It is with very great pleasure hat I commend this little manual to the notice of the English-speaking Catholic public. It is something that has been wanted in connection with the recent movement to popularise Plain Chant. Here in Liverpool, and, I am told, also in Birmingham, Cardiff, and Nottingham, many people have been converted to the Plain Chant movement by the simple lessons and practical demonstrations given by members of the Society of St. Gregory. Since then our main need has been for a reliable text-book suitable for use in schools, and I am happy to think that this need has now been adequately supplied. It has been gratifying to see the way in which the music of the Church has been appreciated by those who have taken the trouble to master its principles and method. Like the Liturgy it is in itself a prayer, an act of worship, It cannot be judged by ordinary musical canons, for it is more than music, and it has higher aims than merely to delight the aesthetic sense. It must be studied in its rudiments as carefully as mathematics, and the student obviously needs the anchorage of the printed word. This instruction is excellently given in the introduction which has been compiled by the Benedictine Dames of Stanbrook Abbey.

+ RICHARD,

Archbishop of Liverpool,

Archbishop's House Liverpool. July 4th. 1930.

This book is edited by the Musical Commission of the Archdiocese of Liverpool, whith the approval of the Archbishop. Its purpose is to provide a good selection of Plainsong for use in the Schools of the Archdiocese, in which the standard of Plainsong is the Vatican Edition in four-line notation, with the Solesmes rhythmic signs.

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