

## Church-Music Society

### SUGGESTIONS FOR THE ORDERING OF MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER

1. Vestry prayers and their amens should be said in a natural voice without note ; the organ should not be played while the bells are ringing.

2. No hymn should be sung as the choir enters or leaves the Church. The most suitable place for a procession is at the end of evensong, before the Blessing.

3. The Service should begin directly the choirs are in their places, without additional prayers.

4. Until the end of the first Lord's Prayer the Service should be said, not sung.

5. It is desirable that no note on the organ be given for the opening versicle : but if it is necessary, the use of quiet diapason tone is best.

6. The Sarum unison responses, or the harmonized ferial responses, both published by the Society at 1½d., are strongly recommended.

7. An office hymn may be inserted either before the Psalms or before the Magnificat.

8. If Anglican chants are used, simple ones with low reciting notes are best. *In all chanting, the rhythm of the words should govern the music.* Some form of antiphonal singing (e.g. trebles and men ; choir and congregation ; cantors and people) is advised.

9. Florid settings of the Canticles should be avoided. Tones or chants are better, with descants or *faux-bourbons* for some of the verses if possible.

10. There is no reason why the Creed and the Lord's Prayer should be sung on a note, even when the versicles and responses are so sung.

11. The versicles and responses should be sung simply and without *rallentando*. The last response is not the conclusion of a part of the service but leads up to the Collect for the day.

12. No anthem should be attempted unless the requisite parts are complete and well balanced.

13. Some variety should be introduced into the singing of the hymns\* : as, for instance, verses in unison, in harmony, unaccompanied both in unison and harmony, men only or trebles only ; and when they are available, with descants or *faux-bourbons* by a few voices.

14. All prayers after the third Collect and their amens should be said, not sung.

15. A voluntary can sometimes be substituted for the hymn which is usually sung during the collection.

16. There should be no singing after the Blessing : and the organist should play quietly while the choir returns to the Vestry.

\* For guidance in the choice of hymns, see the Church-Music Society : Occasional Paper, No. 5 (4d.).

### Suggestions No. 1 (for conducting a Festival Evensong with combined Choirs), 1d.

Full information and particulars of the Church-Music Society's Publications can be obtained from the Hon. Secs. :—

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