

New Ambassador



EVIDENTLY Dr. Grenfell Price, the master of St. Mark's College, who is on a visit to America, is taking the opportunity to act as an Australian ambassador. Recent publications from New York contain glowing accounts, under his name, of Australia's recovery.

This week it was cabled that Dr. Price had addressed the Columbia University, and had spoken with pride of Australia's fight. In a recent edition of "The Yale Review" appeared a long article on the history of Australia's trials in weathering the depression storm.

In an interview in "The New York Times" Dr. Price was given a great deal of space to tell America what his country had done. He has first-hand knowledge of the subject because he was chairman of the Emergency Committee which supported the United Australia Party in its success against the Scullin Government.

Dr. Grenfell Price

Knights Attend Funeral

THERE is a feeling of brotherhood among Adelaide knights. After they had lost one of their number by the death of Sir Joseph Verco, five of them attended the funeral at West Terrace Cemetery.

They were the Chief Justice (Sir George Murray), the vice-chancellor of the University (Sir William Mitchell), Sir Douglas Mawson, Sir Henry Newland, and Sir Herbert Phillipps.

After the service friends noticed that the Chief Justice, top hat in hand, and Mr. S. Hood, the late knight's gardener, stopped to the graveside together to pay their last silent homage. It was a tribute to the friendliness of Sir Joseph, which was extended alike to people in all walks of life.

He was the veteran of a large band of doctors from the Verco family, which includes Dr. W. A. Verco, Dr. R. John Verco, Dr. J. Stanley Verco, and Dr. Ronald L. Verco. Dr. W. A. Verco, who is the doyen of the group, was chief mourner at Sir Joseph's funeral.

MUSIC WEEK

Insisting On Emotional Values

ART AND MATERIALISM

By Professor E. Harold Davies

On Saturday, August 26, there will begin in South Australia a series of musical performances, organised by members of the Association of Music Teachers as a part of a nation-wide celebration, to be known as "Music Week."

This desirable movement has been initiated by the Federal Council of the several Musical Associations throughout Australia, and its prime object is to stimulate a more general love of the art. To this end it is hoped that public attention will be, as far as possible, focussed upon the making and hearing of music in halls, churches, and homes. The programme has not yet been completed, but it is expected that in Adelaide there will be at least two big concerts in the Town Hall, as well as a chamber music afternoon and various organ recitals. It is also suggested that the social influence of music shall be emphasised in a concluding ball, designed to bring together in fraternal fashion those who are devoted to its advancement.

Altogether, the scheme has many admirable features. It will, doubtless, lead to more comprehensive plans for the future, and the experience gained in this first essay will be of value as indicating where and how its scope may be enlarged and its benefits so increased. Meanwhile, the very inception of such a plan may naturally give rise to a number of reflections as to the place of music in our communal life.

The Antiquity Of Music

The song-habit is at least as old as the speech-habit, and there are eminent scientists who have even claimed that primitive man sang before he could formulate his ideas and feelings in the simplest words of constant meaning. To this extent, at least, music is an instinctive tendency of the human race, and the manifold traditions of folk-song belong equally to all the nations of the earth. The original untutored impulse of the savage gave place by degrees to a more discerning sense; and aesthetic principles gradually entered into the composition of even these elementary songs. Then, as the centuries rolled by, men discovered in reeds and stretched strings other means of producing agreeable sounds and instrumental music, first, as an accompaniment to human voices,

and then, as an independent art, was developed in comparatively recent times. But of all the arts that man has aspired to, music is undoubtedly the most ancient, as it is the most natural and widespread.

Contemporaneous with speech, it is itself truly the language of feeling. Indeed, the parallel between the two is in many ways very exact, since there is the same record of unceasing progress and development from primitive speech, right on, let us say, to the dramas of Shakespeare, as there is from the songs of stone-age men to the glorious symphonies of Beethoven.

Power Of The Emotions

It is particularly interesting to speculate on the reasons for the evolution of music. Apparently a purely subjective expression of human emotion, it begins spontaneously, and gradually assumes ever loftier and more complex forms of utterance. The two streams of sound and rhythm coalesce to make a mighty architecture as real to the human ear as are the greatest buildings to the eye. There are, indeed, as many audible as there are visible forms of beauty, notwithstanding that the whole wondrous realm of music exists not in space but in time only. It is essentially a spiritual, as it is a subjective, creation. And, inasmuch as music is a natural outlet of human emotion, it belongs to us all.

It is hardly necessary to point to the tremendous influence of the emotions upon human life. Indeed, one might truly affirm that every part of man's diverse being functions more or less in the emotions. His physical, mental, and moral outlook is shot through and through by impulses of passion, and those prevalent atmospheres of feeling—such as love and fear—sway and compel almost every moment of mortal existence. One might easily show that most of the evils that now afflict mankind have their root in undisciplined and unguided emotions. The desire for excitement, which drives men to the pursuit of all kinds of imagined pleasures, is an emotional urge. But there are healthy, as well as unhealthy avenues along which satisfaction may be sought; and the love of music, as well as a devotion to all the various forms of art, may bring a lasting joy which belongs not to the more fleeting forms of indulgence. Equally, the creative act, whether it be in making a garden, or any other thing of beauty, or skill, brings with it a solace incomparably greater than the fevered ways of ordinary pleasure-seeking.

Values

Herein is the value of a true culture—that development of "faculty" which should be the real aim of all education. One can only regret that our methods of school training lay so little stress upon this crying human need for emotional satisfaction. It is a vital phase of teaching that has yet to be realised.

And, after all, one is constantly driven to the conclusion that all our policies, whether of education or of subsequent employment in the world, are based upon the conviction that only material values may count in any serious scheme of human activity. Art is more or less a beggar in our streets; and the desire for this world's goods reduces man to a perpetual warfare with his fellows for a flourishing bank balance, or any other sort of economic advantage. Yet there are not wanting signs that this insane desire for worldly wealth must presently end, and new and more enduring values make of life a happier and more desirable experience than it now is. One can only urge, therefore, that any movement such as this of a "Music Week" is a move in the right direction. For it is certain that, as men's hours of enforced leisure increase, their interest in things of the mind must equally grow, if we are not to fall upon still more evil days.

University To Take Over Jubilee Oval

The registrar of the University (Mr. F. W. Eardley) said yesterday that the transfer of the Jubilee Oval to the University was expected to take place shortly. The Government was arranging for the cancellation of its lease, and under an arrangement with the University it would remove most of the buildings on the area by October 13.

The replacing of the galvanised iron fence round the oval with the iron railings from Victoria square has been begun. More than 1,347 feet of galvanised iron will be removed from Victoria drive and Frome road. The work is expected to take about two months.

PETER BORNSTEIN RECITAL

Professor Davies' Tribute To Violinist

The Director of the Conservatorium (Professor E. Harold Davies) said yesterday that there was not a finer violinist in Australia than Peter Bornstein, who will give a recital in the Adelaide Town Hall on August 22 in aid of the Lend-a-Hand Club.

"My first experience of Peter Bornstein's playing was in his responsible task as leader of the 'Pavlova' Orchestra," Professor Davies said. "We were then looking for a successor to the late Charles Schilsky, as principal teacher of the violin and quartet leader in the Elder Conservatorium. While visiting Sydney with Professor Bernard Heinze, of Melbourne, we attended a Pavlova performance, and both of us were impressed with the outstanding merits of Mr Bornstein's playing. Professor Heinze is himself a very fine violinist, and his opinion coincided with my own that Adelaide was singularly fortunate in securing the services of an artist of such real eminence. I trust that after his brief visit to England Mr. Bornstein will again return here to accomplish many more years of distinguished service for music in this land."

Keeping Players Here

"It often grieves me to think that many generous, well-meaning folk are interested in sending to Europe students who may conceivably become artists of repute, while they are far less concerned to keep in Australia splendid players and teachers who have already proved their worth. There is also a constant tendency to overlook the value of the things we actually possess. And one of these priceless possessions—I say it without hesitation—is our Elder Conservatorium String Quartet, of which Peter Bornstein is now leader. In this he is wonderfully supported by Sylvia Whittington, Harold Parsons, and Kathleen Meegan, all artists of real distinction and experience. The quartet also has been playing together for nearly 20 years, its two former leaders being Gerald Walenn and the late Charles Schilsky, so it has actually achieved that most important of all virtues—a 'tradition.' I was more than proud the other day, when, after hearing them play, Professor Heinze said, 'We have nothing like this in Melbourne; neither is there anything to touch it anywhere else in Australia.' In conclusion, let me express the hope that those who attend Mr. Bornstein's recital will realise still more fully what an artist Adelaide has in him, and so by their appreciation convince him that he must come back to us."

Medical Inspection Of Students

By A Medical Correspondent

An American system that might well be copied in this country, is the strict medical examination of every scholar entering senior schools and universities. These examinations have been carried on for a considerable time, and many illuminating reports in which they figure are to hand.

An excellent feature of this system is that any child who is not up to required physical standard on entering a particular scholastic institution, is submitted to a searching investigation as to the reason of his deficiency. These reasons are tabulated, and so much valuable information is obtained.

Another great advantage of this systematic investigation is that it is thereby possible to detect early signs of any serious troubles. The examinations are repeated at regular intervals in some American colleges, and thus a close check can be kept of each child's medical progress.

The Vice-Chancellor of Adelaide University (Sir William Mitchell) has consented to become a vice-president of the Institute of Public Administration.