

## Editorials.

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### THE NEW CHURCH HYMNAL.

The new hymn book, which is being so eagerly accepted by the Church, is the outcome of a movement which began in 1878. Its aim was to bind yet closer the union of the Church by introducing a book of praise which would meet with the approval of all congregations. The first attempt was made in 1880, when the book recently in use was published.

It was well received, but as it did not altogether fill the need, the same Committee was asked in 1892 to prepare a new and larger edition.

They went to work with a will. No pains were spared in the matter. To make success the surer, drafts were twice sent to the different presbyteries coupled with the request that they be examined and commented upon. The suggestions received in reply were carefully considered by the Committee, and carried out where it was considered advisable. The work of printing was given to the Oxford University Press, and the result has fully justified the choice made by the Committee. The work is well and tastefully done, and we may congratulate ourselves on having a good book well bound.

Another point to be noticed is a great increase in the number of pieces as compared with the old book. The limitation was before most marked, and the continual repetition of a few hymns was very wearisome and even depressing. The much larger choice now at our disposal should mean greater freshness and variety in the singing.

Allowing for the addition of a number of paraphrases and for the omission of a number of old and unused hymns, it is estimated that about half the present collection is new to the Church in general.