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Music of Moderns

(Continued from page 14.)

part singing when he was a choir boy.

There is no doubt, says Mr. Swinstead, that would-be composers—even if they are writing for the piano—must make a complete study of vocal part writing. It is to music what the multiplication table is to accountancy.

THERE is one thing he would not like forgotten, however. The study of harmony must never be divorced from the real study of music. In England, and elsewhere, there has been a tendency for people to study the grammar of music apart altogether from visualising the notes they see in sound. They will study music without reference to the ear.

That, says Mr. Swinstead, is like teaching the grammar of French first and learning the language afterwards. It is the wrong way round, the unnatural way. When we learn English as children, we learn to speak the language first and study the grammar afterwards.

To have this knowledge of the grammar of music without responding to the real meaning of music is as if one read a book on aviation and said: "Because I have read all about it in a book I know what aviation is." And, all the time, one has never had the sensation of being in the air.

As for jazz music, the examiner from Trinity College does not object to it, though he hates to hear the classics jazzed. He finds that much of it is exceedingly clever and suitable in its right place. He enjoys it, say at the films, but it is only suitable for the purposes for which it is intended. It would not stand up at a symphony concert.

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