

**CONSERVATORIUM ORCHESTRAL CONCERT.**

One could wish some emergency might arise to justify the repetition of the orchestral concert in the Elder Hall on Monday night. That was the genuine wish of many in the large audience, and it surely comprehends all that could be said in more detailed appreciation. It was the finest concert of the season. It was the best of many seasons, and one has not heard the Conservatorium Orchestra at more brilliant advantage. Mr. Heinicke had his ranks solidified by several leading professionals, whose services are rarely at liberty for such engagements. The parts were exceptionally well balanced, and a delightful weight was given by the augmentation of the heavy strings and brasses. A word is due to the brass instrumentalists. Poorly represented as they occasionally have been by immature players, their recent work on such as the production of Elgar's grand oratorio and last night's concert has stamped them artists worthy of their place, and of the artistic company they keep. Miss Sylvia Whittington spiritedly led the orchestra, and the strings followed admirably through every shade of emotion. The conductor worked like a man who knows the calibre of his forces, and who could be sure of the response to mood and attack. The programme warmed itself upon a repetition of Goldmark's best-known composition, the symphony "Die Landliche Hochzeit." Into the interpretation of this charming descriptive work the players entered with zest. They made delightfully acceptably gay doings at the wedding, the serenade, and the rural festivities "im garten." Later came an altogether lovely bit of music, Tschai-kowsky's "Andante cantabile," as a string quartet. Its muted melodies enthralled one, and that means that the players reflected the spirit of the great Russian's inspiration. If it has been the privilege of Adelaideans to have heard a finer rendering of the overture to Tannhauser, then—as they have it in vaudeville—"it must have been years ago." The weirdly beautiful expression of Wagnerian genius was creditably interpreted by a Theatre Royal orchestra just a while back; but it is no place to produce a masterpiece while huddled in a theatrical pit. As to its presentation on Monday evening, the conductor quite failed to stem the tide of applause, and he had to repeat the triumphant number. The second Hungarian rhapsodie evoked an almost as voluminous expression of pleasure. Miss Ruby Davy, Mus. Bac., was the solo performer in the first movement of Schumann's pianoforte "Concerto in A minor," with orchestral accompaniment. Technically clever work marked this item, but it failed to interest in the same degree as its fellow-contributions. Miss Ethel Ridings met with the best-deserved of receptions for the "Polacca" recit, and air from "Mignon." Herein the young soprano displayed at advantage her brilliant talents, and a feature was the ease and truth of her highest notes. Mr. Frank Smith, a pupil of Miss Guli Hack, proved the possession of a promising true tenor voice. He sang Handel's air "Where'er you walk" in a fashion trifle elementary, but with such good gifts as easy production, fair power, and refreshing clarity.

**INTELLECTUAL INSTITUTIONS.**

**THE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD.**

**METHOD OF REPRESENTATION.**

In the Assembly on Tuesday Mr. Smeaton, continuing the debate on the second reading of the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery Bill, said in Australia they could pride themselves on such institutions as were mentioned in the Bill. In that respect they stood very high. South Australia had never been without men who had fostered higher culture. They had grouped on North terrace institutions which stood for higher things. They had as fine an Art Gallery as there was in Australia. (Hear, hear.) Anything in the way of rubbish had been weeded out of the Public Library. He looked upon the institutes as some of the most valuable institutions in the State. Some people criticised institutes because they encouraged novel reading. He was one who believed that a good novel was a good book. In the institutes the standard novels were well represented. He spoke with the greatest admiration of the Port Adelaide Institute. The principal money for the Public Library was supplied by the Government, although, of course, there were donations and legacies. In the case of similar institutions like the Adelaide Hospital, Botanic Garden, and State Children's Council, the boards were appointed by the Government. The recent unpleasantness was due in a great measure to the conflicting interests of the various institutions. The consolidating Bill had been hurried in consequence of this friction. He could not see why the Government should not appoint the board.

Mr. Burgoyne—There are several Government nominees on the board.

The Premier—You think the Government should appoint all the members?

Mr. Smeaton—Yes. When the time came he would move to allow the University to continue with two representatives instead of one, and that the Circulating Library have no representative at all. The Geographical Society and the Royal Society should be valuable as constituents on the Public Library Board. The former had a splendid library of its own, the York Gate, which cost £2,000. Then the Royal Society was in constant communication with similar societies all over the world, to the number, indeed, of over 200. To the country institutes some of the remarks he had made regarding the Circulating Library also applied, and they should not have three representatives. Apart from the points on which he had spoken he regarded the Bill as a happy attempt to consolidate the law on this question.

Mr. Archibald regarded the measure as one of the most gigantic muddles he had seen dealing with an important matter. That jade Rumour said that two well-known gentlemen on the Public Library Board had fought all day and fought all night, fought up the street, and down the street. The subsequent enquiry had cost the taxpayers a lot of money. Now the School of Design was to be under the control of the Education Department. He hoped then there would be peace in Israel, and that there would be no possibility of these two illustrious gentlemen fighting all day and night, although he admitted their squabbling did not interest one taxpayer in a thousand. The management of the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery was a jumble. What on earth had the Circulating Library and the Institute to do with the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery? They had no right to poke their noses into the management. The men who should manage these institutions should be the sort of men they had in the old country. They should go to the University. If the Adelaide University could not nominate men for the position the sooner it was rubbed out the better, and he was not prepared to say that of the University. Men of the type of Professors Stirling and Henderson were required. The University and other learned societies should nominate, and the Government should appoint the board. What sort of a report had they ever received from this wonderful conglomeration? They had never got a report worth reading.

Mr. Burgoyne—The board reports every year.

Mr. Archibald—What was the report but a squabble between two?

Mr. Burgoyne—No. The board presents five or six pages of printed report.

Mr. Archibald knew Mr. Burgoyne had done good work, but he had been handicapped. He was disposed to vote against the second reading unless he got some assurance from the Government. What was to be gained by passing a muddle like the one they had before them? What on earth had institutes to do with the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery?

The Premier—You have not read the Bill.

Mr. Archibald said he had twice, and he doubted whether the Premier could say that.

The Premier—The institutes are kept separate.

Mr. Archibald—Yes; but three men were sent from the institutes to look after the Library, Museum, and Art Gallery.

The Premier—Would you let the Government appoint the board outright?

Mr. Archibald would not object to that, because any Government could be trusted to appoint men of knowledge and culture. The Government were compelled to introduce the Bill in consequence of the absence of cordiality on the board. When they made a reform they should make a radical and complete one. The present board had a wonderful mania for muddling and interfering with everybody's business. They could leave nobody alone. When he introduced the Free Libraries Bill the board said it should have been consulted but he said the board would have to leave it alone. This muddled board that represented everything and nothing, which spent half its time squabbling, when a man brought in a Bill on another line said he had no right to think about it. The sooner the board was done with the better. The taxpayers had been muddled over and over again over a squabble not between learned men. One was frightened of the other, and the latter was jealous of the first. Neither stood out in comparison with men like Professor Henderson and others who could be named. Some of the men earning £500 and £1,000 a year who used the Adelaide Circulating Library ought to be ashamed to enter its doors. This Circulating Library had done no more for two people than any other library in the State. He certainly had cause to bless the Public Library, where he had spent hours and hours when he first came to the State gaining valuable information, but the Circulating Library was no good to the poor man. Why should its subscribers, who were too mean to join a private library, have a vote in the election of gentlemen who were to control the Art Gallery? Unless the Bill were placed on sound lines he would vote against the third reading.

Mr. Ryan commended the Government for having introduced this valuable measure. He recognised in it the handiwork of men who had a thorough knowledge of the work of institutes and their requirements, and of the wants of those who had to look to institutes for their educational material. The criticism he had just listened to was the most unfounded he had yet heard in the House. What had been said against the Circulating Library was most unwarranted. There was no element of meanness in subscribing to the Library. Many wealthy men who had subscribed to it for years did not use it, but merely wished to help their struggling brethren.

Mr. Archibald—I doubt that.

Mr. Ryan said that some of them took out subscriptions for each of their children so that they might assist those who were struggling for an education. It was now possible, through the Circulating Library, to borrow valuable works from the Pub-

lic Library which formerly a man could only study on the spot, so that if he lived out of town he could not thus educate himself. The Public Library Board had made mistakes, but it had the glorious record that that for over 30 years it had provided the poorer section of the community with means to educate themselves. He supported the proposed representation, which meant that the board would comprise a diversity of intellects. He regretted that a member of the Labour Party who, like himself, had had to fight for every line of his education, had ridiculed an institution through which working men had reaped great advantages owing to the generosity of the rich. The board was bigger than he would like to see, but he could not favour the Government appointing the board. The Government could always be open to favouritism. They should fight for the Bill as it was. In the past the Government had appointed men like Sir Samuel Way and Professor Henderson, who might not have been nominated by the University or any kindred institution. Just as Sir Langdon Bonython had been of great usefulness to the School of Mines, so Mr. W. J. Sowden, from the point of view of the working man, boy, and girl, had been one of the best friends who had ever been on the Public Library Board.

Mr. Conybeer said there was a great need for the Bill. He wanted in committee to amend the clauses dealing with institutes. He had a request from Unley. That corporation contended that it should have unqualified freedom in appointing those who should represent the corporation on the institute committees. In committee he would move to strike out subsection 2 of clause 88; with the view of inserting a new subsection which would get over the difficulty. The City of Unley had three institutes, and on behalf of the ratepayers had incurred a responsibility of between £3,000 and £4,000. To say that a representative of the corporation on the institute should be a member of the institute for six months prior to election was