

of a musician. Sometimes, too—though, it is to be hoped, more rarely still—it will be found that a certain singer has been the means of creating a taste for music of a degraded and degrading type; but, as a rule, executants merely follow the lead given them by the public—and in a very dilatory manner. Mr. Fuller Maitland's book would have been no less valuable as a record of English music, if he had confined his attention to music pure and simple and had left its interpreters to take care of themselves. Still, the blemishes of the book are few, and for sheer knowledge, no less than for breadth of view, it deserves to rank high among recent contributions to musical literature.

**Contentio Veritatis. Essays in Constructive Theology.** By Six Oxford Tutors. (Murray. 12s. net.)—We understand that the appearance of this volume of essays has been expected with eager interest, and even with alarm in some quarters. It is regarded, and rightly regarded, as the manifesto of the rising Broad Church School in Oxford; as the work of men individually distinguished in various branches of learning, and united in their desire for a free treatment of the problems of Christianity not only in its historical and critical aspects, but also on the practical and social side. We may say at once that the interest is more than justified, the alarm quite unfounded. For the dominant note of the whole book is a reverent conservatism, which would have been impossible in such a work fifty years ago; a conservatism which is surprising to-day till we remember that it is the natural and inevitable result of liberty of thought and discussion which have only lately been permitted, at any rate to the clergy. If the methods of the writers are uncompromising, there is nothing in their tone or their conclusions which should distress even the most punctilious orthodoxy. Their purpose is

to awaken interest, to suggest subjects for careful thought, or at most to give a wider currency to ideas which are for the most part familiar enough to professed students of philosophy and theology.