NEW MUSIC.

A PEEP AT SCHOOLGIRLS IN EASTERN SIBERIA.

REV. HENRY LANSDISH in his interesting and instructive work, "Through Siberia," recently published, gives the following description of a high-class girls' school in Eastern Siberia:

"Besides the boys' school at Vladivostock I visited the girls' institute for the daughters of naval officers, and witnessed the opening religious ceremony of blessing the house after the long vacation. Each child as she came up to kiss the Gospels was sprinkled with holy water, as were also the visitors; after which the priest and his assistant went over the building, sprinkling in all directions. The inspector subsequently declared what children were to be advanced to higher classes. The subjects taught were in keeping with those of the boys' gymnasia, from which the institute differed in that the children were lodged, clothed, and boarded; free, the cost on payment of 50 per annum. The Government gives a grant of 1,000 roubles towards the establishment of this school, and the remainder is made up by the children's fees and voluntary contributions. The cleanliness and good arrangement of this building were striking, not to mention the luxuries furnished by the Government. A great deal, no doubt, was due to the fact that the Governor's wife visited one of the schools every day. The senior class had two girls of 15 and 16 years of age. To my questions in geography they gave good answers, and in the Gospels fair. They had not read the Epistles, but were expecting to do that year. One girl was from a peasant home, the other the daughter of a foreign merchant, but they appeared throughout to stand on a level with the officers' daughters. They had a good taste of pictures on a red board for a year the name of the best girl in the school. At the time of my visit the name maiden held that this "blue ribbon" for five years consecutively. Whether it was for excellence of intellect or conduct I know not, but I amused them by offering a prize, such as I had seen given in the schools of the Irish Church Missions, called the 'best beloved' prize. The girls were ranged in a line, and each came and whispered in the ear of the teacher the name of the schoolgirl who loved best, and the girl who gained the highest number of votes received the prize. The idea was new to them, and they said the whispering was like going to confession.

"There was yet another school the Governor's wife took me to see—the little free school—built by the society she had founded, and of which it is not too much to say that it was the neatest and best-built house in the town. It was furnished in a manner that would be thought too good for a ragged school in England, and it struck me that the Institute, that it was somewhat over-provided with teachers.

"There were 300 children on the books, of whom one class came in the morning, and the other in the afternoon. The religious instruction consisted in learning the ten principal prayers of the Russian Church, and from a small primer, the contents of which would be as much or, I was told, rather more religious knowledge than the average Russian peasant would know. The children also received at Christmas presents of clothing, and a marked increase of attendants takes place as the time for the gifts draws near—a phenomenon not confined to Siberian schools!"

NEW MUSIC.

JOHN GUEST.

A Stranger Here. Sacred song. Composed by Frederick Croft. The words and music of this composition are good, but, to our mind, the rhythm has been overcooked in the third part of the hymn. We think it would be more euphonious if it corresponded with the first part.

FREDERICK CROFT.

The Warrant Officer. Sacred song. An excellent military march in a very easy key, but requiring a firm and clear touch to give effect to the octave passages.

C. W. GUNSTON.

The Moonlight Masquer. By Frederick Croft. A drawing-room piece in E flat, adapted for moderate performers. It has the advantage of being short as well as pleasing.

LAMBORN COOK.

The Blue-eyed Maiden's Song. The Green Cavalier's Song. Words by the late Lord Beaconsfield. Music by H.R.H. Princess Beatrice. These tender words by our late lamented statesman were originally set to appropriate music by the royal composer. These songs are most uncommon, and we specially call the attention of our musical girls to Her Royal Highness's arrangement.

Time Passes On. Ten Years Ago. Composed by Walter Maynard. Words by Madge Kendal. Two pathetic songs for meso-soprano voices. They have the great advantage of being simple in style as well as melodious.

I Love but One Fair Face. Hunting song. Words by R. E. Egerton Warburton. Wedged to most appropriate music by the well-known composer, John Hullah.

For Thee. Written by Charles Rowe. Composed by Charles E. Finney, extremely pretty and cheerful, and we think will become a favourite.

I P raised the Earth in Beauty Sown. Sacred song by Bishop Heber. Music by J. Greenhill. A most touching and beautiful melody set to Bishop Heber's well-known words, and deserves to become universally popular.

G. R. BAGWOOD AND SONS.

My Soul is Darker. Words by Byron. Music by A. Antoine. In the key of E flat—Moderately difficult, compass from D to E.

H. E. WARNER.

L'Espérance Masurka. By H. T. Warner. A smooth and graceful little piece; having arrived at a second edition, proves it to be a favourite.