

sift away the poem and leave the music. We know that Elgar studied the libretto for some ten years, and 'Gerontius' was the finely-wrought expression of deep-rooted and sincere beliefs. It is essentially a Catholic work, an act of faith and of worship, far removed from the dogmatic bickerings of the Oxford Movement. Much aesthetic satisfaction may be gained by a sensitive non-believer from the beautiful performance of the Church's liturgy, and it is obvious that the appeal of the 'Dream of Gerontius'—since it uses a more universal and generally comprehensible medium—will be greater and more wide-spread: but for the fullest and richest experience of either one must have had some glimpse not only of the transcendental faith of 'Angels and Archangels, Thrones and Dominations, Princedoms and Powers, Cherubim and Seraphim, Patriarchs and Prophets, Apostles and Evangelists, Martyrs and Confessors, holy Monks and Hermits, holy Virgins and all Saints of God', but also of the fearful path along which we must all, one day, follow Gerontius.

### THE FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN

As part of the Catholic contribution to the Festival of Britain, a dramatised performance of Newman's *Dream of Gerontius* will be given at the Scala Theatre from September 10th to 15th. The production is under the direction of Mr Alan Nye, and Mr Robert Speaight and Mr Raf de la Torre will be taking part. Special Music is being composed by the choirmaster of Farm Street, Mr L. Lalous.

From May 13th to 20th there will be a Festival of music in Westminster Cathedral under the direction of Mr George Malcolm. The composers represented include Byrd, Tallis, Taverner and Elgar, as well as contemporary English Catholic musicians.