

UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE  
ANNUAL DINNER.  
IDEALS OF EDUCATION.

As each year passes the dinner in connection with the University of Adelaide becomes increasingly popular, and the annual engagement, held at the South Australian Hotel on Saturday evening, added brilliant lustre to the roll of those which had gone before. The large dining hall was filled by an assembly described by one of the speakers as "probably the most intellectual gathering that can be got together in one room in the Commonwealth." The cheers which followed this announcement indicated that the hearers were in full accord with their spokesman. The Chancellor of the University (Sir Samuel Way, Bart., Chief Justice) presided. He was supported on the right hand by His Excellency the Governor (Sir George Le Hunte), the Bishop of Adelaide (Right Rev. Dr. Thomas), the Vice-Chancellor (Dr. Barlow), Professor Darnley Naylor, and Capt. Whethan, A.D.C.; on the left by the Hon. Theodore Fink, of Melbourne, the Premier (Hon. T. Price), Mr. Justice Gordon, and the Mayor of Adelaide (Mr. T. Bruce). The menu was printed in classic Latin, and those present who diffidently refrained from mentioning how many years had elapsed since their reading acquaintance with the language had become unsubstantial were content to accept whatever the nimble attendant brought. At the end of two hours the sounds of the struggle with pomonae dona as the ferculum tertium in the mensa secunda died away, and the toast list was entered upon. In submitting "Proconsuli, visitatori nostro," the Chancellor struck a happy vein, which originated perhaps in the quotation from Horace applied to the Governor—"For when your face, like spring, has beamed upon the people, the day goes more pleasantly, and the sun shines with better light." Having that portrait before him, he said there was no need for him to sound one word of praise of the gentleman, the sunshine of whose presence was the culminating pleasure which had given success to the banquet. As one connected with the University from its foundation, Sir Samuel claimed that there was never a time in its history in which its influence was more beneficial and widespread, and in which it had a stronger hold upon the esteem and confidence of the whole community than the present. He referred to the distinguished character of the guests who graced their board that evening—the Bishop of Adelaide, who was a graduate of the same university as that great ecclesiastic, the first Bishop of Adelaide, to whom the University of Adelaide owed so much; Mr. Justice Gordon, with his musical voice, his persuasive eloquence, and charming personality; the Mayor of Adelaide, who was about to retire from an office which he had filled with so much distinction, and which had gained for him the respect and confidence and admiration and gratitude of the whole community; their visitor from Melbourne, the Hon. Theodore Fink, whose services in the cause of higher education had been specially recognised by the Legislature of Victoria, an honour which only one other gentleman, the late Chief Justice Higginbotham had won; and the Premier, who, when he formed his Ministry, would not let the portfolio of education pass into the hands of one of his subordinate colleagues, but kept it for himself. His Excellency the Governor, in response, touched lightly the classics of his Eton days, and said how highly he valued and appreciated his connection with the University of Adelaide officially, and as a graduate. It was because of his deep interest in the University that he would, with the Chancellor's permission, refer to one thing. He was present at the commemoration festival of the Sydney University a short time ago. It was held in the town hall, and was a dignified ceremony. The Governor-General and the State Governor were present, and in the body of the hall were all the undergraduates, and he was much impressed by the fact that, though the proceedings were full of joyful hilarity, they were entirely reasonable. (Laughter and applause.) There was at present an estrangement between the council and the undergraduates in Adelaide, and he emphasized the wish that at the next commemoration they might all meet together again. He agreed with the Chancellor that at no time had the University stood higher in the estimation of all the State, and far beyond the confines of the State the high standard of the University was being carried by their Rhodes scholars. (Applause.) Their

latest distinguished Rhodes scholar would leave by the next mail. They wished him a successful career, and hoped that South Australia would see him back again and know how to appreciate his value. (Applause.) The Hon. Theodore Fink proposed "The University of Adelaide." He said that as a member of two commissions in Victoria he and his colleagues had realized that they could not deal effectively with any branch of education without recognising the importance and the essential character of the aid and governance to be rendered thereto by the universities of the States as the head and front of the educational system, and as the instrument of educational leadership. In that capacity they were now visiting the State and technical schools to charge themselves with ascertaining what the outlook was, and the attitude of the universities toward national education. They could not find any university in the Commonwealth whose professors and teaching staff had a sounder view of their duties, not only in fitting people for the learned professions, but in the development of every form of teaching than those in Adelaide. They could not have the full benefits of the training in every branch of life without the influence of the university being brought to bear directly upon every part of it. (Applause.) From the teacher in the primary school upward they must work for the development of that true citizenship without which no democratic self-governing country could continue its evolution. It was no empty compliment to say that nowhere was that conception more fully realized, that purpose more definitely kept in view, than in the noble institution of the University of Adelaide. (Applause.) That was the deliberate judgment of educationists outside South Australia. Like the universities of the other States the Adelaide University had been founded more by the generosity of private citizens than as the result of any well-considered State action. The principal reason for that was that they were founded before the modern conception of national education was fully developed. That conception was that the university should be a place where was collected all that was to be taught, all the knowledge of the time, with the view to its being applied to all the arts and utilities of life and government. The sums that were granted for primary education were not too great when they compared what was being done in other parts of the world, but there was no co-ordination between secondary and primary education, although spasmodic efforts were made in that direction. The more the States proceeded in that work the more would it be seen that the highest as well as the lowest branches of learning should be well supported. All teachers should have the university influence, because by that means they would have sounder methods of teaching everywhere. (Applause.) One thing which could not be too strongly insisted upon was the study of history and social science. As members of the British Empire they should all contribute their share toward solving the problems which faced the race. The young Australian could not really value his heritage of civic institutions and political traditions unless he understood the outlines at least of the race to which he belonged. The University of Adelaide was younger than the sister institutions in the other States, and therefore had not so many difficulties to overcome because it was established near the ideal. And as they worked up to those ideals the measure of the success of the University would be the measure of the success of the State and its children. (Applause.) Professor Darnley Naylor, in replying, thanked Mr. Fink for coming from Melbourne to be with them. He need not apologize for quoting the old saying—"Mens (and women's also) sana in corpore sano," for the ideal of the university man was to be not only the highest that intellect could be, but the highest and noblest that the body could be. (Applause.) They did not intend to neglect that in Adelaide for one moment. For that reason he asked the Government to straighten out the Torrens for two miles up from their boatshed, so that they might be able to row an even course. (Hear, hear.) An even greater necessity was a recreation ground at the University, and he hoped that would be granted at once. Melbourne and Sydney had such grounds granted to them by the Government, and Adelaide was handicapped in their contests with those cities. His ideal of the university was that the university man should possess the highest intellectual qualifications, but at the same time there was something more. They had heard much of what had been called personal efficiency. There was a most important addendum to that—"For the good of the State." (Ap-

plause.) That was national efficiency, and that was what they should aim at. It was being aimed at in the University of Adelaide. The question was how they could get that in the best degree. He should say that they should adopt the old world and the Melbourne notions, for it was best to bring the students into the closest corporate union they could get. They could do that only with residential colleges, and he earnestly prayed that they would have them at an early date. But there was something they could do right now. Why should not they that evening found an old University man's club, with the distinct end in view of giving to their successors the privileges they had not the luck to enjoy themselves. (Applause.) The Chancellor said they were indebted for the success of the banquet to the genius for organization and enthusiasm of their first graduate, Mr. Caterer, whose health he asked the company to honour. Mr. T. A. Caterer, in acknowledging the compliment, said he replied for the committee. It had been said that the degrees first granted by the University were about equal to the senior pass of the present day. (Laughter.) When, however, they looked around, and saw one of the early students Regius Professor in the University of Edinburgh, another the gold medallist in classics in the London University, a third (Mr. George Murray, K.C.), one of the ablest lawyers in South Australia; a fourth (Mr. Williams), the Director of Education of South Australia; and still another (Mr. Stirling Smeaton), who had done so much for the natural history of the country, he and the others were content to bask in the glory of those who brought sunshine to the University from the early days. (Applause.) In looking over the menu he had called Mr. Price's attention to the fact that one item was "conservative pudding," so that he might be on his guard. (The Premier—"I tried it and found it soft." Laughter.) It was interesting to note that no fewer than 10 universities were represented in their gathering. Adelaide, of course, stood first in numbers, with Cambridge and Melbourne a dead heat for second. Following them Sydney and Dublin were also equal. (Applause.) During the evening Messrs. Harold Savage and Hurtle Cooke contributed songs and the proceedings closed with the National Anthem.

Reg 5<sup>th</sup> Aug

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.  
The annual concert of the University Choral Class will be given on Monday evening, August 12, under the conductorship of Mr. Frederick Bevan, when the performance of Sullivan's "The Martyr of Antioch" will be presented for the first time in Adelaide. This work, which is one of Sullivan's best, is written for solos, chorus, and orchestra, and should be heard with interest. The choral class will be assisted by the Conservatorium Orchestra. Tickets may be obtained at the office of the University.

"The Critic" August 7th 1907.

## The Elder Conservatorium.

### A SERIES OF COMPLAINTS.

During the past week a Board of Enquiry appointed by the authorities of the Adelaide University has been probing into matters connected with the Elder Conservatorium. THE CRITIC has recently received several letters containing serious charges against the management of that institution, but on being informed that an enquiry was being instituted, and that the whole of the matters would be publicly threshed out, agreed to refrain from publishing the correspondence. It now appears that the enquiry is being conducted in a secretive fashion. As the Conservatorium is a branch of a public institution, THE CRITIC cannot see the reason for a secret enquiry, and accordingly will take upon itself the task of ventilating a few matters. It does so entirely without bias, leaving the public to form their own opinion as to whether the Conservatorium has been properly conducted.

The allegation of the selling of musical instruments by members of the Conservatorium staff has been hinted at in the daily papers. It is even stated that as a result of the enquiry a member of the staff will probably lose his position. THE CRITIC thinks, however, that it will be very difficult to prove that a teacher at the Conservatorium has any interest in the business of Messrs. Carl Engel & Co., who deal in violins and musical instruments. Such a charge, even if true, would be almost impossible to prove. As far as THE CRITIC can learn, the complaint in respect to this matter arose from the following circumstances:—A gentleman who intended to place his daughter at the Conservatorium for violin study bought (so we are informed) a violin from Messrs. Howells, Young & Co. for about £20. The instrument is said to have been worth the price. When, however, the pupil presented herself at the Conservatorium, THE CRITIC was informed, she was told that the violin was only worth 25/ or 30/, and would not be suitable. At the same time, the pupil was advised to purchase a better violin from another establishment. Naturally the pupil's parent brought the matter before Messrs. Howells, Young & Co., who were very indignant at the imputations cast upon them. THE CRITIC is credibly informed that Mr. P. A. Howells at once complained to Professor Ennis, and that this forms one of the allegations which is now being enquired into.

There are also allegations that some of the violins purchased by Conservatorium pupils at the instigation of a member of the teaching staff were not worth the amount paid for them. One case is mentioned in which a pupil paid £120 for a violin which experts have since stated was not worth £20. And this, it is alleged, is only one of many cases in which most disproportionate profits have been realised from the sale of violins to pupils of the Conservatorium. THE CRITIC, having no actual proof of the truth of these allegations, refrains from mentioning the persons concerned. THE CRITIC can, however, state within its knowledge that one student of the Conservatorium was frequently urged to buy a £60 violin from a certain establishment.

It is certainly a most disgraceful state of affairs that any teacher of the Conservatorium should be in any way benefited by the sale of violins. The teaching staff receive good salaries, and as they must be credited with at least ordinary intelligence, they must have known that any such trafficking in musical instruments would meet with severe condemnation by the University authorities. If the allegations are proved the authorities must deal severely with the offender or offenders. It has even been asserted that favoritism was shown by one of the teachers in respect of those pupils who complied with his wishes in regard to the pur-

chase of instruments. That shows that trafficking in instruments may result in the greatest injustices being perpetrated at the institution. If this charge is proved to the satisfaction of the Enquiry Board, nothing short of dismissal will meet the case. It is a wonder that this matter has not been thoroughly investigated long ago, as THE CRITIC heard rumors of it more than a year ago.

Then we come to the complaint that the teaching staff of the Conservatorium have accepted fees for acting as adjudicators at musical competitions. THE CRITIC understands that both Professor Ennis and Mr. Frederick Bevan are mentioned as having accepted fees as adjudicators. In respect of the contest at Strathalbyn, a fee of £10 10/ had hitherto been paid to the judge, but THE CRITIC hears that on the last occasion, after complaints had been made, Dr. Ennis refused to accept the usual fee. Considering that Dr. Ennis receives a salary of £1,000 per annum—approximately £20 a week—THE CRITIC cannot understand why he should desire to accept a position to which such a comparatively small fee was attached. There are several musicians in Adelaide, equally competent to act as adjudicators, to whom the fee would have been a consideration, and the public will certainly condemn the principle of highly-salaried officials of the Conservatorium competing in this way against the outside musical profession. Holding positions in the Conservatorium, both Professor Ennis and Mr. Bevan are placed at an unfair advantage over outside musicians should they compete for the position of adjudicator at musical competitions in the country districts, as outside Adelaide the Conservatorium certificate is regarded as the hall mark of musical training. If it can be shown that Dr. Ennis accepted such a position, then THE CRITIC does not blame any other teacher at the Conservatorium in the matter, for he would only be following in the footsteps of his superior.

Complaints are also made that the Conservatorium use free scholarships as a means of enticing away promising pupils from teachers outside the institution. THE CRITIC has been shown a letter in which a cello pupil writes to an outside teacher that he had been asked by the Conservatorium to play before one of the masters, and he was told that if he remained there a short time he would receive a scholarship which would enable him to obtain free all further necessary tuition. And this is said to be far from constituting an isolated instance!

THE CRITIC has also noticed that a certain firm of local piano manufacturers assiduously advertises a testimonial given them by Dr. Ennis as Director of the Elder Conservatorium. For such testimonials it is usual to receive a fee. Though Dr. Ennis may have given the testimonial free, gratis, and spontaneously, he has undoubtedly acted foolishly in allowing the public to even imagine that he had possibly received remuneration in some form.

There are also complaints as to the conduct of musical examinations. On one occasion a lady who was sitting for an examination connected with a musical degree rose up in her place and protested against the examiner holding a conversation aloud while she was engaged in musical composition. When handing in her paper the student lodged a protest, and in consequence of enquiries held, she was granted another examination.

These are only a few of the many complaints against the administration of the Elder Conservatorium, and THE CRITIC considers that the appointment of an Enquiry Board was most urgently necessary. The recommendations of the Enquiry Board should be designed to make the administration more strict. Hitherto the Conservatorium appears to have been conducted in a most casual and irregular manner. In the face of such a number of complaints THE CRITIC is compelled to be-

lieve that there must be some truth in the allegations. Where there's smoke there's fire. And there's a big volume of smoke in this instance. THE CRITIC is inclined to the idea that the Director of the Conservatorium should have full powers in regard to the teaching staff, and should be directly responsible for their actions. Discipline is as much wanted on the part of the teaching staff as of the pupils.

THE CRITIC hears that Miss Bessie Doyle, who has twice visited South Australia as a member of concert parties, will shortly arrive in Adelaide. The statement that she will take up a position on the teaching staff of the Elder Conservatorium has been denied. Evidently the statement was premature. Miss Doyle is a most accomplished violinist.