

and by that time "The Ring" was pursuing a triumphant course through Europe. Bruneau's most striking work has been done in connection with the novels of Zola. Debussy is best known in opera by his "Pelléas et Mélisande," and Dukas for his opera founded on Maeterlinck's "Ariane et Barbe Bleue." Février's "Monna Vanna" was produced last year.

#### CÉSAR FRANCK.

The February number of the *Musical Times* opens with the first part of an article on M. Vincent d'Indy's "César Franck." M. d'Indy was a pupil of Franck's, and in many respects he is a writer fitted to speak with authority on Franck and his music, says Mr. Ernest Newman, the author of the article. Oddly enough, the greatest French musician of the latter part of the last century was not a Frenchman, but a Belgian, born at Liège in 1822. The Franck family settled in France in 1846, and César in time became a naturalised French citizen. For nearly half a century he lived a laborious life in Paris as a teacher of music, and the leading French musicians of his time seem to have been very jealous of him. When his symphony was given in 1889, M. d'Indy asked a professor what he thought of it. "That a symphony? Who ever heard of writing for the *cor anglais* in a symphony? Your Franck's music may be whatever you please, but it will never be a symphony!" was the reply. The gentle, humble, and retiring Franck was nevertheless the biggest force in French music in his day, and by his own work and through his pupils he has given it an impulse so fecund that its vigour is still undiminished. He raised immensely the standard of French instrumental music, and when we look at the newer schools of French composers, or at the larger and more intelligent public, for serious instrumental music, we find either his influence at work or some other influence that has grown out of it. Franck died in 1890; to-day only his symphony is coming into its own.

#### ALFRED THE GREAT IN ART.

In the series of articles in the *Windsor Magazine* on England's Story in Portrait and Picture, the article for February is devoted to the reign of Alfred the Great. The illustrations include the statue of Alfred by Mr. Hamo Thornycroft at Winchester, and reproductions of pictures by well-known artists representing Alfred as a boy, Alfred in the house of the neat-herd and the cakes burning on the hearth, Alfred disguised as a harper in the Danish camp, Alfred conducting the re-fortification of London in 886, Alfred building his fleet, Alfred submitting the laws to the Witan, Alfred translating, and several other subjects. The text gives an outline of the chief events in Alfred's reign. It is to be hoped the series will be continued down to our own day, though the selection of pictures will become more difficult, owing to the large number from which to make the choice. How much time and trouble have already been expended on the subject probably only the writer knows.

#### DRUGGING BIG GAME.

CAPTAIN FRITZ DUQUESNE contributes to *Fry's* a very thrilling account of trapping big game in the heart of Africa.

#### PRIME COST OF THE BEASTS.

He first describes the market inducement for the extremely perilous pursuit:—

Delivered at Nairobi or Port Florence, which are inland and practically on the hunting-field, a baby rhinoceros of the prehensile lipped species will bring from £75 to £100 sterling, a giraffe from £50 to £100 sterling, and a baby hippopotamus from £50 to £90 sterling; elands and most of the large antelope from £25 to £40 sterling; baboons from 5s. to 20s.; monkeys about the same; crocodiles from 5s. to 25s.; elephants from £75 to £175 sterling; lions and leopards, with the exception of the black species of the latter, from £20 to £35, according to size and condition. The gorilla and the square-muzzled (or so-called white) rhinoceros can be sold at auction by telegraph. Their value might run from £1,000 to £6,000, according to the bidding. The square-muzzled rhinoceros is fast becoming exterminated, owing to the fact that it is a wild animal and feeds in the open, where it is easily seen and shot.

The above prices are doubled by the time the animals reach the coast. Then there is the cost of transport from Africa to Antwerp, Hamburg, or London, with the cost of food and care added, as well as the additional expense of keeping the animals until a buyer appears on the scene.

When it is taken into consideration that there are not more than five great circuses in the world, and only one hundred and fifty zoological gardens, the demand for wild animals must naturally be limited.

#### MORPHINE AS LION-TAMER.

Of the methods of capturing and of taming, the writer has much to say. He observes:—

Until the introduction of morphine, the trapping business was most revolting and most cruel. It can be easily imagined how a lion or rhinoceros, with all its mighty power, would injure itself in a fight for its liberty against the cunning contrivances of man. The man to whom the honour is due for the idea of using morphine for subduing fear-maddened beasts was one of my business and hunting associates, Koos Marais, a Transvaal physician, who found his countrymen so healthy that he had to adopt some other means than feeling pulses to make a living. So he took up capturing game.

He gives a very vivid account of trapping a lion in a pitfall:—

Finding himself helpless, he gave a mighty roar, and commenced to chew the ensnaring ropes. The natives caught the draw-ropes and drew the struggling monster from the pit, and tied him flat to pegs in the ground. Marais stepped up and quickly thrust the end of the hypodermic syringe into the beast's body. A few seconds later the morphine commenced to act, and the monarch of the forest, with a low groan, sank into unconsciousness as the wondering natives looked on and marvelled at the white man's magic. That lion now does "stunts" under the whip of a trainer for the amusement of the American public.

Hypodermic injections of morphine, however, do not answer well with the rhinoceros, for when it recovers from its stupor it is likely to be a hundred-fold fiercer and stronger than if made weak and submissive by starvation.

PEOPLE who want to know the meaning of the strange word Totalisator and how the thing works may find it described in *Fry's*.