

The "Harpitar," a Cross Between the Guitar and the Harp

"HOW can I improve the sound of the guitar?" asked Mr. R. E. Bates of Brooklyn, N. Y., speaking to himself of course, after the manner of inventors. Then he answered the question by thrumming the "harpitar," an instrument in which he has combined harp and guitar. Listen now to Mr. Bates' exposition of his invention:

"It combines the simple chromatic scale of the guitar with the peculiarly beautiful tones of the harp. When placed upon the lap the body of the instrument rests against the performer, the edge of the soundboard forming a rest for the wrist of the right hand so as to allow the hand freedom for attacking the strings.

"The present-day guitar is a sweet-toned instrument, but it lacks projecting power, an inherent defect due to its general structure and to the manner of securing the strings over the soundboard. The pressure of the strings is but a fraction of the string tension. In the harpitar the whole tension of the string is fully exerted upon the soundboard. Hence thicker strings can be used and hence a greater volume of tone secured. The harpitar has six strings, like the guitar; a harp, twenty-six in the smallest size. Hence the harpitar is a money-saving instrument. In the harp the strings are distributed over the entire length of the sound-board. Since the greatest volume of tone is obtained at the center, the strings nearer the ends emit less mellow notes. But there can be no difference in volume because the six strings are all located at the center. The sound-hole is placed

at the back of the body. Indeed, the bottom of the body is entirely open so that the sound waves well forth freely."

Though not musical, still we can appreciate the economy of having a two-in-one instrument.



Looks like a harp—strung like a guitar. No wonder its inventor calls it the "Harpitar"

Bee Culture in Macedonia Is Primitive

MACEDONIA, one of the most turbulent sections in the Balkan states, from which many a cry has startled a suffering world, does not seem to have progressed a great deal in civilization since the days of the great Alexander. Life in Macedonia is conducted on the most primitive lines, and the same is true of agriculture, the various trades, commerce and the methods of transportation. Ox-carts are still in common

use; and the beehives, which are never lacking even at the poorest farmhouse, are of the same primitive form that were in use two thousand and more years ago. The picture shows a row of these beehives, placed on a shelf along the outside wall of the farmhouse. Below them the firewood is stored.

The hives are made of bark, supported by a framework of twigs and covered with straw roofs.



Two thousand years ago they used beehives just like these in Greece. The beehives are built on a shelf