

cum Canticorum" was recently rendered to an enthusiastic audience in the *Augusteo*. Bossi was appointed to this post as far back as 1916 but he remained here but a few months, and since his retirement the directorship was not filled till recently with the nomination of Respighi. Respighi is in his forty-fifth year and has had all the benefits of an excellent musical education combined with an intensely keen natural talent. His studies have not been confined to Italy but have been carried out also in Germany and in Russia, so that he comes to the famous *Liceo* with the highest credentials for success.

* * *

All these names are inevitably bound up with current Italian polyphonia and logically recall to one's mind the name and work of Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina. For no lover of choral music can listen to the rendering of modern compositions without thinking of the great genius who clothed polyphony with so inimitable a beauty that he has been freely acclaimed as its founder. Yet Palestrina has the unique honor, in the strict interpretation of the facts of the history of choral music, of perfecting rather than of founding the species of unaccompanied vocal music that is known as polyphonic. The first aim of those who invented what we now call part-singing was to discover some method of making a second voice sing notes which should be harmonious with the notes sung by the main voice while at the same time the two sets of notes should not be identical; further, each part should have its own role to perform as a contribution to the resultant melody. But this was not all; it was also necessary to discover a mode of musical expression by part-singing wherein each voice, while singing a melodious strain, should at the same time take its share in the definite elaboration of a single idea, not singing for itself alone but answering, as it were, the accompanying voice. The realisation of this aim is to be credited principally to one of the most famous masters of the Netherland School, Josquin des Pres, who was one of the *maestri* at the Papal court of Pope Sixtus IV. from the year 1471 to the year 1484. Josquin was chief light of a school of church music which does not seem to have received its full merits at the hands of the historians. To the present day the results of much of his Roman activity remain here in the manuscript Masses of the Sistine choir. When Josquin was born (about 1445) counterpoint was already invented, so that he found he was the first musical genius to come into a world which had his materials already prepared for him. His use of contrapuntal devices has never been exceeded and he has been styled by one historian of music as "the first musician who impresses us as having genius."

Unfortunately Josquin was so great a musician that he imposed himself unwittingly as a law unto his generation, and in the first half of the sixteenth century a large proportion of composers aimed at nothing higher than a servile imitation of the Belgian *maestro*. The result was almost inevitable; they succeeded in reproducing his faults rather than his virtues. The pure and flowing style of the master soon became, in the hands of his unskilful disciples, a mass of elaboration and meaningless attention to useless detail. Thus there is at least one Mass still extant in which the tenor sings the word *Alleluia* incessantly from beginning to end. The sacred text was too often rendered utterly unintelligible, and profane melodies with the verses belonging to them were introduced into the most solemn compositions for the Church. This period of decadence came to a sudden end in the year 1564, when Pope Pius IV., acting in the spirit of the Tridentine reform of church music, commissioned eight cardinals to enforce the decrees of the Council of Trent on the matter of ecclesiastical singing. Thus was ushered in what has justly been called the golden age of church music, which to-day owes its celebrity and its winning appeal to the patient genius of that devout and earnest man, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina.

(To be continued.)

◆◆◆

Friendliness is, after all, but little more than courtesy.

Woods' Great Peppermint Cure,
For Coughs and Colds, never fails.

Bishop Whyte's Return

RECEPTIONS AT VARIOUS CENTRES.

Wednesday, the 12th ult., was a day of rejoicing in the schools of the Sisters of Mercy, for on that day his Lordship the Bishop had come once more amongst his South Dunedin children. It had been intended to hold the Welcome-Home in the Convent grounds which looked gay with bunting, but, owing to the rain, the function had to be held in St. Philomena's College, which had been very nicely decorated. On entering, his Lordship, who was accompanied by the Rev. Fathers Delany, P. J. O'Neill, and Rooney, was greeted with a pretty Welcome Chorus. On behalf of the assembled pupils Master George Walsh feelingly recited an Ode giving expression to their joy at his Lordship's safe return to Maoriland from "Lands where for ages the Faith has held sway," and to their hearty good wishes for his future years. Several appropriate vocal numbers having been rendered, Dr. Whyte, with kindly words of encouragement and praise, thanked the children for their whole-hearted welcome and granted them a holiday.

WELCOME BY THE CHILDREN OF THE ORPHANAGE.

During the weeks that elapsed since the return of Dr. Whyte the girls of St. Vincent's Orphanage had been preparing a special entertainment of their own with joyous expectations of seeing their beloved Bishop in their midst again and offering him a warm welcome. This pleasure was theirs on the glorious Feast of St. Patrick, the special patron of the South Dunedin parish. The orphanage study hall, where the reception was held, looked its best; exquisite taste was shown in the decorations; white and gold drapings gracefully intertwined with ivy and ferns swung from the ceiling and adorned the walls—Erin's tricolor was in evidence everywhere, and illuminated scrolls with Gaelic mottoes were effectively displayed. The entrance of his Lordship was a signal for a hearty chorus of welcome. Accompanying the Bishop were Rev. J. Delany, Rev. C. Morkane (rector Holy Cross College), Rev. P. J. O'Neill, Rev. C. Collins, Rev. W. Monaghan, Rev. E. H. Rooney, Rev. Dr. H. O'Neill, and Rev. C. Tylee. In a little speech of welcome one of the children expressed the orphans' sentiments of joyful welcome and of filial respect. The national character of many of the numbers on a pleasingly varied programme of choruses, recitations, dances, and action songs showed that the Sisters are fostering in the hearts of the orphans a love for the dear Old Land to which they owe the precious heritage of their holy Faith. The performance throughout gave evidence of careful preparation; the "babies" merited a special word of praise, their unaffected, confident air as they danced and sang was very amusing. The concert was brought to a close with the singing of "God Save Ireland."

His Lordship, addressing the children said he was delighted to be with them that afternoon. Their bright, patriotic and altogether creditable entertainment had given him great pleasure; he was particularly pleased to see the shamrock so much in evidence, and they had shown him that they know how to honor the glorious Apostle of Ireland, St. Patrick. They had prayed for the safe return of their Bishop and the good God had answered that prayer. To the senior girls who will soon be leaving the institution to go out to work, his Lordship spoke special words of advice for their future guidance, exhorting them always to act in such a manner as to reflect credit on the training they received in the orphanage. They must at all times be particularly exact with regard to truthfulness and honesty and act in a strictly upright manner. If they are truthful and honest they will not waste their time in frivolous reading or idle it in other ways; they will practise obedience and all the other virtues as well, and give satisfaction to their mistresses. It would be a painful disappointment to him, their Bishop, to the priests and to the Sisters if they ever heard that a girl who had been trained in St. Vincent's Orphanage brought discredit on her religion by unworthy conduct.

AT TESCHEMAKERS.

Saturday, the 22nd ult., was a joyful day at St. Patrick's Dominican College, Teschemakers, when the Sisters and pupils were granted the privilege of meeting again,

Remember

The House for honest value in Groceries, Crockery, Brushware, Household Hardware, Produce. Quality unsurpassed. If we please you tell others, if we do not please tell us. Send along a trial order. Send along a trial order.

F. READ & CO.
Main St., Taihape