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Editorial

MUSIC AND SUNDAY OBSERVANCE

IF there are any readers of this magazine who are churchmen of the type whose opinions concerning the past, present and future are so set that they cannot tolerate expression of the slightest difference therefrom, they had better not read this article.

Some Sabbath-keeping Scots of a former generation went to the extreme in connection with Sunday observance, and enforced prohibition on the family with regard to certain reading, walking, etc. So that the Sabbath, which should surely be the brightest and best day of the week, became to children the longest and sometimes the most gloomy. In these days, on the other hand, the "Continental" inclined go to the other extreme and make Sunday a day of cheap amusement and foolish, fevered frivolity.

Sane, liberty-loving British sentiment is against both extremes. "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath," and sensible folk hold that the day should be used for rest and recreation of body, mind and spirit. If the contrariness of human nature leads to the spirit being given consideration last instead of first by many, it is for "the powers that be" in Church and State

to seek to counteract these conditions. People of all credal beliefs, whether or not they have been favoured with a "musical education," recognise that good music has an elevating effect on mind and spirit.

While, therefore, we should regret to be quoted as against anything that made for the more helpful and healthful observance of the Christian Sabbath, we think those churchmen and others who oppose the giving of musical concerts of *any kind* on that day are ill-advised in their procedure. Why not rather suggest that the "concerts" be held in the afternoons so as not to give further excuse to the hesitating church-goers for neglecting all divine worship? Church people should also "get inside" musical organizations and make their influence felt by seeing that the music provided on Sunday is not only elevating but sacred, and calculated to promote the worshipful spirit.

During the summer band concerts are allowed in the parks on Sundays. How can we consistently object to musical programmes indoors at other times of the year? Let the music be encouraged, but let attention be given to seeing that it is of the right kind. Even the bands in