EIGHT

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

> OF GREGORIAN CHANT By Amy Graham

The International Congress of Gre-gorian chant, held June 1-8 in Saint Patrick's Cathedral, New York, for the first time in America, was notable as bringing to our shores the greatest living authority on the litur gical chant, Dom Andre Mocquereau, of Quarr Abbey, Isle of Wight. Dom Mocquereau, who is now seventy two, was with the utmost difficulty per-Archbishop Hayes of New York, was the celebrant for the solemn Pontifical Mass, Votive Mass of the Holy Ghost, that opened the congress. Besides seminarians from St. Bernard's, Rechester, and over 500 Sisters, the opening day was notable for the choir of 3,500 children from in true style. Dom Mocquereau and forty seven New Yerk parochial Dom Gatard return on June 27 to schools. The children oscupied the center and two side aisles of the eminent scholars and musicians will big cathedral and each one carried unquestionably prove to have been the small brown chant book issued by an enormous stimulus to the cause Fischer Bros., containing the words of Gregorian chant in this country. and music for the entire congress. The Papal Banediction was given to Joseph Bennet, eminent French organist, was at the grand organ. Mr. Bennet's solos during the three days of the congress, were models of what such music should be. With few exceptions, all were founded on liturgical chant or themes, and were a magnificent contribution to the different sessions. It is significant that no more zealous, ardent and devoted worker for cause of liturgical chant exists than this same Mr.

Bonnet, one of the masters of his instrument, and yet there are those who say Gregosian music has no interest for the modern musician. Dom Mecquereau, in his simple Benedictine habit, was an impressive

figure as he ascended the pulpit to direct the vast choir of seminarians and children. To him, this new world tribute to truths he has devoted his life to, must have meant incredibly more than any personal honor could have done. The Salesmes motto, "Res non verba"-facts not words, was given tangible expression to when such stupendous results as seen in the congress came forward

simply but convincingly day by day. The directing of the famous Gregorian authority was of quite another style than the customary conductor. The first essential of a trained musician is that he enters the realm of Gregorian with none of the restrictions of modern musical rhythm. The rhythm of the chant is free and untrammeled to a degree that is unknown country to the usual barred measure rhythm. Dom Mocquereau used hands and arms in movements now circular, now spiral, larger as the climax of the phrase was reached, and becoming smaller, and softer, with the down-like flutter of a snowflake to rise and fall again with the ebb and flow of the inner rhythm growing out the chant. Withal is such shading of voice, such contrast of quality that the speech-like natur-alness of the chanting becomes

incredibly moving and real. It is said this style of directing is applied as a means of learning the true feeling for chant rhythm in Quarr Abbey, the home of the Solesmes monks in the Isle of Wight. since their exile from France. Each one engaged in studying a melody is shown how to direct in this manner, and during the singing of a chant the

If there is time for nothing else, there must be time for music. It is a force and means of supreme mag-nitude.

How many practical results be obtained in this desired aim? First by correct elementary training in schools, in good tone, right use of voice and guidance in the true rendi-tion of chant singing. The music system of Mrs. Justine B. Ward, resommended by the Cathelic University authorities, has in view the aim to introduce work in Gregorian chant in the course of regular school music lessons. Everything depends was with the utmest difficulty per on the proper conception of music training according to these ideals. This take the journey to the new world. ing according to these ideals. This is being brought to our doors now by suaded to leave his the new world. take the jeurney to the new world. For over forty years, this humble monk has devoted himself to the research necessary for the restoration of the Roman chant, and his work, "Deleagraph Musicale," is an imper-tional statement of the st dence college, where Rev. Vincent Clement Denovan, O. P., is teaching

and at Danwoodie seminary. Accompaniments to the chants will also be a necessity, and it is rumored that Joseph Bennet will take charge in true style. Dom Mocquereau and Dom Gatard return on June 27 to who had

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movements are continued by the whole class, the teacher himself using no movement, but keeping keen watch on all students. Through this style of study is induced the smooth-

the singing out in the congress, was most faithful co-operation on the part of the staff of the Institution. the War. The proper of the Mass was sung by the seminarians from St. Joseph's, Dunwoodie, while the ordinary and sequence was sung by the congregation, consisting of other seminarians, religious orders, colleges and schools. The fine voice quality, beautiful intoning of the Dunwoodie seminarians made a very deep impression, and their singing of the Diss Irac would alone make the

occasion unforgetable for those who were present. The congress closed with the solemn Pontifical Mass, procession and benediction for the feast of Corpus Christi.

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Afternoon and evening session were held when lectures, demonstra-tions, exhibitions and discussions took place in Cathedral hall on Madison ave. As two main objects of the congress were to show, by precept and example of Dom Mocquereau and Dom Gatard, the work of the Solesmes school in the restoration of the chant, through an integral return to antiquity, and also the revival of congregational singing, it is of interest to know that in the opinion of an authority on education, Dr. T. E. Shields of Washington, D. C., the E. Snields of washington, D. C., the entire hope for true fulfilling of the mission of the congress, lies in the work with children. In his address, "The Liturgy in the Education of Collision UD State salary and qualifications." Importance of realization that the liturgy was most effectively, quickly and beautifully taught through music. In the controlling and empohling of

In the controlling and ennobling of the emotional side of human nature, there is no power equal to music if rightly used. In the education of children, this potentiality should be thoroughly understood by the teacher.

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