

MUSIC IN CHURCH WORSHIP

BEING THE BAIRD LECTURE FOR 1926

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PREFACE.

WHEN the Baird Trustees did me the honour of appointing me lecturer, I was given to understand that, while the choice of a subject was left to myself, the Trustees were prepared to regard with favour a course of lectures on Church Music, should I feel disposed to select that topic. It was a great gratification to me, as Convener of the Committee on Psalmody and Hymns of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, to find that Church praise was considered worthy of a place alongside of the weightier matters of doctrine hitherto treated in the series of Baird Lectures; and I gladly availed myself of the opportunity afforded me of dealing with a subject which had always been to me one of deep interest, and which I conceive to be of the highest importance in the worship of the Church.

The lectures being addressed to a popular audience, I have endeavoured, so far as possible, to avoid technicalities which would be intelligible only to those with expert knowledge of music.

The form of worship that I have in view in such suggestions as I have to make is that with which we are familiar in the Presbyterian Churches in Scotland, though that has not precluded occasional reference to the more elaborate Cathedral Service of the Church of England. But as the lectures are concerned with the order of worship in the Protestant Church, I have refrained from any attempt to discuss the music of the Mass.

The service that music can render in the worship of the sanctuary is most valuable. One is pleased to note that it is receiving more and more attention from our Church authorities, and that there is a sincere desire, on the part of those to whom the conduct of our Church praise is entrusted, to make the music of our services more dignified and reverent. If these lectures serve in any way to deepen this sense of the importance of the subject, and to encourage the effort to make the music of our Church worship more elevating in its influence on the congregation and more worthy to be laid as an offering upon the divine altar, they will fulfil the purpose I set before me in their preparation.

HADDINGTON,

August, 1926.

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