

## The Grunewald Harp-Guitar.

THE NEW MUSICAL INSTRUMENT, COMBINING THE FEATURES OF TWO, ATTRACTING CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION IN TRADE AND MUSICAL CIRCLES—DEALERS SHOULD LOOK IT UP.

The harp-guitar made by Rene Grunewald, of New Orleans, and which was referred to at some length in our issue of Jan. 22d, is exciting considerable interest in musical and trade circles. Many inquiries have reached Mr. Grunewald about this instrument, and all who have examined it are unanimous in proclaiming it to be a radical and practical improvement upon the time-honored guitar.

The harp-guitar may be termed a dual or combination instrument. When played it sounds virtually like two instruments, the one carrying the air, the other the accompani-



ment. The quality of tone resembles that of the mandolin and guitar, or more particularly that of the harp, the volume of tone being much greater and clearer than that of the guitar.

Many dealers are now handling the harp-guitar, and are quite enthusiastic about it. The Columbus, O., State Journal referring recently to this instrument, which is sold by one of the dealers in that city, said:

"During the past week there has been an exhibition at the store of one of the principal dealers in musical instruments a stringed instrument, unique in pattern, but generally constructed on the order of a guitar.

"It is a harp-guitar and has ten strings, six of them being tuned exactly like those of an ordinary guitar. The remaining four strings run parallel with and about a sixteenth of an inch to the left (looking toward the neck) of the four larger strings, and these four extra strings are tuned an exact octave above the strings paralleled.

"Thus the instrument is really a guitar, having the first four strings paralleled by smaller ones.

"The method of playing upon the harp-guitar is slightly different than upon the ordinary, the air being picked with the bare thumb upon the double strings, while the accompaniment is played upon the other available strings with the fingers. This plan greatly simplifies playing and enables one to render almost any piece of music with the left hand in one position.

"Heretofore the guitar has been an instrument upon which but few of the ordinary airs of the day could be played, the principal music for which it was adapted being merely exercises.

"This was owing to the arrangement and tuning of the strings, but by the adding of the four treble strings, as on the harp-guitar, the possibilities for the instrument are immediately changed and anyone who can play a chord and run a scale, can, by means of these extra strings, play with ease any piece he may know.

"In tone the harp-guitar resembles two instruments, the mandolin and guitar (minus the trill of the former), the volume being nearly double that of an ordinary guitar."

The merits of the instrument are so unique and so apparent that wherever it has been exhibited, it has compelled much notice of a favorable character. It is sold at a price within the reach of all, and affords the dealer a fair margin of profit. It is not only destined to be popular in this country, but throughout Mexico and Central America where Mr. Grunewald's ambassador, Isadore Pollatsek, is at present making an extended tour, introducing the harp-guitar as well as the Grunewald mandolin.

Dealers desiring to have a novelty which they can push with profit during '98 should correspond with Rene Grunewald and place a sample order for the harp-guitar.

As is well known, the guitar is an instrument upon which, owing to the difficulties to be overcome in execution, comparatively few can play, and music for this instrument must be written expressly for or arranged for it. With the harp-guitar all difficulties are overcome by having a larger number of treble strings arranged convenient for execution. On account of the latter instrument's numerous advantages it is thought by many that it will soon supersede the ordinary guitar.

It is proposed to form in Louisville a permanent association, the purpose of which will be to give in that city annually a great musical festival. The first will occur next May. The Boston Festival Orchestra and several eminent soloists have been engaged. A chorus of 300 voices is now rehearsing for the festival.