

The president and members of the Public Library Board, at the last meeting, welcomed Professor T. Harvey Johnston as a representative of the University of Adelaide, in place of Professor J. McKellar Stewart, who had resigned.

THE NEWS

ADELAIDE: TUESDAY, MAY 19, 1951

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STUDENT CONCERT

Second Given by Elder Conservatorium

By ALEX. BURNARD
The second concert of the Conservatorium season was given last night in the Elder Hall by some of the advanced students, a large audience attending.
Vina Barndon opened the proceedings with a well-yoked pair of Debussy numbers. "The Engulfed Cathedral" in her hands was alive with "atmosphere"—an exquisite piece of tone-control and grading, to which the clean snap and humor of "Dr. Gradus" came as jolly complement. Miss Barndon is a young pianist to watch, if her Debussy playing is a fair criterion. Liszt's "Gnomonreigen" was given, in the main, with exemplary clearness and delicacy of touch by Lucy Daenke. Great things were expected from Jean Finlay, in the Brahms variations on a Hungarian Song, but except for the final healthy canter, she was decidedly below her usual standard, momentary lapses quite apart. I thought her rubato at the outset overdone (this is among the most rugged and straightforward of themes), her pedalling was not always exactly clean, and an effect of undue hurry marred some of the more reposeful moments, but by the advent of the stirring Finale Miss Finlay had become mistress of the situation. I am certain that Jessica Dix could relax more were she to abandon her crouch over the keyboard, but she assuredly charmed the audience throughout her presentation of Moszkowski's interesting and pianistic G major Barcarolle, altogether an exceptionally clean piece of 60th-grading.

Two Quartet Items

Two ensemble items were included in the programme. The piano quartet, Frank Bridge's "Phantasy," is the work of a master musician. Suavely reflective moments alternate with a subject of more robust type, the former element prevailing. The energetic section, with its intricacies of rhythm, seemed momentarily to lack spontaneity, but, this apart, the work flowed on as a warm stream of poetic impulse and emotion. The players were Mrs. Evelyn Shoebridge, Mrs. T. A. Wyles, Katie Yoerger and Clifford Roennfeldt.

A movement of the Beethoven string Quartet in F (Op. 18, No. 1) strayed along its straight and narrow path, and received an admirably clear exposition at the hands of Helen Magarey, Gladys Verco, Eric McLaughlin, and Helena Harris. Occasionally the balance seemed to lean too heavily in the direction of the first violin. Adele Wiebusch gave a really finished piece of playing of Karg-Elert's Choral Improvisation (for organ) on "In Dulci Jubilo." Her opening registration struck me as being slightly raucous, but thereafter this factor (registration) became an unerringly apt feature of her work. The well-worn, unromantic "Romance in G," of Beethoven, was well essayed by Master George Hooker, who showed a fairly solid command of bowing. His intonation was sound, except very occasionally in a double-stop, but his tone was rather too uniform.

Excellent Singing

Joy Badenoch sang two of the very cream of vocal literature, both of them by Richard Strauss. "Ruhe, Meine Seele" was wonderfully done—an exemplification of sostenuto singing such cut head, and a wrist injury, as is rarely heard, and "Zueignung" carried all before it, to the final movement of glory.

Two of Somervell's songs from the "Maude" Song Cycle, were very well given by Lindsay Dawkins. "She Came to the Village Church" was invested with a beautiful restraint. Despite a slight touch of nasal quality, Mr. Dawkins has such refinement of production as is seldom heard from student ranks.

Miss Iris Hart gave a good account of two Dvorak songs. I heard some lovely notes, and some rather "tight" ones. She was not always exact as to pitch. Marjory Walsh sang Cui's "Nightingale Song," full of florid cadenzas, with great agility. Her intonation was pure, and we were treated to some lovely head notes.

The accompanists were Alice Meehan, Jean Barbour, and Gwen Paul.

Cutting Down Scientific Research

THE Federal Government having effected, to the accompaniment of loud talk and vociferous promises, savings of £16,000 in a total of £2,086,000 spent by its departments in the first nine months of this financial year, has now decided to cut down by £290,000 the money which is being spent on scientific research.

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has done, and is doing, most important work; work which pays for itself many times over. It is striving to conquer the blowfly pest in sheep, which costs Australia in dead sheep and wasted wool four million pounds a year. It is seeking ways to eradicate the costly codlin moth and bitter pit in apples.

Largely through the efforts of the late Professor Brailsford Robertson, of Adelaide University, it has made valuable discoveries in animal nutrition. It has been planning to find ways of preserving our food products during their transportation overseas. Now through the action of the Federal Government these plans will have to be abandoned, to the loss of fruit-growers and others; and the other work of the Council will have to be curtailed.

It is a short-sighted policy which provides that work whose value is very great, but not sufficiently arresting to be understood by everyone, should have to be dropped while the Government refuses to economise in other ways. It is pleasing, of course, to see the Federal Government, even so late as this, a convert to economy; but why should it bring down its axe on one of its most useful departments when it could save far more money in departments that do much less useful work at a far higher cost?

Apparently the Government thinks that by cutting down the money spent, however productively and profitably, on scientific research it will lose no votes. If it makes cuts in other departments it might.

If the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research were undertaking work which duplicated that being done by the States, the Government would be justified in stopping it. But the work which will suffer by this cut in expenditure will probably be work which no other body in Australia is doing. And in the meantime, as Senator Sir Hal Colebatch said yesterday, the Federal Government allows a department like its Department of Health, which "is simply duplicating the work done by the States," to spend more than it did before.

The Council is doing most important work, which will mean millions a year to the nation and more employment for our people. Rather than restrict its operations Mr. Scullin could save a big proportion of that £290,000, and do no harm to the country, if he made a move to conserve some of the £150,000 which we pay to Federal Ministers and members.

We pay them £150,000 a year mostly to talk, while the Council's scientists, with little thought of money except as it furthers their investigations, work long, silent hours in their laboratories, and sometimes, as happened with the late Professor Brailsford Robertson, give their lives for the cause which Mr. Scullin now threatens to strangle.

Adv. 22-5-51

Dr. Roy Gilmore Ellis, a graduate in dentistry of Adelaide University, who went to Canada three years ago to continue the study of his profession, will arrive in Adelaide early in June to visit his parents (Mr. and Mrs. Howard Ellis, of Unley). In addition to having gained the degrees of L.D.S., D.D.S., and B.Sc. (Dent.), Dr. Ellis has been engaged for two years on research work at Toronto University. Having been offered an appointment on the staff there, he will return to Canada in September to take up duty.

News 22-5-51

Tomorrow Mr. Justice Herbert Angus Parsons will be 59 years of age. His honor, who was born at North Adelaide on May 23, 1872, was called to the South Australian Bar in 1897. Appointed a King's Counsel in 1916, he was elevated to the judiciary in January, 1921. Educated at Prince Alfred College and Adelaide University, he graduated as Bachelor of Laws in 1897. On various occasions His Honor was member for Torrens and Murray in the House of Assembly. He was Attorney-General in the Peake Government in 1915, and also was Minister of Education.

Adv. 20-5-51
FIFTY YEARS AGO

From "The Advertiser,"
May 20, 1881.

AT last, a professor of agriculture for South Australia has been appointed. When Mr. Custance arrives, the paramount object must be by intelligent means to increase the yield of produce and maintain the fertility of the soil. Whether he should be attached to the new University is a point well worth attention, but in any case the utmost facility should be accorded him as a lecturer.

News 19-5-51

RESEARCH WORK ESSENTIAL

CONCERN CAUSED BY EXPENSE CUT

The decision of the Federal Government to curtail the expenditure of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research by £290,000 for the year has been received with dismay by primary producers, agricultural organisations, and many industrial interests, as well as scientific investigators.

General opinion is that the saving effected cannot possibly be justified, because the economic loss to Australia, resulting from the decreased work of the council, may run into hundreds of thousands of pounds.

The decision made by the Federal Government is surprising in face of the resolution adopted at the last Imperial Conference confirming the principle of continuing such work and even extending it.

The most important effect of the cut, it is stated, will be the abandonment of plans for the establishment of a food preservation and transportation division. The creation of a forests products laboratory and extension of work on animal nutrition, entomology, and many other subjects under study will now have to lapse.

"Research work is indispensable," said the Hon. H. Homburg this afternoon. "It would be a fatal mistake to let it go by the board. There are animal diseases peculiar to Australia which require investigation here."

"I see that it is intended to send other Federal Ministers abroad. Goodness knows what for! If it is to make investigations I should think that there are enough questions to enquire into here."

"This money could well be saved, and diverted to more useful purposes."

Adv. 22-5-51

Lunch-Hour Organ Recital

Mr. John Horner's Elder Conservatorium Hall organ recital yesterday attracted a large audience. The opening fantasia and fugue in C minor revealed John Sebastian Bach at his splendid best. In lighter vein came Mendelssohn's "Ruy Blas Overture." In this, the recitalist displayed rich resourcefulness in tone coloring, and secured orchestral effects rarely heard on the organ. "Coronach: A Highland Lament" (Barrett) provided Mr. Horner with opportunities for expressive playing of which he availed himself to the utmost. All the wistful, Gaelic charm of this remarkable composition came out, creating a deep impression.

Miss Joyce Rofe's clear, melodious singing of two Schubert songs, "Bliss" and "Hark, Hark, the Lark," to the recitalist's delightful pianoforte accompaniment, proved particularly pleasing. Coleridge Taylor's "Impromptu" and Karg-Elert choral-improvisation, concluded the recital, the last item notable for its unconventional melodic and harmonic charm.

Mr. Horner's programme on May 28 will include characteristic compositions of Bach, Rheinberger, Geoffrey Shaw, and Alfred Hollins.