ANCIENT CONCERTS, LONDON.

The Athenœum, of March 18, 1843, says, in reviewing the first of these concerts, "As regards the music selected, the gems of the evening, to us, were Handel's overture to "Alcides," with a minuet and march which might have been written yesterday, and a chorus, "Domine ad adjuvandum," by Giovanni Porta. This was a Venetian composer born about the end of the seventeenth century, who for awhile was music director to Cardinal Ottoboni, the patron of Corelli, subsequently paid a visit to London, and finished his career as chapel-master to the Elector of Bavaria, in whose service he died in 1740. His name

is appended to seventeen operas, some of which must be well worth enquiring after, if the noble composition, produced on Wednesday, be a fair specimen of his genius. We have not heard anything so grand save from Handel. The opening movement, indeed, bears so close an affinity to the "Hailstone Chorus," that we could not help speculating whether the spleudid plagiarist, who from an ancient dance tune could weave the pastoral symphony in "The Messiah," might not possibly have made its acquaintance; a fugue which follows is little less admirable. How low have the Italians fallen since such music was written, and not by their most famous men!

ALICE BRAND.









