

Extract from

Oxford Mail

Date

### Coptic Music

THE popularity of Coptic music, even in Oxford, might seem a little doubtful, but quite a large audience gathered in St. Mary's lecture-room to hear Prof. Ernest Newlandsmith, the "Hermit of Mount Carmel," speak on the discoveries he claims to have made in Egypt, and some undergraduate members even stood throughout the lecture.

Among the audience Prof. Einstein and Prof. Lindemann were prominent in the front row when the lecture began. But either Coptic music proved as difficult to Einstein as his own theory does to other people, or else he was prevented from staying by a previous engagement; for about two-thirds of the way through I saw him motion with his thumb towards the door and soon after they both left unobtrusively.

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PROF. NEWLANDSMITH spoke in a loose blue robe, gathered in at the waist with a girdle, and at the beginning of the lecture played on the violin a Hebrew lament composed by himself.

As for the Coptic music, perhaps there was something to be said for the view of Mr. Blackman, the noted Egyptologist, who was present, that the melodies owed a good deal to Prof. Newlandsmith's harmonisations.

Mr. Crumm, another Egyptologist, and perhaps the ultimate authority on Coptic matters, came down to Oxford for the lecture, but was unfortunately too unwell to attend.

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PROFESSOR NEWLANDSMITH'S lecture was introductory to a service of Coptic music which will be held at the Church of St. John-the-Evangelist on Sunday night, which perhaps was the reason for Professor Griffiths' suggestion that Oxford might be going about soon "humming, whistling or even shouting" Coptic melodies.

Mr. Georges Cattani represented the Egyptian Legation, and another Egyptian, Mr. Ragheb Moflah, who is a leader in the Coptic Church and at whose invitation Mr. Newlandsmith first went to Egypt, had come all the way from Cairo to attend.

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