

Register 2nd Feb 07.

-Conglomerated Learning.-

And so the outpourings of conglomerated early studies goes on from year to year. The Anglo-Saxon schoolboy has almost come to regard it as his privilege to record a good batting average and array in pantomime costume the respected sages and geniuses of past history. These worthy men must have given up turning in their graves long ago. They must surely laugh sometimes, too. The boy must have been a genius himself who summed up the character of Henry VIII. with the words:—"Henry VIII. was the greatest widower that ever lived." And so was the youth who remembered of Sir Walter Raleigh only that "Sir Walter Raleigh introduced tobacco into England; and he said, 'Brother Latimer, we have this day lit a fire which shall never be put out.'"

In connection with the proposed Music Teachers' Association of South Australia and the examination question, which was discussed at a recent meeting of the teachers, it may not be out of place to point out one or two salient features in the new series of examinations instituted by the combined Universities of Melbourne and Adelaide. The first of these as affecting local teachers is that students of the Elder Conservatorium cannot enter for the new examinations, so will not be brought into competition with the pupils of outside teachers. The second is that all examinations will be conducted by visiting examiners who are experts in the particular subject of the test; and there will, for instance, be no case in which one man will examine in such widely different subjects as pianoforte, violin, and singing. Thirdly, for all the higher degrees two examiners will adjudicate. If the question of scholarships can be settled with a due regard for the interests of the members of the profession not on the staff of the Conservatorium, the scheme should commend itself to those engaged in teaching the art.

ment is merely a monument of the misapplication of a generous donor's noble gift. Instead of appropriately providing for culture of only the higher branches of musical art, work of an elementary character forms a large part of its curriculum, work that it neither does nor is able to do better than a number of outside teachers can do it." This, in a nutshell, is said to represent the attitude of influential music teachers toward the Conservatorium. Although so far the controversy has not assumed prominent publicity, it is no secret that an attack on the policy of the institution is being organized.

-The Attack.-

The meeting of teachers held at the Y.W.C.A. last week meant more than appeared on the surface. It was convened by Mr. E. E. Mitchell, the author of the opening sentences of this column. At his suggestion, on the motion of Dr. E. Harold Dacles and Mr. C. J. Stevens, those present formed themselves into an association "to conserve the best interests of the musical profession," and a proposal in favour of the compulsory registration of teachers was "warmly received."

In view of the trouble that has arisen with the Conservatorium this activity is significant. When the music teachers shall speak with one voice, many reforms in which they are interested will receive attention. Their organization just now imports a suggestive element into a controversy about the Conservatorium that is expected to develop into a matter of considerable public importance.

-"Bad Business."-

Mr. Mitchell was interviewed by a reporter of The Register on Monday concerning the disturbance. His sentences, succinct and direct, left no doubt regarding his ideas. "If the great sum of money sunk in the costly building and organ," he said, "had been applied to provide new facilities for musical students, instead of merely duplicating those that already existed, the public would have no cause for complaint; but that a school of music (misnamed Conservatorium, because largely elementary in its scope) should be almost the sole product of a noble endowment, and be carried on at a monetary loss year after year, resulting in a charge upon the general funds of the University (at the cost, therefore, of students in other branches of knowledge), is a reproach to those who at the outset sanctioned the scheme. To continue the establishment under the present conditions, to say the least of it, is bad business, and should be protested against by all who are interested in seeing that those aims are accomplished which should be the very raison d'etre of a conservatoire."

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-A Candid Statement.-

"Then the music teachers are not favourably disposed toward the Conservatorium?"—No. Believing, as we music teachers do, that an institution such as the Elder Conservatorium is to-day should not have been set going in this State, we may be excused for not wishing to play into the hands of its management. It is difficult to dissociate the Conservatorium from the University—for without the latter the former would soon cease to be—and the desire that some of us have to help our own University by supporting its examinations is made difficult of fulfilment, because we fear that surplus funds therefrom would be utilized to bolster up a financially un-sound and otherwise undesirable affair. Anxious though most of us are to see the University of Adelaide successful to the highest degree, and in every department, it is not our wish, candidly speaking, to help the Conservatorium, believing as we do that almost all its work could be done equally well by the outside musical profession.

-Plugging up the Holes.-

"How may this opposition to the Conservatorium be converted into support?"—This way. If we can be assured that no profits from the examination scheme would be used to plug the leaks in the hull of the Conservatorium, then a large share of support would be cheerfully accorded by those who at present are disinclined to have anything whatever to do with the University examinations in music. Just here is the difficulty. As it appears, the University is sorely in need of the income such as the new scheme would afford, if successful. It needs the money in order to maintain the Conservatorium; but if the latter does not pay, we say let its present working be discontinued, and some means devised to provide for higher musical culture solely, letting elementary work alone, and then the entire musical profession would, I believe, most gladly do everything possible to aid in the accomplishment of such an end."

-Teachers Organizing.-

"Can you tell me something about the new association of music teachers?"—"With regard to this, there is no doubt whatever that the interests of the profession will be conserved by it. Among other matters questions relating to the various musical examinations must necessarily be dealt with more effectively by the associated teachers than would be otherwise possible. It is improbable that the Associated Board and Trinity College will withdraw from the arena; nor, in my view, is it desirable that they should. For years to come they will be powerful and strenuous competitors for the foremost position, and their healthy rivalry will not fail to benefit the examinations. Meantime, as an association, we shall certainly do all that we can to obtain liberal conditions, and in every way to consider the best interests of our students. Of course we do not desire any lowering of the standard. Speaking personally, I am delighted to see every indication that a high standard is to be maintained, and that the new examination scheme of the universities is fully abreast of the times in this respect. As this becomes known, their combined certificates will be valued accordingly."

"And the compulsory registration of teachers?"—"This is an important matter. The public are too frequently paying money for so-called tuition that is absolutely worthless; and I have no doubt that this is true with regard to other branches of education. In Victoria legislation is already in force in this direction, and all primary and secondary schools must comply with the law regarding registration. Over 2,000 music teachers are on the roll in that State. The time has arrived when in South Australia also a check must be placed upon those who seek to obtain a livelihood as teachers whilst possessing no qualifications or knowledge whatever to fit them for the work, which is nothing less than obtaining money under false pretences."

No statement from the point of view of the Conservatorium is at present available.

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THE CONSERVATORIUM.

To the Editor.

Sir—Mr. Mitchell, to my mind is sitting on a rail, for he omits to state that all fees paid for examinations at the University will go to help the Elder Conservatorium, and that the University and Elder Conservatorium are practically one and the same thing. For reasons best known to himself Mr. Mitchell would have the public think otherwise. The facts are the Conservatorium (i.e., University) merely acted as agents for the Associated Board examinations, and were not satisfied at retaining half the fees paid by students for examinations. The authorities think that by introducing their own examinations they can then retain the full fees, which will go towards reducing the heavy expenses now connected with running the Conservatorium (over £3,000 a year). It is understood Dr. Ennis will examine the majority of student's sent up. This will bring back the old trouble and objections made by the teachers years ago against having a local examiner.—I am, &c.

LOOKER-ON.

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THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP.

A preliminary meeting of the selection committee in connection with the Rhodes scholarship was held at Government House on Monday. There were present His Excellency the Governor (Chairman), Professor Bragg, Mr. J. R. Fowler, and the secretary (Mr. C. R. Hodge). After the applications had been opened the meeting was adjourned until February 28, when the candidates will be interviewed by the selection committee. An interesting statement of the operation of the Rhodes Trust during 1906 is published in another column.

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THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP.

This month the Rhodes Scholarship selection committee will chose the fourth South Australian Rhodes scholar, and he will go into residence at Oxford next October. The scholarship is worth £300 annually, and is tenable for three years. The applications for the present year were due on Thursday last, and the first meeting of the selection committee in respect to them was held at Government House on Monday afternoon, when there were present Sir George Le Hunte (chairman), Professor Bragg, and Mr. J. R. Fowler. The applications were opened, and the committee adjourned until February 28, when the candidates will be interviewed personally. There are now in residence at Oxford under the Rhodes bequest 161 scholars, of whom 71 were drawn from British colonies, 79 from the United States, and 11 from Germany. Many of the Rhodes scholars have distinguished themselves at Oxford, and Mr. N. W. Jolly, the first man selected in South Australia, took first class final honors in the School of Natural Science (physics) at the end of last year. Both Mr. Jolly and Mr. R. L. Robinson, the second South Australian Rhodes scholar, have been appointed probationary students under the Indian Forestry Department.

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THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS.

STATEMENT FOR 1906.

The following memorandum has been issued by Dr. Parkin:—There are now in residence at Oxford under the Rhodes bequest 161 scholars drawn from the different countries for which scholarships are provided. Seventy-one come from the British colonies, 79 from the United States, and 11 from Germany. Candidates are subjected to examination tests which ensure their acceptance at Oxford, but the final selection of scholars is in all cases left to local committees of selection, guided in their choice by the suggestions made in the will of Mr. Rhodes. The scholars are distributed among 20 of the Oxford colleges. Seventeen are in residence at Balliol, 11 each at Oriel and St. John's College, 10 at New College, 9 each at Brasenose, Exeter, Queen's, and Trinity, 8 each at Hertford and Pembroke, 7 at Magdalen, 6 each at Lincoln, Merton, and Wadham, 5 at University, 2 at Keble, and 1 each at Corpus and St. Edmund's Hall. The distribution of the scholars depends partly upon their own choice and partly on their merits as judged by the college authorities. Each selected scholar sends in to the trust a list of colleges at which he wishes to enter in the order of his preference. The authorities of each college then select from the applicants for admission those whose scholarly record and credentials seem to them most satisfactory.