

A New Musical Novelty.

A PATENT has recently been allowed Carl Brown, of Columbus, Ohio, upon a new stringed instrument called a harp-guitar.

The instrument has the general form of guitars of "ye olden time," the body being pear-shaped and having a flat top and slightly swelled back.

It has ten strings, six of them being identical with, and tuned the same as, those upon any guitar.

Running parallel and about a sixteenth of an inch to the left (looking toward the neck) of the four larger guitar strings are smaller strings, tuned each an exact octave above the string paralleled. Thus the harp-guitar is really a guitar of unique pattern, with four extra treble strings added.

The method of playing is different and much more simple than on the guitar, the air being picked with the thumb on the double strings, while the accompaniment is played with the fingers, and thumb when unoccupied, upon all the available strings.

The fingering is much more simple than upon the guitar, for by means of the four extra treble strings, one is enabled to render almost any ordinary piece of music with the left hand in the first position, there being two and one-half octaves under the hand in this position.

On the guitar there are eighteen frets, while only four or five are needed upon the harp-guitar.

The guitar, although a universally used instrument, is one upon which but few of the popular airs can be played, the principal music for which it is adapted being merely exercises or pieces written especially for it. This is owing to the arrangement, tuning, and more particularly the lack of a sufficient number of treble strings arranged convenient for execution.

With the addition of the four treble strings, as on the harp-guitar, the possibilities for the instrument are infinitely greater, for anyone who can play a chord and run a scale on the ordinary guitar, can

upon the harp-guitar play with ease almost any piece he may know.

In tone the instrument resembles more particularly the autoharp or the mandolin and guitar, without the trill of the former, the volume of tone being nearly double that of the guitar.

The harp-guitar is really a double instrument, for it is so arranged that by throwing a small lever it can instantly be converted into an ordinary guitar, this being accomplished by silencing the extra or treble strings, and these strings may be thrown into action again without re-tuning them.

Two prominent manufacturers will place the instrument on the market this coming fall.