

The Musical Director

The Board of Directors, at the time of organization, appointed to the office of Musical Director, Mr. Edward Fisher.

Early in the course of his musical education, Mr. Fisher's attention was attracted toward the systems adopted for teaching in Conservatories of Music. So deeply was he interested in what he observed of these institutions, especially while pursuing his own musical studies at Boston, Mass., and Berlin, Prussia, that he determined to thoroughly investigate a variety of the methods in use, and ascertain, as far as possible, their real value and practical effect on the art of music from an educational standpoint. His residence in Berlin and subsequent visits to other European cities afforded him opportunities for acquiring information of the most comprehensive character concerning the best music schools and systems of musical instruction.

Some four years later, after returning from Europe, and while engaged at Ottawa, as Musical Director of the Ottawa Ladies' College, and Conductor of the Choral Society of that city, he was offered and accepted the position which he has since held as organist of St. Andrew's Church, Toronto, and soon after removing to this city he also accepted the conductorship of the Toronto Choral Society. One of the chief features of Mr. Fisher's career has been his connection with this last named organization, whose chorus varies from 150 to 400 active members, according to the magnitude of the works to be performed, and whose orchestra, proportionately, is about equally variable in strength. In addition, the Society has a very large honorary membership. Among the many important works performed under Mr. Fisher's baton have been the following: The oratorios "Samson," "The Messiah," "Israel in Egypt," by Handel; "The Creation," first part of "The Seasons," by Haydn; "St. Paul," by Mendelssohn; "Eli," by Costa; the cantatas "Athalie," "Lauda Sion," "Come let us Sing," by Mendelssohn; "Stabat Mater," by Rossini; "Gallia," by Gounod; "Song of Victory," by Hiller; "The Dream," by Costa; "Psyche," by Gade; "Paradise and the Peri," by Schumann, and about fifty choruses, part songs, overtures, etc., by various composers. Mr. Fisher was for six years the Musical Director in the Ontario Ladies' College at Whitby, and has also been associated with the musical department in some of the leading private schools in Toronto. Mr. Fisher's connection with the Canadian Society of Musicians (of which he was elected President at the annual meeting in December, 1888) and the Music Teachers' National Association (of which he is Vice-President for Ontario) need only be mentioned incidentally.

It may readily be perceived that with such facilities for observation, Mr. Fisher has had the best possible opportunities for noting the advance of musical taste and the necessities of the country in respect to its cultivation.