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**MUSIC NOTES.**

*Church Hymn Tunes.*

The subject I had chosen for this column this week was in striking contrast to the one named above. A subject that perhaps would have attracted your eye and incited your interest far more quickly than this one; but this one is more important, that one can wait; this one can not. And the reason? Well—there may be some of us who never think about the hymns we sing—and hymn-singing, if done perfunctorily, means nothing to us. In fact, it is a positive injury to us as it trains us to habits of inattention and weakens our power of concentration and sincere expression. On the other hand, a hymn sung with an attentive and sympathetic interest in its value as a part of the worship becomes at once an experience, intellectual and emotional, and therefore a positive benefit to us.

I have used the sentence "its value as a part of the worship"; do we ever think just what is the function and value of music in worship? Briefly, I should say that its function is to stimulate and create a *mood of worship*. (So-called "special" music, such as organ numbers, solos and anthems will not be considered here. Our attention is directed solely to congregational singing, and the use of hymn tunes.

If we are agreed that the function of music in worship is to create a "mood of worship" let us analyze a kind of hymn frequently sung and discover whether or not it really contributes to this end.

It is the kind of hymn chosen in order that everybody may sing and enjoy singing. Two very desirable features. The character of the words is of small moment, so long as a single catchy phrase is repeated again and again. Let this be said of hymns: No hymn which will not bear careful reading as religious poetry and the closest scrutiny as worthy literature is deserving of use in sacred worship.

In this kind of hymn, not only are the words unworthy, but the music is still more so. The melodies are unnecessarily simple. They are easily learned, to be sure, but they have no substance. Contrast a hymn of this description with a hymn such as *Come Thou Almighty King* or *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* and you will feel which has "class" and endurance.

Another characteristic of these tunes is their excessively marked rhythm. Rhythm is a necessary element but let it predominate and purely physical emotion is the result. It will surely contradict and destroy every spiritual impulse and feeling which may be aroused by the words. The so-called "spirit" in congregational singing obtained by the use of

strongly marked rhythm is trivial, not to say flippant, and has no place in dignified Christian worship. Surely no one who appreciates true worship will mistake such "spirit" for sincere spiritual elation.

But the severest condemnation of such hymns lies in this: A hymn used by a young person when the first consciousness of a personal religious life is coming into being is forever after a part of that experience. To build therefore, into the foundation of a developing Christian experience a hymn which will not endure the test of mature judgment or of refined literary taste, is simply a religious crime.

To summarize: The most important element of a hymn is the text. This should be a worthy poetical statement of a sincere religious feeling. It should be reinforced and interpreted by music which people enjoy singing, and which, because of musical worth will retain its attractiveness after innumerable repetitions have made it perfectly familiar. The problem perhaps, is not the matter of agreeing as to the sort of tune to be used, but in persuading non-musical and unmusical people to use that sort. J. L. R.

**Y. M. C. A. CONFERENCE AT  
WINSTON.**

(Continued from First Page.)

convention banquet, which was given at the Zinzendorf hotel Saturday night. Col. J. L. Ludlow, President of the Winston-Salem Board of Trade, gracefully presided as toast master. He made an interesting opening talk, telling of some of the essential features of the Association work. The prominent speakers of the evening were: Mr. A. M. Trawick, Mr. Lewis W. Dunn, Mr. Arthur Pugh and Mr. Fred B. Smith.

The Thursday evening meeting at our local Y. M. C. A. was conducted by Rhesa Newlin. He took for his subject "Loyalty" and based his remarks on Matthew 26:42. By citing a few examples of loyalty he showed that in order to accomplish anything worth while we must stand loyally for principles. One of the fundamental teachings of Christ was loyalty and examples of this trait were given. He emphasized the fact that we must stand for true principles in order to be men.

Since the absence of Mr. Phillips, Mr. Lionel Strayhorn has kindly consented to become organist and we can rest assured that the musical part of the Thursday evening programs will not be deficient.

Messrs. Roy Millikan and Earl Weatherly spent Sunday afternoon at the college.

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