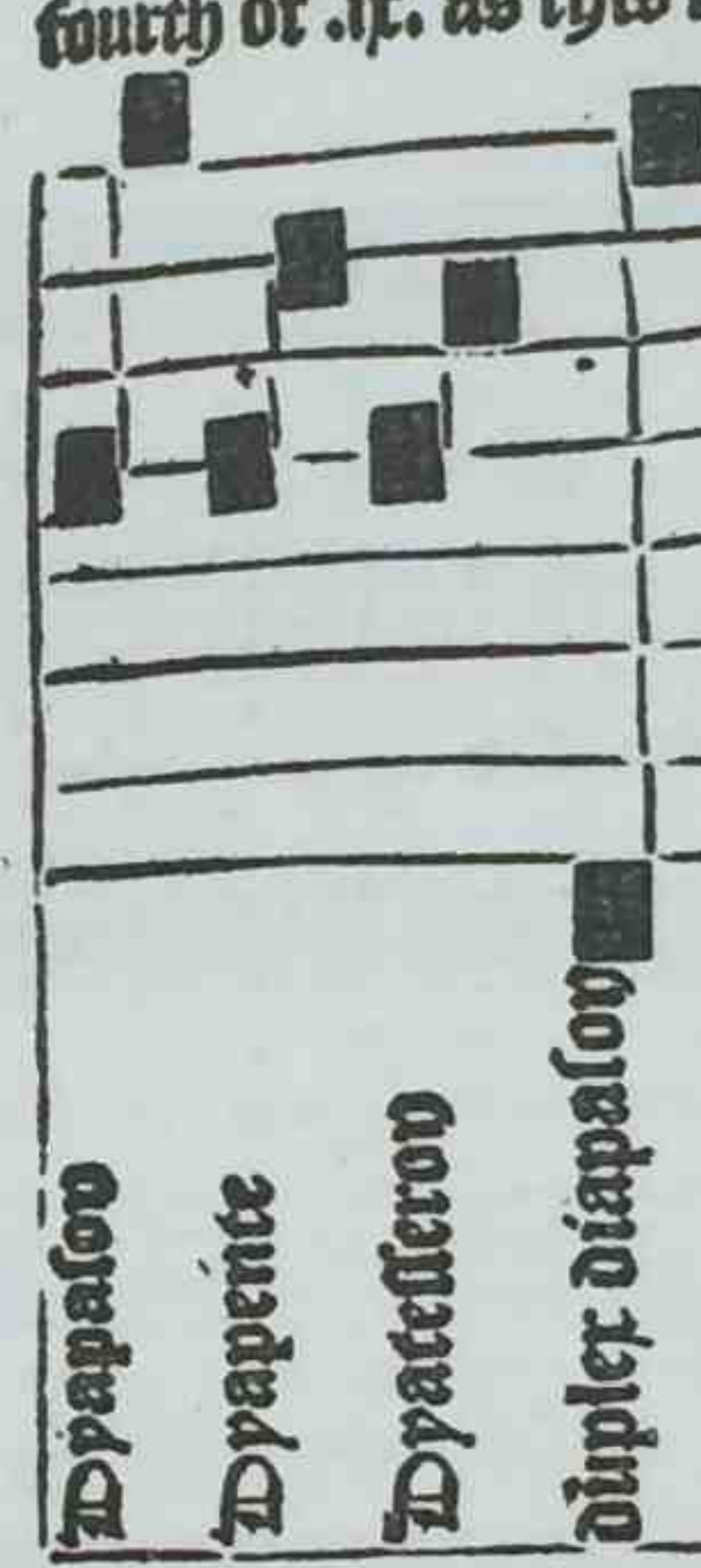


d. **England.**

HIGDEN, RANULPH.—Policronicon. Englysshed by Syr Johan
de Trevisa. Folio. WYNKYN DE WORDE. WESTMINSTER. 1495.
Mr. A. H. Littleton.

The earliest known specimen of musical notation printed in England. In Caxton's edition of this work (1482) the space is left blank for the notation to be filled in by hand. The book contains one music example only, of which the following is a facsimile:—

de of twelue / the thyrde of eyght / the
fourth of .ix. as this fygure sheweth:



Whay these
accordes were
foude by Pytago
ras yaf hem na
mes. And so þ
he called in nõ
bre double / he
called in low
nes Dyapason
And þ he called
in nõbre other
halfe he called
in lowne Dya
pente. And þ þ
in nõbre is cal
led all & þ thyr
de dele / hete in lones Dyatesseron / &
that þ in nombres is called all & the
eyghte dele / hete in twones double

The passage in which the notes occur describes the consonances of Pythagoras :
the double octave is wrongly printed, containing a note too much.

In printing this book Wynkyn de Worde, Caxton's pupil and successor, solved the difficulty of 'setting up' the above music example by putting together the 'quads.' and 'rules' used in his ordinary typographical work. Thus by a practical application of the old adage 'necessity is the mother of invention,' Wynkyn de Worde really, though unconsciously, invented type music-printing—that is to say, the printing of the lines and notes at one impression.