

ORIGIN OF WESTERN MUSIC?

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN MELODIES DISCOVERED.

The results of recent researches into the origin of Coptic music in Egypt were given in a lecture in St. Mary's lecture-room last night by Professor E. Newlandsmith. Professor F. Ll. Griffiths presided and Mr. Newlandsmith was supported by Mr. Ragheb Moftah, who has been collaborating with him. Others present included Mr. Georges Cattau, representing the Egyptian Legation, and Mr. Blackman.

The ideas of Eastern music generally accepted in the West, Prof. Newlandsmith suggested, were inadequate and only partially true. An examination of the basis of the music of the Coptic Church opened up a vista undreamed of by the Western musician. Following three years' careful investigation, during which he had taken down seven volumes of tunes which had been handed down in oral tradition by blind musicians, he was able to announce the discovery of a true art treasure, the ancient Egyptian melodies buried under a debris of Arab and other ornaments. He did not doubt it was ancient Egyptian music, and it was, moreover, great music, while some of it almost seemed to demand modern harmonisation.

Possibly Western music had its origin in the music of Egypt, and an investigation of these fields by modern musicians would not only provide new possibilities, but would help to bridge the gulf between East and West.