

Manuscripts.



THE Manuscripts brought together in this Section served to illustrate the development of musical notation from the 12th century down to the present day.

Before the introduction of staves and clefs, melodies were noted down in curious little strokes and figures known as *neumes*, which served roughly to indicate pitch and phrasing. Of these an example was exhibited in the Roman Missal lent by Mr. G. E. P. Arkwright.

A good example of two-part harmony, written about 1300 A.D., was shown in the earlier of the two Manuscripts lent by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Next in order of date was the remarkable Manuscript which formerly belonged to John Stafford Smith, and is now the property of St. Edmund's College, Old Hall. It contains a number of elaborate compositions by English musicians of the first half of the 15th century, including a setting in four parts of the hymn 'Veni Sancte Spiritus' by John Dunstable.

Of Manuscripts about a century later there was exhibited a folio volume from Eton College, a fine specimen of the music books of the time of Henry VIII., containing compositions by Robert Fayrfax and his contemporaries.