

PERCY GRAINGER

AN APPRECIATION

To the Editor
 Sir—I should like publicly to thank Mr. Percy Grainger for the wonderful recitals he is giving in the Town Hall. His great gifts are well known to musicians, but I would urge all students and lovers of music to realise the present opportunity of hearing a consummate artist. Mr. Grainger possesses every quality that can interest us—a surging vitality, combined with a most delicate poetry of expression, and with a very human and lovable personality. His explanatory talks are also delightfully original and thoughtful, as well as enlightening to the listener. We are seldom privileged to hear such real music, or to enjoy such obvious sincerity.—I am, Sir, &c.,

E. HAROLD DAVIES,
 Elder Conservatorium.

Adv. 10-5-34

AUSTRALIAN LIBRARIES

The Carnegie Corporation of New York, in continuance of its policy of making comprehensive surveys of libraries in all parts of the world, is about to conduct one of Australian libraries. It has appointed Mr. Ralph Munn (director of the Carnegie Library at Pittsburgh, U.S.A.) and Mr. E. R. Pitt (chief librarian of the Public Library, Museum, and National Gallery of Victoria), to carry out the investigation. Mr. Munn will reach Sydney about May 21, and as he has to leave Australia before the end of July, the time for investigation will be limited. Questionnaires regarding the equipment, staffing, and financial conditions have been sent to the public libraries in all States, and owners of private libraries have also been approached for information. The secretary of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery (Mr. H. W. Marshall) stated yesterday that the itinerary of the committee had not been completed, and it was not known when Messrs. Munn and Pitt would visit Adelaide.

Adv. 11-5-34

Communists Attend University Debate

Several members of the Communist party of S.A. attended a debate on Communism, which had been arranged by the Adelaide University Men's Union, and took place last night in the University Refectory.

It was one of the keenest debates ever contested by the students, and 12 of them, several of whom were supporters of Communism, addressed the meeting.

A motion, "That this house is of the opinion that Communism, so far from being a menace, is a necessity to any civilized nation," was lost by a small majority.

The two speakers, other than students who addressed the students on the subject of the debate, were Mr. E. A. Evans and Mr. T. Garland.

Adv. 11-5-34

At a meeting of the Medical Board yesterday, the following additional diplomas were registered in the names of doctors:—G. H. Solomon, F.R.C.S., Edin., 1933; S. R. Burston, M.R.C.P., Edin., 1934; and J. C. Mayo, F.R.C.S., Edin., 1931.

HUNT FOR LOST RADIUM NEEDLE

New Device Constructed At University

HOSPITAL TEST

By M. ILIFFE

A small needle of radium which had been carefully hidden in the radium department of the Adelaide Hospital, was detected in a few minutes by means of a new portable instrument, made and designed in the physics department of the University of Adelaide. The test was made to demonstrate the capabilities of the instrument, which fulfilled every expectation. One can better appreciate the success of the experiment by comparing the small needle with a match in one of the accompanying illustrations. When one reflects that radium is worth £20 a milligram (about £500,000 an ounce) the value of a device to detect lost needles becomes apparent.



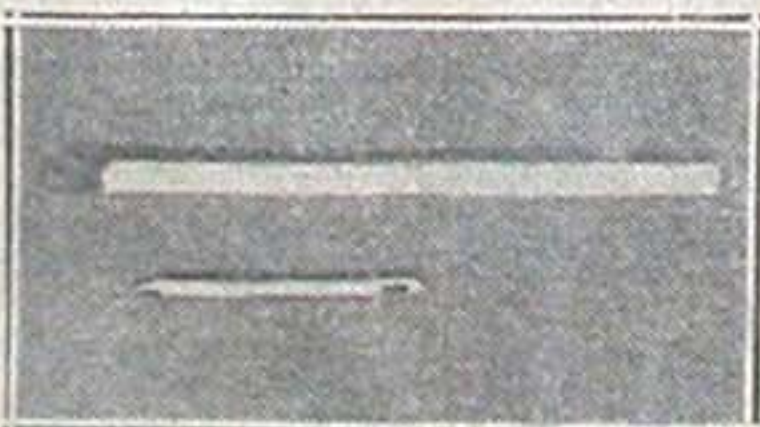
SEARCHING FOR a lost particle of radium, which is worth about £500,000 an ounce. The new device in use.

Although the apparatus, as far as can be ascertained, is new, it embodies the well-known Geiger Muller electron counting tube, which forms the essential part of the instrument. This ingenious tube, although extremely simple in operation, is extremely sensitive, actually recording every single gamma ray originating in the radium which passes through it. Radium is continually breaking up into other substances, and during the process millions of these rays are shot out every second. Owing to their relatively high penetrating power, the tube can detect their presence after they have passed through thick obstacles. These rays have the power to ionise gases, thus producing electrons, and every time an electron is liberated in the counting tube a momentary electrical discharge takes place. This manifests itself, after amplification, by means of a valve, as a click in the headphones worn by the operator.

A few clicks are always being produced by cosmic rays and stray radioactive substances, but when the instrument is brought near to radium the result is an enormous increase in the number of clicks.

More Effective Than Electroscop

It is an ideal apparatus for the detection of radium. Formerly an electroscop was used, but the tube counter is a thousand times more sensitive. As can be seen from the second illustration, it is quite compact, consisting of three units. The operator holds the section which contains the electron tube and amplifying unit. A cable connects this to the box housing the control panel, and a battery to supply the necessary electric power. The operator is seen wearing the headphones which receive the amplified clicks from the tube.



BY COMPARISON with a match, the minute size of the average radium needle is thrown into sharp relief.

The apparatus is extremely simple to use. The operator can at once tell in the case of a medium-sized room, whether or not radium is present. For large wards it may be necessary to walk down the length of the room. Once the clicks are heard in the headphones he continues to walk in the direction in which the rapidity of the clicks increases. When within a few yards of the radium the noise is almost continuous, and it is then a simple matter to locate it.

Practical Test Last Year
 Last year a small needle was misplaced at the hospital. It was suspected that it had been caught up in some bandages and removed to the incinerator. After a careful search of the refuse had failed to reveal the lost needle, it was decided to make use of the Geiger electron tube. Owing to the lack of portability of the instrument at that time all the refuse had to be carefully bagged and taken to the University. Thirteen bags were wheeled, one at a time, past the instrument, until the one containing the radium was discovered. By subdividing the contents and testing each lot, the needle was finally revealed little the worse for the heating it had received in the incinerator.

In a hospital where a large number of radium needles are in daily use, it is only natural to expect that sooner or later one will become accidentally misplaced. The instrument was for the most part made to meet such an emergency. Apart from the monetary value, there has to be considered the danger to the operators, should the needle be sufficiently damaged to expose the contents. Radium taken internally far exceeds in its effects the deadliest of ordinary poisons. Less than one-thousand-millionth part of an ounce causes a painful disease, resulting in death. Recently a number of girls were poisoned by licking brushes with which they were painting luminous watch dials. The amount of radium present in such paints is exceedingly small.

It can be seen that immediate steps should be taken to locate lost needles. Should such an occasion arise in future, the portable instrument will make the recovery of the missing particle a comparatively simple matter.

Adv. 12-5-34

CANBERRA'S MUSEUM OF ETHNOLOGY

Three Valuable Collections Acquired

CANBERRA, May 11.

With the view of making Canberra the most important ethnological centre of the Pacific, the Government has decided to bring together permanently as many of the chief collections of native and aboriginal relics as can be obtained.

Two valuable collections are already in Canberra, and a third—that of the late Dr. Basedow, of Adelaide—will be added within a few weeks, at a cost of £500.

Dr. Basedow was recognised as a world authority on Central Australian aborigines, and his collection includes a library, native implements and weapons, several thousand photographs and more than a thousand lantern slides.

Until a national ethnological museum is built, the collections will be housed in the Institute of Anatomy, which this week received the collections of the Administrator of Papua (Sir Hubert Murray). This includes some valuable anatomical exhibits and 50 skulls of unique scientific interest.

The third collection, which has been in Canberra for some months, is that of the Mandated Territory Administration, which has been accumulated by officials since the territory was taken over from Germany.

Adv. 14-5-34

Death Of Mrs. Davies Thomas

After an illness of several months, Mrs. E. Davies Thomas, of Blackwood, died at the home of her sister, Mrs. F. Makin, Palmer place, North Adelaide, yesterday morning, in her 86th year.

Mrs. Thomas had always interested herself in philanthropic activities, particularly in Blackwood, where, in the words of a resident, "she acted as a fairy goodmother to us all." Her loss will be keenly felt in the district, for it has been said of her that she never refused an appeal for assistance.

The daughter of the late Mr. Walter Duffield, Mrs. Thomas spent her early years at Para Para, near Gawler. She married Dr. E. Davies Thomas, whom she survived by more than 41 years.

Mrs. Thomas endowed two Davies Thomas scholarships for medicine at the University of Adelaide in memory of her husband. She was a great supporter of St. Mary's Convalescent Hospital and the Mothers' Union at Blackwood. She has left no children. The funeral will leave the home of her sister, Palmer place, North Adelaide, this afternoon, for the North road cemetery.

PETER BORNSTEIN'S RECITAL

Fine Programme

By DR. ALEX BURNARD

A large audience attended at the Elder Hall last night to hear Mr. Peter Bornstein in his first public appearance since his return from Europe. The programme was an exceedingly interesting one from all standpoints. His Bach Chaconne contained much of nobly-sustained passion and fervent line, and on the technical side his command of bowing and left hand precision were phenomenal. Very seldom among the maze of difficult intervals was there one that was loosely calculated. The only thing that struck me at all unfavorably about his finely produced tone was that in this number it might have been more vari-colored, as he has shown us that he can vary it. I thought his piece de resistance decidedly the Debussy Sonata, a lovable work. The tone was exquisitely graded, and suited the delicate shimmer of the texture. In its three life-filled movements his brilliance and sympathy were fully bestowed on that "impressionistic type of lyricism that is French, and most peculiarly Debussian. It was a masterly reading. His last group was all Latin; a lively piece of double stopping in "La Chasse" (Cartier-Kreiser), a Sicilienne by Paradisi, an ultra-Spanish (but why say that, after all!) Jota of Falla, Ravel's Habanera—tone particularly fine here—and Cassado's "Dance of the Green Devil." This last, an extremely likeable affair, was mostly Kreisler in all but name. They were all very interesting, and played with perfect poise and understanding, but the thing that struck me most was his grace and suavely flowing beauty in the Sicilienne. His extra numbers were a Bach Gavotte (for solo violin), Szymanowski's "Fontaine d'Arethuse," and a brilliant final number—name unknown to me. The gorgeous pigments of the Szymanowski made it a special treat.

Mr. George Pearce's work, whether on equal terms as in the Sonata or as accompanist, was very satisfying indeed. The Debussy and the "Fountain" piece may be more particularly cited.

Mr. Harry Wotton for his first group chose three starkly simple songs, but the choice was such as to test the fibre of any singer. He came through with flying colors. In all of them—Scarlatti, Lully, Arne—was there that beautifully level tone and sostenuto that we now take for granted from him, and he has seldom risen to finer feeling than in "Bois Epais." I still think his portamento a trifle overdone. It seemed to me, for instance, little or no help in the Bantock, the first section of which is written largely as a monotone. I may be wrong. It is a matter of individual taste. This song, "The Unutterable" (how title and words would have suited Liszt's "transcendentalism") gave us some fine picturing of word and mood. Donaudy's "Luoghi sereni e cari" suited him exactly, and Chausson's "Le Colibri" was very beautifully felt, but for an unaccountable lack of intensity at the very end. His encore (Scarlatti) had a tone and a sustained line that were simply lovely.

Again Mr. Pearce's accompaniments were in perfect accord.