

South Australia has taken the lead of the Australian colonies in the establishment of a University school of Music, and it is to be hoped that the colony will maintain the advantage which it has thus obtained. This can be done by setting up a good standard of examination, so that the certificates of proficiency issued may command the respect of all musicians. As imitation is the sincerest form of flattery we are pleased to learn that the Melbourne University authorities, without waiting for the advent of their own professor of music, have paid Professor Ives the compliment of asking him to draw out a scheme of examination in the theory of music which has been adopted as part of their plan of local examinations. At the complimentary banquet given to Professor Ives some time ago by the Adelaide Society of Musicians it may be remembered there was a unanimous expression of feeling that "his influence in the profession was felt to be a power for good; in fact what the keystone was to an arch so was the professor to the musical profession of the colony." It is then the anxious desire of the profession that there shall be one head or chief to whom all may look for advice and aid in the higher branches of the art, and to the pupils who are afforded the opportunity either of attending lectures at the University or becoming candidates at the public examinations it is needless to point out the existing advantages. The very great increase in numbers shows how much these examinations are valued, not only by pupils and teachers, but by parents also, who, when their children obtain the University certificate, have proof that they have been well and practically taught. We may expect that the number of candidates will increase annually, and that the School of Music will be the stepping-stone to the establishment of

a College of Music, such as exists in London and in certain continental cities.

There is one phase of this subject, however, which demands serious and prompt attention. The term of Professor Ives's appointment expires next year, and unless some additional provision be made financially, the chair of music at the University will lapse and become vacant, and the work of the School of Music will have to be abandoned. This would be a calamity indeed. It is to be hoped that Sir William Robinson, Sir Thomas Elder, Mr. W. R. Cave, and the other gentlemen who co-operated in the temporary endowment of the chair, and who have reason to be fully satisfied with the result of their generous action, will not permit the professor to take his departure from the colony. It is no secret that he might have obtained a similar position in Melbourne, and has ample scope for his ability in the old country; but Professor Ives is so well pleased with Adelaide and the colony that he has, as we think in a most generous manner, made the offer to give a thousand pounds himself towards the endowment of the chair if the balance of the sum necessary be subscribed. No one after this can charge the professor with any selfish motive in desiring to retain his present position; but it is with an enthusiastic love of his art and a desire to work in so encouraging a field as this colony has presented, that he is endeavoring to make the chair of music at the Adelaide University a permanent institution. We feel confident that Sir Thomas Elder and some other of our wealthy colonists will come forward and support the movement, and if Sir Edwin Smith would take the initiative and convene a meeting in the Mayor's parlor, a very short time would elapse before the security of the chair of music and a continuance of the examinations in connection with the musical school would be fully provided for.

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UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—According to reports there is a chance of two preliminary examinations next year; a step in the right direction every one will allow. It is a matter for serious consideration the large number of failures at the last preliminary examinations. I am afraid there is too much cramming, and a general belief that it is easy to pass them. I think the authorities would be doing what was fair to all if besides publishing the names of those who succeed they would give the total numbers sent up by the different schools. It is all very well to say 20 from a school passed, but what is that if 40 from the same school failed? By publishing the numbers who go up more care might be taken in the coaching.—I am, &c.,

HENRY STEPHENS,

Register November 13 1888.

THE CHAIR OF MUSIC AT THE UNIVERSITY.—It is supposed that £5,000 will be needed for the renewal of the Chair of Music at the University. There is every likelihood of the necessary funds being provided, as some leading colonists have the matter in hand. The following is a copy of the letter Professor Ives received from Misses L. A. & F. M. Tilly, under date from Hardwicke College, Adelaide, November 10:—"We are delighted to see your generous offer *re* the Chair of Music, and shall be pleased to give £50 to the same object. Since we began work here, some six years ago, about 100 young ladies have each year been under our care for musical tuition, and it is only since the establishment of the Chair of Music that we have been able to secure in any efficient degree the sympathy of parents in the proper study of the art. We believe no one subject will contribute more to the happiness and refinement of South Australian homes than music, and we are anxious that it should take an honourable place in education. Congratulating you on your success amid numerous obstacles—We are, &c."

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS IN MUSIC.—The second annual public examination in music (practical division) in connection with the University of Adelaide was begun on Monday, November 12, by Professor Ives. There are 108 candidates, and the method of examination is on the lines followed by the Royal Academy of Music in London. The object is to guide the students in their choice of music, and to encourage and develop any latent ability that may exist. At the same time the examinations are an assistance to the teachers in enabling them to get their students to practise good classical music. Two-thirds of the students presenting themselves are ladies. Last year the students did exceedingly well, and the number has largely increased this year.