

24 Co 2-11-29

Reg. 6-11-29

MAIL 9-11-29

SITUATIONS IN MUSIC

From EDWARD HOWARD:—In your issue of Tuesday last, under the above heading, it is stated that the Australian Music Examinations Board will permit, for the first time, successful candidates in the two highest grades to use the letters A. Mus. A. (Ass. in Music, Australia), and L. Mus. A. (Lic. in Mus. A.) respectively. What about caps and gowns? How can the board successfully compete against the colleges in which these appendages are part of their stock-in-trade? From a business point of view would it not be advisable for the Australian Board to authorise not merely caps and gowns, but scarlet gowns and white mortarboards? There would be money in them. They could be known as the scarlet pot boilers, if the board kept its standard as low as possible. Should "the man in the street" want to know whose "pot" they boil, let him read "Australian Musical News" for October 1. It is there stated on authority that the colleges in question are shareholding businesses. The founder of one of them, who died in 1925, left in his "pot" an estate valued at over £42,000. Bobbie Burns wrote, "O, would some power the giftie gie us, to see ourselves as others see us." Perhaps the black caps and gowns are a sign of mourning for lost opportunities.

Music Candidates Improving, Says Prof. Davies

THE Director of the Elder Conservatorium (Professor Harold Davies) returned last night from West Australia, where he examined for the University Public Examinations Board.

He said there was a big increase in the number of candidates. The standard of work was good, especially on the piano.

The number of candidates examined by the Public Examinations Board in the Commonwealth was 20,000. He had been examining for 15 years, and noticed great improvement in the standard generally.

Adv. 6-11-29

MORE DOCTORS WANTED

Enquiries are being made in England for medical students to join the staff at the Adelaide Hospital when vacancies occur. It is feared that owing to an insufficient number of students taking the medical course at the University of Adelaide there will be a shortage of doctors. The Chief Secretary (Hon. H. Tassie) said on Tuesday that the position was the same in all the States of the Commonwealth. Few students were graduating, and there might be a difficulty in filling the positions of resident medical officers.

ADV. 12-11-29

also news 11-11-29

CONTINUATION OF PULTENEY-STREET

The works and highways committee reported to the City Council on Monday that the town clerk had been instructed to report on the question of approaching the Government with a view to having portion of the land now enclosed with the exhibition Buildings transferred to the council so that Pulteney-street might be continued from North-terrace in a northerly direction to Victoria Drive. The action was taken in connection with the Bill before Parliament to vest the land in the University of Adelaide. The report of the committee was adopted.

REG. 14-11-29

State Aid For Medical Students

SIR—It has been suggested that, in view of the shortage of medical students, young doctors should be obtained from England. Would it not be as well for the Government or hospitals to provide financial assistance for South Australians willing to take up medical work, but prevented by their state of finances from doing so?

Numbers of boys and girls, intellectually suited for such a career, would eagerly take up the work if some financial aid were given. Each student, when his course of study was completed, could be required to spend a certain period of years doing hospital work, or, if in private practice, could make repayment at a certain rate per year.—Yours "T. V. E."

Secondary Education Blamed for Unemployment

COLLEGE HEAD'S CRITICISM

Prof. Grant Supported and Condemned

SOME WIDELY DIFFERENT OPINIONS

"Secondary education is responsible for much of the unemployment today."

"Lack of secondary education handicaps a boy in the business of life."

These widely differing opinions typify the mixed reception given in Adelaide business circles to the views of Prof. Kerr Grant on secondary education, published in "The Mail" last Saturday.

Men in all branches of commerce are interested in the professor's criticism. They offer varying reasons for their support or opposition to him.

Mr. H. L. Ward, B.A., a prominent educationalist, and Mr. R. K. Stalley, director of the Myer Emporium, applaud Prof. Kerr Grant for his outspokenness, but Mr. F. Ward, resident manager for Hoyts Theatres Limited, declares that the professor's statements are ridiculous.

In the article published last week Prof. Kerr Grant, physics lecturer at the Adelaide University, stated that the existing system of secondary education failed to equip the modern boy for the business of life.

"Prof. Grant is to be congratulated on speaking so freely," said Mr. H. L. Ward, B.A., F.I.C.A. (principal of Mairden College).

"The present system of secondary education is driving our young people into offices instead of letting them choose for themselves the profession that they wish."

"This results in all kinds of deplorable situations. Young people are forced to remain close to the city to earn their living, with a result that our city is crowded and unemployment is rife, while the open spaces of the country are left bare and unpeopled."

"When a young man's head is crammed with French and Latin he is certainly not going to look for a farm laborer's job. Instead he becomes one of the great army watching and hoping for a suitable office position. Had he left school at 14 he would be ready to turn his hand to anything that came his way."

"The trouble with the present system of education is that far too many subjects are included in the curriculum. Instead of concentrating on three subjects and learning them thoroughly the average student of today must cram his head with all manner of useless knowledge. We have actual proof of this."

"In the old days we were glad to get a child with a public school education, for we knew that they would have a thorough grounding in essentials. But unfortunately we cannot say the same thing about the present generation. They come to us deficient in even the fundamentals, and every business man will tell you that the spelling of the average public school student is shocking."

"The reason for this, of course, lies not entirely with the student. It is partly the fault of a system that concentrates on too many subjects, with a result that the student leaves with only a mere smattering of each, instead of the good grounding of a few."

The views of the manager of a well-known Adelaide banking business differed greatly from those expressed above. He said that Prof. Grant's statements were ridiculous.

"Secondary education is responsible for more young men getting on in this world than all the other systems put together," he said.

"Take, for instance, what such an education means to a young man coming into the banking business. He would be hopelessly handicapped without such a background. We personally go out of our way to secure young men with education rather than the person who has never had the tuition of a good college."

"I certainly do not agree with Prof. Kerr Grant that such an education is a waste of time. Certainly, there are a number of young people who take the examinations and fail to derive any benefit from them, but then it must be remembered that there are lazy and unfit in all walks of life, and it is wrong to judge the majority by the few."

Mr. R. K. Stalley (director of the Myer Emporium (S.A.) Limited), said:—"Certainly I agree with Prof. Kerr Grant that work and a sense of responsibility teaches the young person far more than any school can hope to do. The young boy learns far more in the school of hard knocks, and, what is more important, he remembers what he learns, for a lesson bought is worth a dozen taught."

"Personally we would much rather have a boy straight from public school to train than any lad of 18 with a secondary education. The boy of 14 or 15 usually is more retentive and has not had his mind burdened by numerous subjects."

"The more education a boy can get the better he is for it," said Mr. F. Ward, resident manager in South Australia for Hoyts Theatres Limited. "I do not care whether it is public school or secondary education. But to let a boy leave school at the age that Prof. Grant advises is to handicap him in the business of life. In these modern times education is the greatest asset that a boy can have, and the person who is unfortunate enough to be deficient in education, goes quickly to the wall."

"I speak from personal experience when I say that lack of education not only prevents one from obtaining employment, but also stands in the way of promotion. Today is the day of the trained man, and I regard Prof. Grant's statement as ridiculous."

Canon P. Wise, rector of St. George's Church, advocates an extra year at primary school before entering into secondary schools. "As the principal of St. George's Free Day School," he says, "I have always tried to persuade the children to remain on an extra year after gaining their qualifying certificates. In this manner they would save much time and money when they finally joined the secondary school, for they would have the thorough grounding in their subjects. But I do think that the professor is a little harsh in his criticisms of our present educational methods."

When Mr. C. A. Burdett (director of Charles Birks Limited), was approached he was pleasantly non-committal.

"A question of this kind goes too deep and means too much to be answered without due cogitation," he said. "I would not care to make comment until I had thought over the subject, and then I would probably come to the conclusion that it would be wiser to say nothing."

Reg. 4-11-29

TO BE ACTING HEAD OF "ST. PETER'S GIRLS"

Miss Winifred Berry's Appointment

HOSTS of "old girls" will be interested to hear that Miss Winifred Berry, M.A., has been appointed acting headmistress of St. Peter's Collegiate School for Girls, an appointment to take effect at the beginning of next year.

Prominent In Education

The announcement is also specially interesting to educationists, for Miss Berry, who, before her visit to England, was on the teaching staff of the upper school, has taken a prominent part in educational reform in South Australia. It was through her enthusiasm that a course of training for private school and college teachers was instituted, a step which has done much to improve the teaching standards. She introduced the Dalton plan into the upper school of St. Peter's Girls, and was tireless in her efforts to ensure its satisfactory working.



Miss W. Berry, M.A.

Miss Berry has shown a great interest in social questions, and is an able lecturer. During her recent visit to England she studied educational methods, and also attended as a delegate the International Conference of the Federation of University Women. She was fortunate enough to obtain a temporary post on the teaching staff of Cheltenham, the great girls' college, and obtained excellent experience of modern methods of instruction.

Reg. 5-11-29

FINE CHAMBER MUSIC RECITAL

Conservatorium Staff Gives Good Programme

MEMBERS of the Conservatorium staff gave a polished performance of chamber music in the Elder Hall last night.

The string quartet, comprising Miss Sylvia Whittington (first violin), Miss Kathleen Meegan (second violin), Miss Clarice Gmeiner (viola), and Mr. Harold Parsons (cello) gave Borodine's Quartet in D, No. 2, with beautiful restraint and artistry.

The four movements of this exquisite work received admirable treatment, especially the andante, with its quaint melodies, and effective harmonising.

The exacting Piano Quartet in E Flat, Op. 6, of Schumann, was the outstanding work of the evening. Miss Ivy Ayres took the piano part and played splendidly.

After the strings had announced the first subject, the vigorous piano movement was excellently taken up by Miss Ayres. The scherzo, with its elves' and goblin dance, particularly suited Miss Ayres's style. Beautiful tone characterised the andante cantabile, and the wonderful climax was a triumph.

The vocalist for the evening was Miss Hilda Gill. She gave a fine interpretation of Tchaikowsky's song, To the Forest. Her dramatic middle voice was very effective in this beautiful song.

Three other songs followed—The Dream (Rubinstein), Dawn of Night (Nikolayef), and The Coming of Spring (Rachmaninoff). Mr. John Horner accompanied with fine insight and restraint.