

Register 27 December 1890.

DR. KOCH'S CONSUMPTION CURE.—The best suggestion that has yet been made public on the subject of obtaining for South Australia information concerning Dr. Koch's treatment of consumption is unquestionably that to which reference is made in our news columns. This suggestion is that Professor Watson shall be commissioned to proceed at once to Berlin to make the necessary investigations. That the Professor possesses exceptional qualifications for undertaking such a task is unquestionable. He is a very capable pathologist, and has devoted much study to the department of bacteriology. He is not engaged in private practice, but the position he holds in connection with the University and the Adelaide Hospital would serve as a high recommendation and ensure for him a special status in pursuing his enquiries. More than that, his past experience eminently fits him for the work. He has studied in Germany and has been brought into personal contact with leading men in the profession there, not excepting Dr. Koch himself, who served under the specialist who took part in Professor Watson's training. He is, of course, familiar with the German language, and could enter at once upon the duties of his mission. Such a catalogue of qualifications single him out from the list of members of the medical profession as being eminently qualified to represent the colony. Added to this there is nothing to prevent his proceeding upon the journey. The one advantage that Professor Anderson Stuart possesses is that he is nearer the scene of operations, but that is discounted by the fact that Dr. Koch has not, so far, completed his experiments as to make a delay of two or three weeks of much real consequence. Professor Watson is prepared to start at a few days' notice, and could reach Berlin by about the end of the year. We confess that in urging that a commission should be given to Dr. Gardner in preference to the Sydney specialist we had overlooked the fact that two or three months would elapse before he could be on the spot. The ready consent given by the New South Wales Government to the proposal that Professor Stuart should act for South Australia is deserving of cordial recognition, but it will manifestly be better that this colony should, if possible, act on its own responsibility. There is the further consideration which is not unworthy of notice, although in such a matter it is of minor importance that the appointment of Professor Watson need not entail any cost whatever. No doubt should his services prove to be, as it is pretty certain will be the case, of inestimable value to the province they should be suitably acknowledged, but he is ready to go without fee or reward, being even willing to pay his own travelling expenses. We do not know whether Professor Stuart has been actually communicated with, but even if he has the fact that Professor Watson is on friendly terms with him makes it exceedingly improbable that this circumstance will occasion any friction. We believe that the arrangement now proposed will, if entered into, give almost universal satisfaction in South Australia, and we trust the Government will see their way to endorse it forthwith. It will doubtless be necessary for Professor Watson to get formal leave of absence from his important duties here, but as the University long vacation is now beginning there is not likely to be any difficulty in that direction, and it may be assumed that the Hospital authorities will interpose no serious objection. The occasion is of so unusual a character that all who have any voice in the matter may be expected to give it in favour of the selection. Evidence might easily be adduced of the profound interest which Dr. Koch's discovery has excited in this part of the world. We have heard of offers having been made by persons interested to advance hundreds of pounds to secure early and trustworthy information as to the remedy and the mode of applying it. This affords pathetic proof of the importance attached to Dr. Koch's revelations of what he believes he has accomplished on behalf of suffering humanity, and it is clearly the duty of the Government to adopt the best means for making the discovery available for those who have been attacked by, or who are likely to fall victims to, the fell malady of consumption.

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THE MUSIC EXAMINATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—I was interested in reading in your issue of to-day what your reporter has to say regarding "Suggestions by Teachers" re music examinations. I have a daughter aged 12 who went up for the junior examination in practice. She succeeded in getting only a second class pass. The professor said very little to her. He asked her age. I thought this was by way of kindly interest; your article gives the explanation. If I understand the last sentence in paragraph two of your article aright, "whether she deserved it or not," she was debarred on the ground of being under 14. Such a regulation obtains in no other university examination that I know of. It is unjust to the candidate, it is not honest towards the parents who have to pay £1 1s. fee, and what is even worse, the candidates under 14 will have to wait two and three years before they can hope to win a first class pass. This is not encouraging the cultivation of music among the young. I hold that the University authorities ought to have made this remarkable regulation known, as I for one would have a pound more in a pocket not too well filled. Indeed I think they ought to return the fee. The chair of music is said to be self-supporting. Well it may be, if fees are charged for keeping pupils back by instituting age limitations.—I am, &c.,

W.J.

November 25, 1890.

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MUSICAL EXAMINATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—Although not a teacher of this subject, it is matter of such great importance that I cannot fail to read with interest all that refers to it, and to notice the various lists that appear. A board of examiners is not appointed for the examination of any other University subject, therefore why should music be an exception, thereby entailing additional expense? and doubtless many pupils who are willing to play to one gentleman would scarcely like to do so before a company of critics. The theory papers certainly seem very long, and in the senior division abstruse; still if the standard is an even one it is of no great consequence, because teachers can select as candidates those pupils only who are qualified to answer the questions. The fees for the senior musical examinations are the same as for the senior public examinations, and as the professor is bound to devote a long time to each candidate separately, perhaps allowance ought to be made for it. Also a musical education costs far more than any other training, so that in proportion to the expense of preparation the fee is not exorbitant. With regard to style, the professor is evidently not desirous to check individuality, as a glance at the lists shows that a very large number of different teachers are successful with their pupils, although the styles of the tutors vary considerably. The number of first class passes is very large considering that in all subjects, and especially in music, only talent ought to secure them, and to be valuable pupils of average ability should receive second or third places according to their amount of training. I hear that there is a wide difference between the junior and senior work; whether this is a fact or whether teachers like to retain their pupils a long while for the sake of the additional fees I have not been able to determine. Candidates from the country who might often be able to stay one year more in town cannot remain two or three years. Certainly at the practical examination all examinees ought to be asked the same number of theory questions. The variation from two to twenty three questions is very wide and discouraging. Also the examinees should perform from new music without their names written on it, or else it is utterly impossible for them "to be known to the examiner by numbers only." In a colony so young as ours a distinction of age would perhaps be fatal, several ladies whom I know having passed the junior examination at the age of 20 and upwards. At the drawing examinations all candidates are bound to pass the lower grades before taking the higher, and it would be an incentive to thoroughness if the same plan were adopted in the musical examinations.—I am, &c.,

VICTORIA.