

ty and of great practical value. Indeed, a better type of the Scotch clergyman can hardly be found than the Rev. Dr. Boyd, of St. Andrew's.

Dr. Boyd takes a great interest in the musical services of his church. It is quite a treat to hear his well-trained choir. And Dr Boyd's efforts are not confined to the improvement of the music of his own church. He is the Convener of the committee under whose auspices the collection of hymns at present sung in the Church of Scotland was compiled, than which no more useful work has been introduced of late into the church. These hymns have interwoven themselves with the best spiritual feelings of the people. Although we miss many beautiful hymns found in other collections; and though the hymns selected fail to touch some chords of the spiritual life, yet, taken all in all, the hymn book has become a blessed means of awakening and stimulating spiritual life in the church. And, while the hymns have been carefully chosen, the church has not been neglected of the music. More than twenty years ago, the Psalmody Committee was appointed; and as a result of their efforts, the psalms and hymns have been wedded to tunes of great beauty. We certainly miss some exquisite melodies to be found in the English Hymnals; but a collection which contains such tunes as:—Theodora, Walton, St. Cuthbert and Redhead, is rich indeed.

Great efforts have also been made to improve the Devotional services of the church. For this purpose, a number of clergymen, some twenty years ago, compiled a book of prayer and services for special occasions. The purpose of the society, as we learn from the preface to their work, was "to prepare or collect examples of prayer as full and as suggestive of solemn fervent devotion as words can be, and to bind them into the simple order of the existing service." The prayers chosen by the society are very beautiful, although it seems to me that, in the balancing of the phrases and sometimes in the quaintness of the expressions used they are unsuitable for the ordinary services of the church. Their great value consists in guiding the young minister in forming his devotional services. He is taught not servilely to copy these. They

are rather a guide to him in his efforts to lead the devoutness of his people. And for this purpose the Book of Prayers has proved of inestimable value. The vast improvement which has taken place in the Devotional Services of the Church of Scotland is due, in great measure, to the efforts of the Church Service Society.

In connection with this Society, we may mention the name of Dr. Lees of the High Church of Edinburgh. He is sitting on the front seat, to the left of the Moderator. More than any other man, Dr. Lees has been identified with the efforts made to improve the services of the church. About ten years ago, if I remember rightly, he was appointed minister of the High Church of Edinburgh. At that time, St. Giles Cathedral was divided into three churches: and two congregations worshipped beneath its walls. Through the munificence of Dr. William Chambers, the late publisher, St. Giles was restored to its old form; the ugly partitions were thrown down: a new church was built at some distance, for the West St. Giles Congregation, and the Cathedral was left to the exclusive use of the Congregation of the High Church. The changes effected by Dr. Lees have been remarkable. He found St. Giles a poor looking building where two small congregations worshipped. It is now truly a national edifice. Here sermons on important occasions are preached, such as the Tercentenary of the founding of Edinburgh University, when Professor Flint preached before the savants of Europe; and on the occasion when the tattered flags of the Scottish Regiments were deposited in the Cathedral, when Dr. Lees himself preached. Dr. Lees has done a great deal to arrest the tide of worshippers who were moving away to the Scottish Episcopal Church. He has shown them that, in the church of their fathers, they can find the beautiful service they require; and Sunday after Sunday, the great Cathedral is filled to overflowing. The prayers are admirable, the music is probably the finest to be enjoyed in any church in Scotland. The organ cost about £5000; and the large choir is arriving at a high state of efficiency. Words cannot tell how affecting it is to worship in the old church with its many hallowed memories. By