

**THE NOTRE DAME HYMN TUNE BOOK.** Compiled and arranged by Frank N. Birtchnell, Mus. Bac., and Moir Brown. Liverpool: Rockliff Brothers, 1905. 2s. 6d.

It is stated in the preface of this book that 'an attempt has been made in this book to provide a complete set of tunes for the hymns published by the Sisters of Notre Dame. The traditional tunes have been retained, and many of the hymns have been set for the first time, while those having melodies which were considered to be unsuited to the words have been reset.'

'The traditional tunes,' we suppose, are the horrible things that have been sung during the last twenty or thirty years. On the new tunes the following sentence throws some light: 'The majority of the tunes are harmonized in four parts, and it is hoped that choirs and congregations will cultivate the part-singing of the hymns.' We are afraid that as long as editors look upon a hymn tune as merely the top part of a part-song, we shall never get satisfactory hymn tunes.

As to the words, the editors think it necessary to make a kind of apology. 'But,' they say, 'as every hymn included is used in one parish or another, we have thought it best to publish them all.' We cannot say that the present publication has advanced the problem of English hymn singing very much.

H. B.