

ADV. 4-7-32

S.A. Orchestra A Vital Force

By Alex. Burnard

There can be no doubt that the South Australian Orchestra, which for 13 years has been steadily growing up with the expansion of its component sections, has attained its musical majority, and speaks with one unified voice. That it will still increase in stature—as it is more and more brought together for rehearsal and performance (and this our music-loving public can help to secure), and as its literature broadens still further—is just as certain.

The orchestra was fortunate in having Professor Bernard Heinze, of Melbourne, as honorary guest conductor for the third concert of the season, in the Town Hall on Saturday night. His leadership appeared to be a positive inspiration. The opening of the "Coriolan" Overture, simply electric with precision, showed us what we had to look forward to. In the give and take of tempo, as in the contrastive treatment of its thematic material, this number was remarkable.

Mr. Harold Parsons, in the famous "Kol Nidrei" of Max Bruch, played with all the artistry and reverence it demands, showing a breadth of feeling and a purity of tone over all its range. It was deep calling unto deep. His encore (unaccompanied), the Sarabande from Bach's C major suite, was a great treat.

In his playing of the colossal violin Concerto of Brahms, Mr. Peter Bornstein worked wonders. Excepting the fractional miscalculation of a few intervals, and one second's incoherence in Joachim's furious cadenza, the first movement was masterfully assured, and of a strong rhythmic definition. The wind opening of the Adagio had a fine restraint which set a seal on the movement from the outset, paving the way for the soloist's gorgeous, sustained flight of tone-poetry. The freedom and laissez faire of the Hungarian spirit pervaded the last movement, the violinist appearing to revel in all its dizzy flights of technique. The work was a triumph for him. The orchestra, save that it was a thought too heavy towards the end of the Brahms Finale, was an ideal accompanist. Mr. Bornstein's encore, a Handel Aria for violins and strings, was played with a lovely sostenuto.

The "Clock" Symphony of Haydn is a work we have not heard for years. It was conducted from memory. I admired the precision of the vigorous triplets in the Presto—unanimous from the second of each attack. Each section of the orchestra was equally brilliant. The staccato of the bassoons and bassi in the Andante (the genuine "clock" movement) gave it the absolute realism it requires, serving, moreover, to illustrate "Papa" Haydn's imaginative side and his innate humor. I think that a former popular fallacy of his being a mere academical is quite exploded. The Minuet itself was very coherent, and that was a lovely flute episode in the Trio. The bassoon was not quite "on the nail," and twice the first violins were somewhat ragged. The professor set his forces a hot pace for the finale—but they rose to it brilliantly, especially the "old guard" of the strings.

It is impossible here to comment on the "Nutcracker" Suite (Tschalkowsky) in detail. Suffice it to say that in color and balance all were exceedingly effective, singling out the Overture, the Trepak, the Reed-pipe Dance, and the Waltz of the Flowers for their special excellence. There were a few isolated instances of a slackened effort in following the beat, but they were only momentary.

Of the very best was the Rakoczy March, which concluded the programme. It was virile, and of course had the rhythmic positiveness of the march, but it was the reverse of being merely metronomic. The way in which the climax was built up was truly marvellous.

Miss Sylvia Whittington led the orchestra in her usual accomplished fashion.

ADV. 5-7-32
WHEN AGE GOES BACK TO SCHOOL
Grey Hairs At W.E.A.
23 Years For Degree

"Back to School," one of the most popular diversions of coun-

ADV. 5-7-32 contin.

try town gala celebrations, where scholars of 10, 20, 30 or 40 years ago go back to their desks, may be seen in hard practice in Adelaide at the University, or at the W.E.A. classes, where people, some of them well past middle age, are attempting to repair the lack of education which either paucity of opportunities or neglect of them cost them in their youth.

There are not many at the University now, said the Registrar (Mr. Eardley) yesterday, but even so, this State has students whose courage matches that of the former Attorney-General of Victoria (Mr. W. Slater), who on losing office in the recent elections, went back to the University as a student.

Thirty years ago, when the University co-operated with the Education Department in the training of teachers more than it does now, many teachers past middle age, a big percentage of them from the country, attended lectures there. A former Director of Education (Mr. W. Maughan) graduated in arts when well on in years. Another director (Mr. Williams) studied at the University. That generation has passed, and most of the teachers being trained through the University now are in their teens or early twenties.

Degree At 48

When he graduated LL.B. in 1926, Mr. W. Donnithorne was 48, and the oldest law student to have passed through the University. He was 44 when he began the course, and he said after obtaining his degree that the experience exhilarated him. He had retired from business in 1911, and he devoted the intervening years to wide study, in which painting in oils, for which purpose he made a trip abroad in 1921, played a big part. "Thus," he said, "I felt that I was beginning life anew. As I had not lost touch with the art of study, and my mind was still fairly flexible, I did not find the course exceptionally difficult."

He studied six nights a week, and during the day worked at the office of the legal firm to which he was articled. Mr. Duncan Menzies, who was admitted to the bar two years ago, was another who successfully began studying at the University unusually late in life. Thirty-two years ago he was a school teacher. Then for 17 years he was an auctioneer at Clare, but four years at the front interrupted that business, and on his return he determined to take up law. So successful was he that he graduated in arts and law, an achievement on which he was congratulated by the Chief Justice (Sir George Murray) when being admitted to the bar.

Five Nights A Week

Some people past middle age, feeling unequal to the rigor of an undergraduate course at the University, find the W.E.A. classes more congenial. According to the secretary (Mr. G. McRitchie) on that association's roll of more than 1,000 are "many over seven, a number over 50, some of 60, and one who claimed that he was 78. And that patriarch of the classes had many pertinent and acute enquiries when it came to question time," added Mr. McRitchie.

Middle aged people seem to prefer social questions for their study, for the Australian history class with Dr. Grenfell Price as lecturer, economics (Mr. H. G. Oliphant), and psychology (Dr. E. A. Allen), include the biggest proportion of them.

Probably the association's prize student was Mr. T. Duffield, a former secretary to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, who attended classes five nights a week when well past 70. As trouble with his eyes made it difficult for him to read, they provided intellectual stimulus for him, and proof of the acuteness of his reasoning may be found in a philosophical treatise "A New Regime; a Glimpse of What Might Be," which he has just written.

Funny Or Tragic

To him and some of the older members study is a hobby, and therefore not such a serious business as it is to those whose professional future makes graduation essential. There are stories, half humorous, and half tragic, about those in the latter category. There is one of an embryo doctor who took 23 years to obtain his degree, having a lapse of six years in his studies, and another of a clerk who began his law course at Melbourne University in 1886, dropped it, and then returned 30 years later to complete it. To his credit it may be said that he has not even yet entirely abandoned hope of being admitted to the bar.

News 5-7-32

THE vice-chancellor of Adelaide University (Sir William Mitchell) has accepted the office of patron of the Literary Societies Union of South Australia.

News 5-7-32

What Sex Means in Plant Life

Sex, which plays a big part in the life of all living matter, is developed in an extraordinary manner in primitive organisms. How this is done and what sex means to plants will be explained by Mr. J. G. Wood in a public lecture at the Adelaide University tonight.

Mr. Wood is a lecturer in botany at the Adelaide University.

The sexual act in plants consists of an intimate fusing of all parts of the sex cells. Complicated processes within the cells themselves lead to a redistribution of parental material. This results in entirely new characters appearing in the offspring.

The lecturer will explain tonight how this peculiar development takes place, and how sex is determined in the offspring.

ADV. 6-7-32

HEREDITY IN PLANTS

Laws Not Rigid, Says Lecturer

Beginning a lecture on "The Origin and Significance of Sex in Plant Life," at the Adelaide University last night, Mr. J. G. Woods said that he had been told that his selection of a title was rather like wrapping a treatise on mathematics in the cover of a modern novel.

Mr. Woods dealt in detail with the act of reproduction in plant life, illustrating the chemical and biological processes with lantern slides, and showed how these led to the distribution of hereditary characteristics in the offspring. He explained that in primitive organisms it was not clear that sexual diversity was a fundamental feature of reproduction, but sex diversity appeared as the organism evolved, and gradually became fixed. There were a number of theories as to the effects of mating, but the only general result obtained from an examination of facts was that mating produced many diverse stocks with new sets of hereditary characteristics. This continued formation of new combinations was a great corrective to the uniformity which would result from more rigid laws of heredity.

ADV. 8-7-32

Sir James Barrett, Vice Chancellor of the Melbourne University, has been chosen to deliver the Halford oration for 1932. It will be delivered at the Institute of Anatomy, Canberra, in November. The subject for the address will be the development of modern medical practice and the growing tendency for centralising public hospitals.

ADV. 9-7-32

The Rev. Canon F. Slaney Poole, who celebrates his 87th birthday today, is one of the best-known churchmen in South Australia. He was born at Maidstone, Kent, and took his degree in Arts at St. John's College, Cambridge, where he was a Somerset Exhibitioner. In 1867, when the late Bishop Short was in England, he engaged Mr. Poole as a master for St. Peter's College, but on arrival here he found that the college authorities had already filled the position. He joined the ministry, and in 1869 was ordained. For several years he ministered in parishes in the South-East, and later was transferred to St. John's Church, Halifax street, where he remained as rector for 21 years. He was also rector of St. Peter's, Ballarat, for three years, but then returned to South Australia. For some years before his retirement he conducted a private school. He was lecturer in classics at the University for two years.



Canon Poole

News 7-7-32

SCIENTIFIC MEN TO CONFER

S.A. to Send Thirty Delegates

SYDNEY MEETING

PROFESSORS Kerr Grant, H. J. Wilkinson, and J. A. Prescott will probably be among the delegation of about 30 South Australian delegates to the Sydney meeting next month of the Australia and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. R. S. Rogers, who is the president of the botany section of the congress, will deliver as his presidential address a paper on developments in orchidology. Prof. Kerr Grant is expected to give a paper to the astronomy, mathematics, and physics section.

Papers from Adelaide will also be given by Messrs. C. T. Madigan (the geology of Central Australia) and R. S. Burdon and H. S. Gibson (the expansion of mercury). The last paper will be the result of research work over a number of years by Messrs. Burdon and Gibson.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dr. Cilento, director of tropical hygiene, Brisbane, who graduated in Adelaide, will deliver the presidential address in the medical science and national health section.

The congress will be attended by hundreds of scientists from all over Australasia. There are 19 sections, and many other important papers will be given in each section. The chief purpose of the congress is to give scientists a chance to discuss their particular lines of research.

The Lieutenant-Governor of Papua (Sir Hubert Murray) is president-elect of the association. This meeting will be the twenty-first since its foundation. Delegates will be entertained by the New South Wales Government, Sydney University, and the Governor (Sir Philip Game). Activities will begin on August 17 and last for a week.

Among the delegates from Adelaide will be Drs. C. Fenner, L. K. Ward, L. B. Bull, W. T. Cooke, R. S. Rogers, the Revs. J. C. Jennison, and N. H. Louwyck, Messrs. R. S. Burdon (secretary), M. C. Moore, E. F. Lipson, O. H. Walter, D. D. Magarey, E. F. Gryst, and H. H. Sadler.

Mail 9-7-32

"Important Step," Says Professor

According to Prof. J. L. Campbell, professor of law at Adelaide University, France's agreement to Germany's offer of a final reparations payment of 150 million pounds is one of the most important steps towards the reconstruction of Europe.

"A lot depends on America, however," he said today. "All the Lausanne agreements are more or less subject to the American attitude, and that will be determined largely by local politics."

"But it is an important step, nevertheless, because it shows that the European Powers are beginning to realise that they must consider economic conditions outside their own borders."

"If things had been allowed to go on as they were, the hostility between Germany and France would have been accentuated, and anything might have happened in Europe," he said.

ADV. 12-7-32

Mr. A. C. Davidson, general manager of the Bank of New South Wales, will deliver the Joseph Fisher lecture at the University on Thursday. Mr. Davidson will speak on "Australia's Share in International Recovery." These lectures are delivered in alternate years on a subject relating to commerce. In 1928 Mr. S. M. Bruce was the lecturer, and he was followed in 1930 by Professor T. E. Gregory, economic adviser to the Niemeyer financial mission.