

our public worship. As a rule, too little attention is paid to the music in our services, and, in many cases, the results are anything but edifying. Sometimes too much is attempted without any regard to the material that is available, and the best way of using it, and sometimes the music itself is not worthy of the object for which it is used. I quite agree with the writer that for a country choir to attempt a cathedral type of service, is, unless under very exceptional circumstances, quite unsuitable. It should certainly be the first aim to give of our best to the service of God, and even the simplest service can be rendered in a devotional spirit, and pains taken that the music shall be neither too hurried, nor too slow, but expressive of the thought that is contained in the words. We are far yet, I think, from having solved the problem of a worthy and helpful way of singing the psalms and canticles. Congregational singing is out of place in an elaborate cathedral service, where the highest art is employed, and the greatest care used in the training of the choir, but while this may apply to certain of the services where the worshippers may learn much through the listening faculty, there is no reason why some special services of a simple character should not form a regular part of cathedral worship, and, where congregational singing should be encouraged, with regard to the clergyman's part, it should be a matter of course that, if he had neither a musical ear nor a musical voice, he would fulfil his part much more devotionally, if he used his natural speaking voice, instead of attempting to do what would only bring distress to a musical ear.—I am, yours truly,

F. W. CHATTERTON.

Tauranga, July 18th, 1935.

CHURCH MUSIC.

Sir,—In the article upon "Church Music" in the July number of "The Waiapu Church Gazette," the first thing that strikes me is an apparent misunderstanding of the Psalmists' words, "The beauty of Holiness." Holiness is neither an art nor music, it is a far greater thing—freedom from sin—and is not dependent upon the possession of a fine voice nor upon musical training. Then, although "assertion is not argument" the asser-

tion may, and often does, contain a truth. The article gives two reasons why I may not join in the singing: First, I should "mar the effect" of the beautiful music of the choir. Am I then to worship the choir? Second, if I attempt "to join in the music with my voice I should actually lose most of it." Am I then being worshipped by the choir? Clergy and choirs are too apt to think that what is pleasing to them must necessarily be pleasing to God, but singing is the natural expression of joy and thanksgiving, and may not He who gave us our voices prefer that we should use them. As a very small child I acquired the notion (which I still hold) that God hears every individual voice in the great chorus of praise, and that if I keep silence He will miss my voice, and be grieved with the ingratitude of His child, no matter how beautifully others are singing. A similar idea is better expressed by Browning in his poem, "The Boy and the Angel," in which God misses "my little human praise," although an angel takes the place of the boy and uses the same words of praise. The appeal of beautiful music to the hearer has its place at missions, and on other occasions, when we are not specially assembled for worship, but I cannot "render thanks for the great benefits I have received" or "set forth His most worthy praise" with the lips of the choir, any more than I can "hear His most Holy Word through their ears.

"A. M. W."

Ormondville.

N.Z. STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT.

AUXILIARY CONFERENCE.

The above Conference is to be held in St. Andrew's College, Christchurch, from August 31st to September 6th. Application for registration must be in the hands of the Secretary, Vickers House, Woodward Street, Wellington, by August 14th. A wide range of subjects will be introduced by special speakers, and debated by the Conference. The following titles indicate the range of the proposed discussions:—

The Study Outline—"For God's Own Possession—A Study of the Church"—has been prepared by the Rev. H. W.

Newell, M.A., B.D., Chairman of the N.Z.S.C.M. Afternoon addresses: The Society of Friends, Mr. John Johnson, M.A.; The "Roman Catholic" Church; The Methodist Church, Rev. O. E. Burton, M.A. (Minister of Webb Street Church, Wellington); The Anglican Church, Canon C. Perry (Minister St. Michael's Church, Christchurch); The Congregational Church, Rev. Gardner Miller (Minister of Trinity Church, Christchurch); The Presbyterian Church, Rev. A. Watson, M.A. Minister of St. Paul's Church, Christchurch). Evening addresses: Opening Address, The Right Reverend, the Bishop of Christchurch; Worship, Deaconess Spencer-Smith, M.A., L.Th.; Brotherhood, Rev. A. M. Richards, M.A., Presbyterian Minister of Totara Flat, Westland; Modern Thought, Lex Miller, M.A., General Secretary of the N.Z.S.C.M.; Possessions, Rev. O. E. Burton, M.A.; The Church, (closing address), Lex Miller. The annual meeting of the N.Z.S.C.M. Auxiliary will be held during the Conference.

BOARD OF MISSIONS' NOTES.

BUDGET, £16,500; RAISED,
£14,493 7s.

An Item From Ethiopia (Abyssinia).—Our deaconess-nurses treated during last year over 2000 cases, thus striving to follow the exhortation of our heavenly Master: Go and do likewise! Have not many old people, sick, and widows, been cared for? Have not our evangelists looked up and visited localities near and far in order to preach the Gospel to Abyssinian Christians, to Falashas, Moslems and others? Where, then, are the signs of new life? Coming down from the hill I chose a little path leading through the village, which has come into existence through the building up of Kobela. Suddenly there came to my ear the clear sounds of one of our native hymns, sung by a little girl: "Ambatschen Amlakatschen nou!" i.e., "A strong refuge our God is now!" Is this child's singing an answer to the questions that pre-occupied me? If so, then it is our task to profit by every possible occasion until many learn to trust and confess that our God has become for them a strong refuge.—(From "Jewish Missionary Intelligence.")