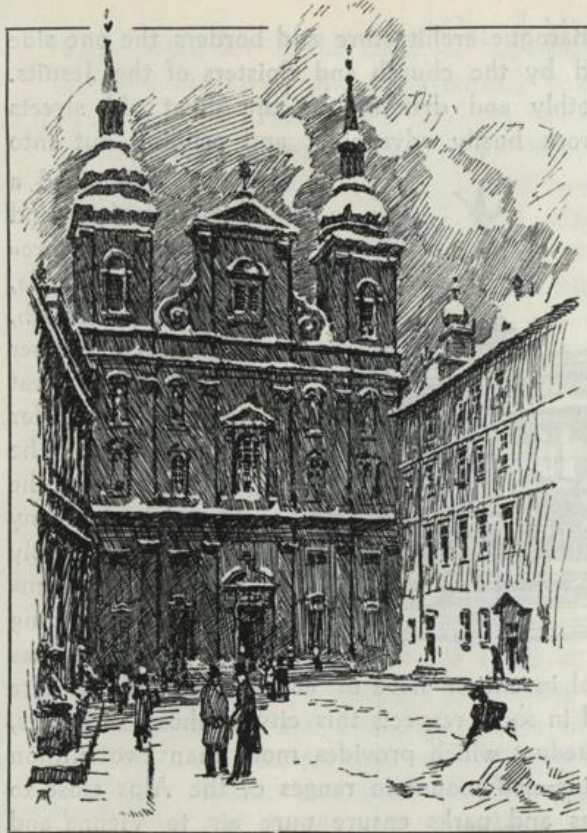
stone-rimmed fountain may wander into the Zoological Gardens adjoining the park where there is noisier life and movement. Others may perchance be interested in seeing the State apartments of the castle — which contains altogether 1441 rooms and 139 kitchens — or to admire the beautiful hall of mirrors (Spiegelsaal), the throne room with its "Mayteuse" paintings or the animal paintings by the brothers Hamilton. This is the favourite castle of the Emperor, who of late years has extended his sojourn there over the winter instead of taking up his residence in the "Hofburg" as he was wont to do in former years. The Hofburg through which a public thoroughfare passes, is the most popular building in Vienna and is the scene of a daily recurring military spectacle, dear to the heart of the Viennese. At 1 p. m. punctually the guard is relieved; the soldiers march in to the sound of music, and as often as not the Emperor, when in residence, will look down from one of the windows and rejoice the heart of his people. The architectural and artistic details of the Burg would furnish material enough for a special chapter. The Court Library with its magnificent



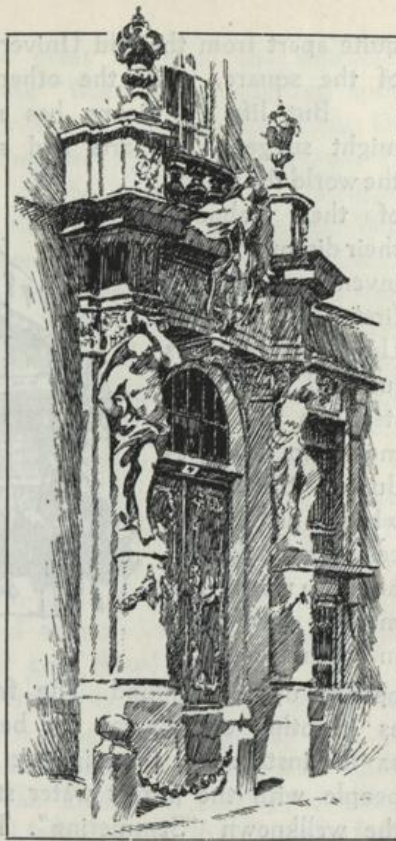
hall, measuring 78 metres (256 ft.) in length, has no equal anywhere, and the riding school, a building attached to the Burg is a fine specimen of the work of Austria's great Architect, Johann Bernhardt Fischer von Erlach. But all these things including the statues of the Empress Maria Theresia, the Emperors Francis I. and Joseph II. Prince Eugene and Archduke Charles must be viewed by the visitor himself for they cannot be adequately described.

Vienna is also rich in palaces, many of which show great artistic individuality. For instance the palace of Prince Schwarzenberg with its shady garden at the back, open to the public, and the great fountain in front which plays on certain days of the week and is illuminated at the expense of the municipality who pride themselves particularly on having been the originators of this attractive spectacle. Another beautiful palace is the Belvedere built for Prince Eugene of Savoy by Fischer von Erlach; its copper roof and cupolas covered with a splendid bright green patina are a picturesque feature of Vienna. From the terrace of the palace one has a delightful



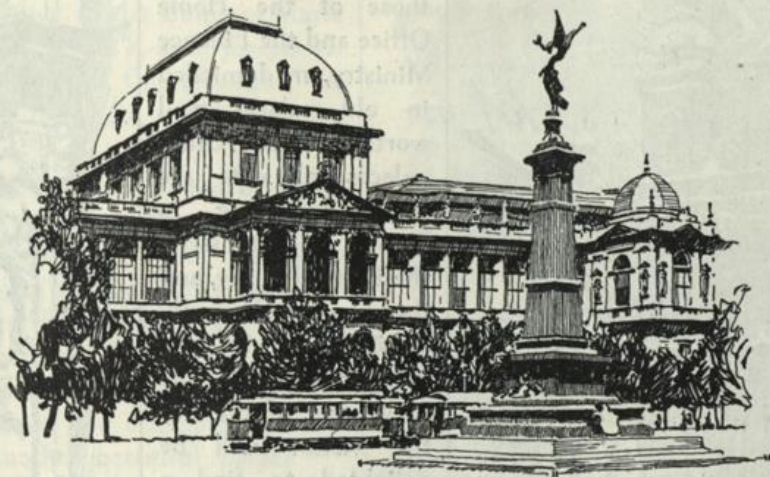


view of a great part of the city and hills beyond. Also two of the ministries, namely those of the Home Office and the Finance Ministry, are domiciled in old palaces well worthy of notice. Other palaces of note are those belonging to Prince Liechtenstein, the Prince Kinsky, and the Counts Harrach, Schönborn, Palffy and many others. In the very heart of the city the visitor will be delighted to find a charming little square, one of the oldest in Vienna, the "Universitätsplatz". It merits a visit for its own sake,



quite apart from the Old University which is a gem of Baroque architecture and borders the one side of the square, while the other two sides are occupied by the church and cloisters of the Jesuits.

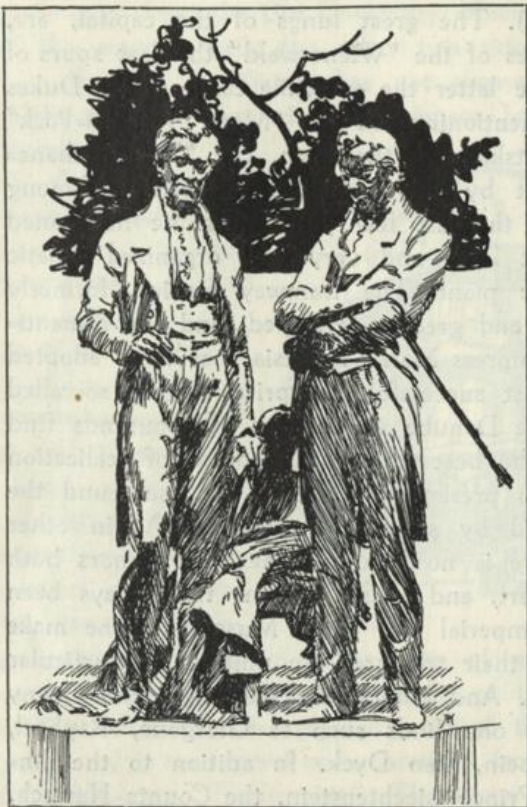
But life in Vienna has not always run as smoothly and dreamily as the quiet old streets might suggest. The arts and sciences have been at work busily advancing, and sending out into the world the results of their labours, their discoveries and inventions. In the first place it is the University that is justified in priding itself on the many men who have graduated there and whose names are celebrated throughout the world. The medical profession in Vienna has al-



ways maintained a high standard and the names of professors Hyrtl, Skoda, Oppolzer, Billroth, Nothnagel, Neusser and others of great fame speak for themselves. The annual report of the Imperial Academy of Sciences probably presents a compendium of everything that research has

opened up to mankind. The fruits of modern technical invention have of course been utilized here as in other capitals for the benefit of the public, and in some respects this city is ahead of others, as for instance in the gigantic work of the alpine aqueduct which provides more than two million people with the purest water straight from the lower pine-clad mountain ranges of the Alps close to the wellknown "Semmering". The many public gardens and parks ensure pure air to Vienna and

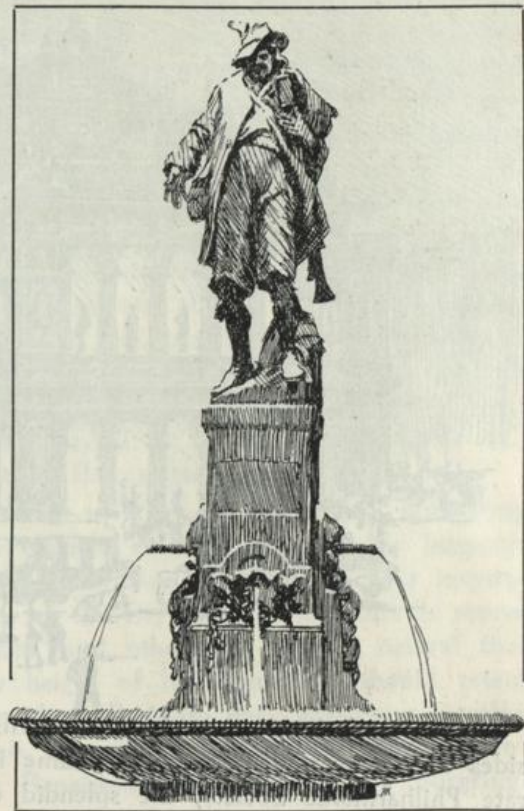
have earned for it the name of "Garden city" (Gartenstadt). The great lungs of the capital, are, however, the lovely and picturesquely wooded hills and dales of the "Wienerwald" the last spurs of which are the "Kahlenberg" and the "Leopoldsberg"; on the latter the erstwhile castle of the Dukes of Babenberg ist still to be seen. Pretty gardens worth mentioning are the "Maria Josepha-Park" near the "Südbahn", and the largest new park on the outskirts of the town, the "Türkenschanz-Park". Both of these gardens were planned and laid out by the municipal authorities. Among the noteworthy institutions erected by the municipality in the last few years must be mentioned the new asylum for the poor, the "Jubilee Hospital" the large and very well organized lunatic asylum called "Steinhof" the new gas works and electric plant. The tramway service, formerly in private hands, has been taken over by the municipality and greatly developed, and the romantically situated castle "Kobenzl" built in the time of the Empress Maria Theresia, has been adopted and made into a fashionable Hotel. One of the city's most successful enterprises is the so-called "Gänsehäufel" a strand-bathing place in an old bed of the Danube where tens of thousands find refreshment during the hot summer months. But one of the best schemes in course of realization is the forming of a "wood and meadow belt" in order to preserve the woods that surround the town and to prevent their being cut down and destroyed by speculative builders. As in other cities there are all kinds of charitable institutions and there is no lack of benevolent donors both for philanthropic purposes and for the encouragement of art, and artists. Vienna has always been and still is a homestead of art in all its branches. The Imperial and Royal Museums alone make it worth while for a stranger to prolong his visit here, as their treasures are unique. In particular the collection of the finest specimens of goldsmith's work. And among the paintings! how many of them are priceless and what a number of old friends one finds such as Giorgone, Raphael, Correggio, Titian, Velasquez, Murillo, Rubens, Dürer, Holbein, Van Dyck. In addition to the Imperial Museums the private art galleries and collections of Prince Liechtenstein, the Counts Harrach,

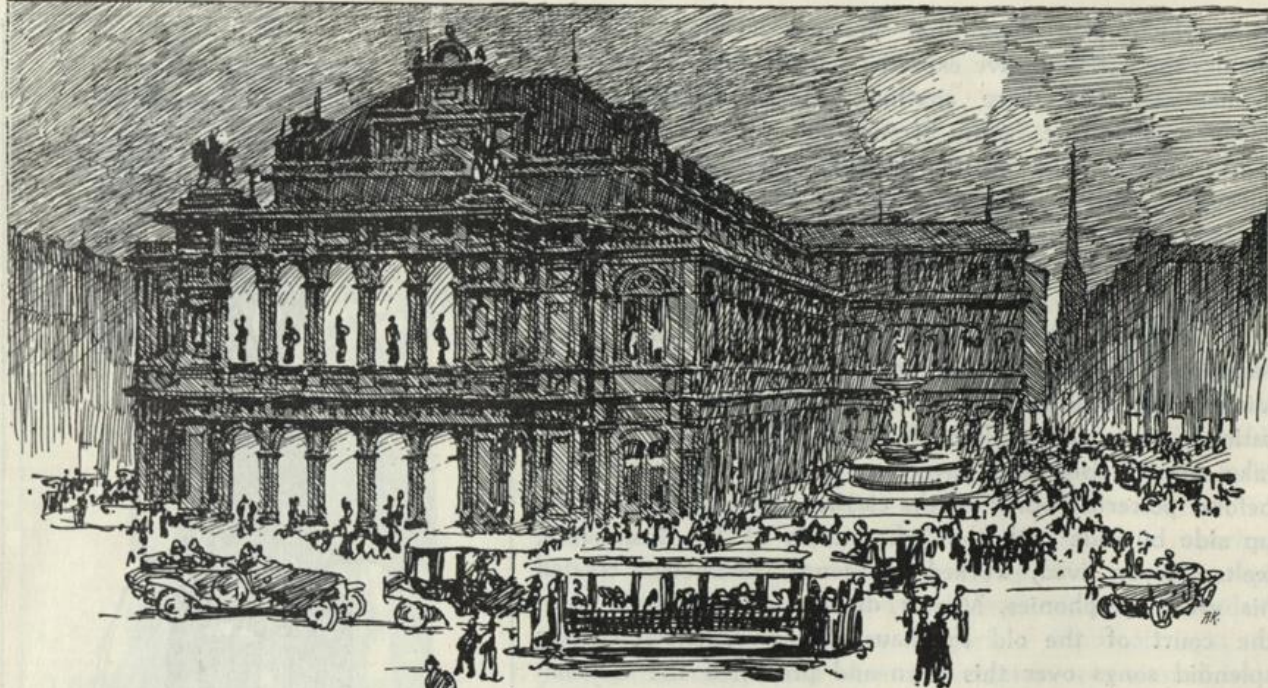


Schönborn, Czernin should not be overlooked. Among the permanent exhibitions may be mentioned those in the "Künstlerhaus" the "Sezession" and the "Hagenbund". The Museum of the City of Vienna with its valuable collection of Viennensia, the Imperial Treasury with the Crown jewels, the Imperial harness rooms where an unrivalled array of court carriages can be seen, and the Arsenal are all worth inspection.

The importance of Vienna as a musical town is so well known that it needs no particular accentuation. Vienna is the proper home of waltz music, which owes its birth to the lively spirit of its citizens, to their strongly developed rhythmic sense, their lively landscape, and to the golden wine of their vineyards. The cultured and refined feeling of the Viennese who for centuries considered their city as the centre of all German speaking countries; perhaps, also, their receptivity for the art of the foreign peoples with whom Vienna was in constant touch, created the subtle Viennese taste for a certain kind of light and melodious music. But Vienna produced great musical heroes of her own who drew from the air of this city saturated with music the inspiration for their monumental works. It was from the verdure of woods, the smiling loveliness of women, the sweet voices of birds, the bubbling of brooks

from which they drew that precious inspiration which enables the artist to give expression to the deepest thoughts in his soul. Is there anything more characteristically Viennese than the family Strauss and the composer Josef Lanner whose charming dances, half mournful, half merry, always contain an undercurrent of the Viennese popular songs? Their little brothers were the popular singers who wrote their own words and notes and created songs full of exaltation and melancholy which are so characteristic of the Viennese. Their ancestor was the jolly ballad singer Augustin who cheered up the citizens at the time when Vienna was besieged by the Turks. The mild form of satire in their verses also reflect the pleasure the Viennese take in criticism and invective. As already mentioned before, powerful works of the classics who lived here, grew up side by side with the light music of the insinuating waltz. Haydn lived, worked in Vienna, Beethoven created his great symphonies, Mozart directed his *Zauberflöte* in the court of the old Freyhaus. Schubert showered his splendid songs over this town and presented the German people with gifts which will live for ever. Bruckner whose genius was not understood by his contemporaries lived here in Vienna, as did Brahms; and Richard Wagner also spent some time here.





Surely there are but few towns which offer such varied musical pleasures as Vienna. Besides the Opera whose world-wide fame is established there are the choice performances of the first rate Philharmonic Society, the splendid concerts which are given by the "Gesellschaft der Musik-

freunde" the carefully trained "Wiener Männergesang=Verein", the "Schubert=Bund", the "Akademische Gesang=Verein" and others equally perfect in their way. But these grand concerts do not exhaust the musical resources of Vienna for the most famous musicians regularly visit this metropolis. For the lovers of lighter music there are excellent operatic theatres, which look back upon a glorious past as is witnessed by the names of Strauss, Suppé and Millöcker. Modern composers also have enjoyed international success.

Popular, civil and military bands play in some of the parks, while the Prater and innumerable restaurants provide excellent music on most afternoons or evenings for those whose means are limited. Even the very poorest may enjoy good music, free of charge, in front of the Town Hall, the Volksgarten, and also at the illuminated Schwarzenberg fountain above mentioned. Viennese music is difficult to characterize and he who has once heard it will understand the difficulty. It is by no means astonishing, if lovers of music pour into the town from near and far and are loth to leave a place which offers them every imaginable musical enjoyment. But those who get a peep into family life in Vienna, who are welcome guests in the homes of the Viennese citizens will marvel at the highly musical feeling that prevails in all circles of the capital.

The great masters of Austrian literature were also attracted to Vienna with its gay, fascinating and inspiring life. It was here that Grillparzer wrote his classical dramas, whose noble language and splendid imagination are now more and more appreciated. Here Anzengruber found his inspiration; Bauernfeld and Anastasius Grün lived within the walls of the city. Modern literature is represented by Schnitzler, Bahr, Bartsch, the Tyrolese Schönherr and others. It is only natural that people who remember the old "Burgtheater" at the very height of its reputation, should retain keen interest in the drama. The old proverb which declares that "Posterity does not weave wreaths to actors" has been entirely disproved by the actors who represented the literary offsprings of genius in the old Burgtheatre, now replaced by the fine Renaissance structure on the Burgring.

The long list of famous actors and actresses who have been immortalized in portraits hanging in the marble corridors of the superb Imperial Theatre are already part of the history of Viennese dramatic art. This Imperial Theatre is still considered the academy of the elect and to become a member of the Burgtheater is the highest ideal of every German actor.



Reproductions of the celebrated monuments in Vienna have long since found their way into works on art and have thus met the eyes of many an admirer beyond the narrow limits of Vienna. The magnificent monument by Canova in the Church of the Augustines for instance, the strangely voluted plague column on the "Graben" the splendid bronze fountain by Raphael Donner on the "Neuer Markt", the equestrian statues of Prince Eugene and the Archduke Carl in the outer

courtyard of the palace, and the monument of Prince Schwarzenberg on the place bearing the same name, must be visited by every one who wishes to make himself a picture of Vienna. We cannot describe in detail the monuments of our city. The charm of them, the variety of their artistic conception is as much part of the individuality of the time to which they belong, as is



the freedom which the artists were permitted to exercise in their designs. No interference has hindered the inspired artist in his work as may be seen by Goethe's monument, the dainty marble statue of Mozart on the "Albrechtsplatz" or the powerful team of Marc Aurelius' lions at the side of the Secession Gallery. Art monuments of note are those of the popular poets Anzengruber and Raymund, those of Strauss and Lanner, the waltz kings, Tegetthoff and Radetzky, the national

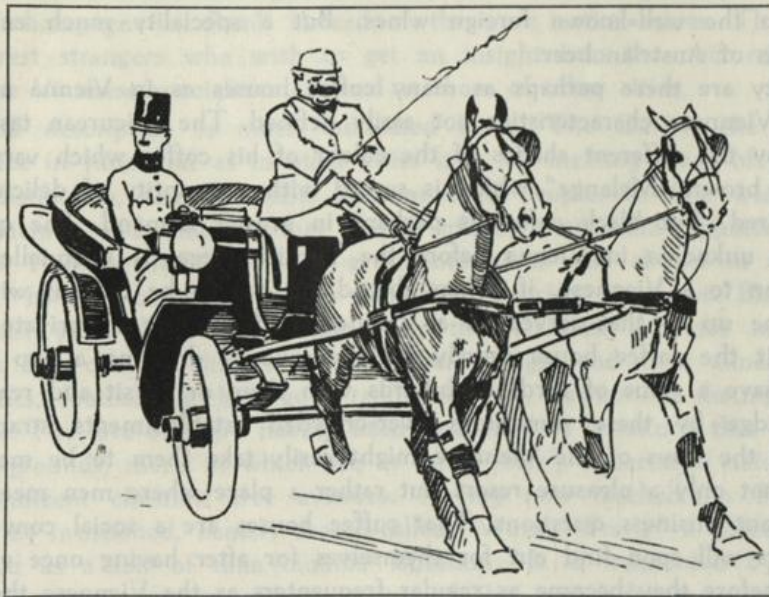
heroes, Maria Theresia, Austria's great Empress, and that of the lovely and ill-fated Consort of Francis Joseph I. the present Emperor of Austria.

Of the numerous churches we can here give no adequate description as there imposing architecture needs close and loving inspection. But we must not refrain from mentioning the Cathedral of St. Stephen, the Gothic dome which embodies so much of the history of Vienna; the "Votiv-Kirche", a votive offering of the people for the deliverance of the Emperor from assassination, the Carlskirche, a splendid monumental work by Fischer von Erlach; the Kapuzinerkirche in whose vaults repose the bodies of most of the members of the Hapsburg family, the tiny Ruprechtskirche, the oldest church of the metropolis, the interesting church called "Maria am Gestade" (Mary on the Strand) as in former days an arm of the Danube flowed at the bottom of the steps, and the very old Italian church the "Minoritenkirche" with a marvellous reproduction in mosaic of Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper. Besides the architectural works already mentioned the following deserve close inspection: The beautiful Arsenal, the fine old Baroque Town Hall, the noble structure of the House of Parliament and the new Gothic Town Hall.

The modern buildings which have of late sprung up all too fast and have caused the disappearance of many an old bit of Vienna, are also interesting in their way and show the rapid development of the metropolis. Another feature of the city are the attractive shops the windows of which display a variety of goods that vie with those of all great capitals. Viennese fashions are now as much in request as those of Paris, and sometimes even preferred to the latter. Other specialities are leather goods, fancy articles in which Vienna takes the lead.

On account of the development of the city, ways and means of traffic have been studied very intently and as a result we have an extremely well worked out electric tramway service, a metropolitan railway, motor, busses etc., which not only permit one speedily to reach the various parts of the town but also the charming rural districts round Vienna. The Vienna "Fiacre" who

with his drastic humour, his smart vehicle and famous breed of quick trotting horses has almost disappeared from the streets of Vienna, having been superceded by the faster and more up to date motor cab. If we say that the "Fiacre" has almost disappeared, we must add that it is still more the case with the "Komfortabel" (one horse cab). To those visitors whose means are limited and who nevertheless like to get a general idea of Vienna, we can recommend a ride round the city in the saloon carriage of the electric tram which starts at regular intervals from the "Liebenberg=Monument". Much interest has been



shown by other great towns in the novel use of the electric tram an innovation in which Vienna has taken the lead. But those who prefer to take a more extended trip may take advantage of the tourist agencies' personally=conducted motor brakes.

The hotels in Vienna enjoy a good reputation. The old fashioned ideas of comfort, which prevailed in former days have given way to modern requirements. New hotels have sprung up and many of the older one have been partly rebuilt with the result that they now comply with the demands of even the most pretentious travellers. The "Wiener Küche" (Vienna cooking) figures

prominently on the bill of fare although international cooking prevails in all the hotels, and the prices on the whole are not exorbitant. Austrian wines which can be had from the wood in every hotel and restaurant, especially in the "Rathauskeller" (cellar of the Town Hall) are in no wise inferior in quality to the well-known foreign wines. But a speciality much enjoyed by strangers are the different kinds of Austrian beer.

In no other city are there perhaps as many coffee houses as in Vienna and these establishments bear marked Viennese characteristics not easily defined. The epicurean taste of the Viennese is plainly indicated by the different shades of the colour of his coffee which vary from the deepest black to the lightest brown "Melange" which is served with a quantity of delicious whipped cream unless otherwise desired. But black coffee is perhaps in greater demand. The quality of this dark beverage, which was unknown in Vienna before the Turkish siege, is unequalled in goodness and it is really a privation to a Viennese, if, when abroad, he has to be content with coffee that does not in any way come up to that served in a Viennese coffee house or private home. Gentlemen, however, do not visit the coffee house merely for the sake of drinking a cup of coffee, but also to meet friends, to have a game of cards or billiards with them or to sit and read local and foreign news papers. To judge by these sometimes over-crowded establishments strangers who are not well acquainted with the ways of the Viennese might easily take them to be mere idlers. However, the coffee house is not only a pleasure resort but rather a place where men meet to discuss politics and to settle important business questions. That coffee houses are a social convenience of practical importance, foreigners will soon find out for themselves for after having once visited coffee houses it rarely takes long before they become as regular frequenters as the Viennese themselves.

Naturally Vienna also possesses many variety theatres, cabarets etc., but the once famous "Volkssänger" (local popular singer) who in olden days used to enchant their hearers with pathetic songs characteristically Viennese, have almost disappeared from the scene. Singers of that special

type can now only be heard in small taverns just outside the town when new wine is being sold; but even there, among the hills of the sunny vineyards, many of the small ramshackle old inns which were once renowned for their good wine and sweet music had to make room for modern restaurants where champagne is drunk instead of the pure native wines. The variety theatres and cabarets will interest strangers who wish to get an insight into the nocturnal life of Vienna and they will find some Viennese specialities as good as those of other cities.

Racing of all description is much cultivated here. The Derby, the event of the season, generally takes place in June and as in other cities it is the meeting place of the upper ten, foreign, visitors of high distinction, famous artists and moneyed people. In fine weather the scene always presents a gay picture and among other things offers a splendid opportunity of studying the latest creations of Viennese fashions. Very great interest is also shown in aeronautic experiments and flying tests. It will be remembered that the Austrian lieutenant Blaschke beat the record for high flying last year. With a few exceptions the Viennese did not indulge much in sports formerly but this has changed like so many other things, and now almost every other person goes in for athletics, football, hockey, golf, tennis, cricket, swimming, skating, ski-running, rowing, mountaineering etc. The love of sport having been awakened, it is natural that Vienna possesses many well-kept sporting-grounds, many of which are in the "Prater", a beautiful natural park with splendid old trees and magnificent chestnut tree avenues. Having now reached the Prater another Viennese speciality should be mentioned, namely the so-called "Wurstel-Prater" a place of amusement which might be described as a fair of nine months' duration. It is frequented by all classes of people and much innocent amusement is to be got out of the roundabouts, magic cabinets and other shows; on Sundays and fêtedays the avenues are particularly crowded with pleasure-seekers.

It is on occasions like these that one remarks the natural amiability, light-heartedness, with and humour of the working classes and a childlike enjoyment of harmless pleasures.

Doubtless the picturesque position of the town has greatly influenced the character of its inhabitants. The surroundings of the "Kaiserstadt" are indeed beautiful, and what enhances their value is that these charming woods, hills and dales can be reached so easily and in so short a time. Half an hour's ride with the electric tram or the "Stadtbahn" respectively takes one into the very heart of the "Wienerwald" where one can stroll about for hours, and easily imagine oneself far away from the noise and bustle of the town. On fine Sundays and holidays Vienna gives the impression of being quite deserted, for everybody, who can manage to do so, leaves the city and either takes a short trip to the Kahlenberg or to some other pretty spot so easily attainable, or else, he makes a whole day's excursion to the Semmering and its environments to enjoy the fresh mountain breeze of the Alps. Much frequented by the Viennese is the long distance tram that starts every half hour from the "Giselastrasse" and takes one straight out to "Baden" near Vienna, in about an hour's time. This is a charming health resort very much frequented, principally on account of its hot sulphurous springs with their strong healing powers for all those suffering from gout or rheumatism. But Baden is also a resort for the strong and healthy, for it lies cosily embedded among the green hills and combines all manner of town-comforts with the pleasures of a free and easy country life. "Vöslau" the next railway station from Baden, is also much visited by people who wish to enjoy bathing and swimming in the open air. In the large swimming bath, for which the water is supplied by natural hot springs, the temperature of the water never sinks below 18 degrees Reaumur (72 Fahrenheit) and is so clear that in spite of the considerable depth of the basin, one is able to distinguish even the smallest pebble lying at the bottom. The woods round Vöslau are also very pretty. In fact all along the line of the "Südbahn" one place is prettier and more interesting than the other, and then at "Gloggnitz" one first catches sight of the high and majestic Alpin regions. But let us retrace our steps nearer to Vienna and throw just one fleeting glance at the grand "Chorherrnstift" of "Klosterneuburg" over-looking

the Danube. The treasury of this monastery contains rare and exquisite things and can be visited free of charge after having obtained permission from the Prior. In the cellars casks of delicious wines, made of the grapes from the vineyards belonging to the monastery, are stored, and in one part of these cellars the so-called "Fasselrutschen" (barrel sliding) takes place every year on the 15 of November, the day of the Patron Saint Leopold. This is a very old custom and consists of the rather questionable pleasure of slipping down an enormous cask. On the other side of the Danube is the Castle of "Kreuzenstein" owned by Count Wilczek. This castle, in itself a priceless museum, was reconstructed by Count Wilczek on the very spot where the ancient castle once stood of which it is an exact copy. As far as possible the old foundations were left and the old stones were made use of. Every piece of furniture, every ornament, every kitchen utensil is antique and precisely the thing that would have been found in the ancient castle at the time when it was inhabited by gallant knights. A little further up the Danube lies the village and castle of "Greifenstein". At one side of the castle porch there is still to be seen a block of stone with an impression in the shape of a gigantic hand and the visitor is told that in olden days every knight who came to this castle as a friend had to place his mailed hand into the indentation of the stone as a sign of goodwill. This is the origin of the name "Greifenstein" or "touch the stone". "Dürrenstein" on the Danube where Richard the Lion Heart was kept prisoner, is very often visited by excursionists; still further up the majestic stream is the very much spoken of picturesque "Wachau". Then comes the ruins of the former robbers' haunt "Aggstein", the Benedictine Abbey of Melk, many small villages and snug little cottages; then again be the ruins of some old castle and the eye is always delighted with the beautiful panorama on both sides of the stream from Vienna right up to Passau. Every stone, every tree, every foot of soil speaks to us of some historical event and reminds us of the days long past and gone and teaches us not to forget the great and important part Austria has played in the world's history. The Austrians in general and the Viennese in

particular, have one great fault, and that is their exaggerated modesty in regard to the treasures they possess, and the habit of finding everything coming from abroad better than that what they themselves possess, or produce. Nevertheless at the core of their hearts they are very proud of their beautiful country and their much adored city of Vienna.

This pamphlet is not intended to give a detailed description of Vienna, its surroundings and all the sights, buildings and objects worth looking at; it is only meant to give an insight into the old city and the life and doings of its inhabitants. Those who have been to Vienna once and have become familiar with this city and its inhabitants, generally wish to come back again; for it seems Vienna fascinates people but in such a subtle way that it is difficult to ascertain wherein its peculiar charm lies. Of course Vienna and the Viennese have their faults just as other cities and people, yet among their good traits there is at least one very prominent one and that is their hospitality. Strangers are always welcome here, and it is a great pleasure for the Viennese when foreign visitors feel at home in dear old Vienna. I should close the paper here. Therefore let it be with a hearty wish that all who read this will soon make the personal acquaintance of Vienna and then revisit it many a time.

M. v. K.

