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KETELBEY. In a Monastery Garden; In the mystic Land of Egypt; Bells Across the Meadows; With Honour Crowned; In a Persian Market; The Sanctuary of the Heart; The Ploughman Homeward Plods his Weary Way (from "Three Fanciful Etchings"); In a Chinese Temple Garden; Bank Holiday ("Appy Ampstead"). New Symphony Orchestra of London with Chorus conducted by Stanford Robinson. Eclipse ECS2016 CI ECM2016 (17s. 6d.). Electronic stereo.

Decca offered nine of Ketelbey's popular pieces in November last, extremely well played and brilliantly recorded in their Phase Four process for 37s. 6d. Last month this was followed by six pieces, also well played and quite adequately recorded, on the Fontana Special label at 14s. 6d. Now we have nine pieces for 17s. 6d., in an old recording refurbished in electronically reprocessed stereo. The three programmes are not identical but four pieces are triplicated and others are duplicated. The performances are again good and the sound, for a 1954 recording, is spacious and pleasant in the reprocessed version. However, I doubt if there is really room for this record and I should have welcomed it more enthusiastically had it contained more of the less familiar numbers, like Bank Holiday. This is an entertaining piece not in Ketelbey's usual sentimental style. Instead it introduces snippets from various old songs set one against another until all are banished by the waltz Over the Waves. By the way, With Honour Crowned, commemorates the 25th anniversary of the accession to the throne of King George V.