

commenced work as a Deacon under the superintendence of the Rector of Sussex, the Parishes of Sussex, Studholm, Johnston and Waterford being the field of their labours. After a year's work it was found necessary to secure the services of a separate missionary for the Parish of Johnston, and the Rev. C. P. Hanington was set over this Parish, while Waterford, with part of Sussex, was fortunate enough to secure the energetic services of Mr. Cowie. Thus, as will be seen, the Rector of Sussex has his field of work confined to about half the present Parish of Sussex, with the Parish of Studholm, having only two Churches to serve, whereas nineteen years ago it was his duty to hold services in six Churches, and to keep open eight Mission Stations besides. It is to be hoped the day is not far distant when the large Parish of Studholm will have a Rector of its own, and the Rector of Sussex will still have plenty of work in the growing town of Sussex proper.

Our Choral Singing.

HOW TO IMPROVE IT.

Earnest and zealous members of our Mother Church in Christ ever feel, not only the necessity of cultivating the religious affections, but also pleasure and happiness in so doing. As the muscles of the body are strengthened by exercise, so are the religious affections strengthened by exercise. These affections culminate in a higher spiritual life and a deeper, profounder worship of our Maker. Whatever, therefore, tends to exercise and strengthen the religious affections is of great importance in the work of the Church. As a means of beautifying and ennobling our worship, and of gaining and retaining the affections of the people for our service, music must ever hold a high place, and to improve the music in our Churches must, consequently, ever be a laudable desire on the part of every Church member.

There is great room for improving the Church music in our own Deanery of Kingston. And why should not every Churchman and every Churchwoman in the Deanery co-operate in such improvement? The gift of music is not a gift to a few alone. It is a gift to every one. True it is more highly developed or cultivated in some than in others. At any rate the power of singing is possessed by all who have the power of speaking. It only needs development and cultivation. What a pity then our people do not give more attention to so important a factor in our service! For what do we find in our Churches at the present time? In one,

the minister and his wife performing all the musical part of the service alone; in another, half the people singing in a half-hearted manner; and in yet another, the children taking a prominent part in the singing with voices painfully discordant through want of practice in proper intonation. To remedy these defects and to develop the musical part of the service is no easy matter, and in the absence of a qualified musician in the Parish the task necessarily devolves on the minister, who generally has but little time to devote to this object.

Music is in its nature very varied. It may either rouse to great energy or lull into quietness and inaction. It may quicken the feelings either of joy or grief, and lend itself to almost any moral effect we wish to produce. The proper end of Church music is to warm and quicken the better feelings of the heart and to deepen the religious impressions. It must not be regarded as a relaxation only to the mind and a feast to the senses. But how seldom are our devotional feelings in a better state at the close of the musical performance than they were at the beginning! The devotion of real Church members is, or should be, a delight, one of the highest enjoyment. Therefore the means by which it is produced should in all their bearings, both immediate and remote, be of an agreeable nature. It is most important then, as the people themselves take part in it, that the singing should be of an agreeable nature. And herein lies the great difficulty, as far as our Churches are concerned. To secure good singing in them is a difficult matter. But with patience and perseverance much good may be effected with the material at hand; for there is plenty of latent talent to be found, and many fresh, bright voices are rusting away, as it were, for want of cultivation.

The first consideration should be the proper production of the voice. Most people think they can sing, and sing well too, and that without the slightest knowledge as to how the voice is and should be produced. As well might we expect a man who has never had a saw, plane, or chisel in his hand to make a neatly fitting door or window sash! The late John Hullah said that most people do not produce the voice right even in speaking. We use the *head* tones too much instead of the *chest* tones. If, then, we ought to be careful to *speak* from the chest, much more careful ought we to be to *sing* from the chest. To produce an agreeable voice in singing the habit must be acquired of giving the breath as open a passage as possible. The mouth must not only be opened sufficiently wide, but the tongue kept as flat as possible and the head held in a natural position. This will give the notes that round, full