

FREDERICK BEVAN RETIRES

Veteran Composer And Singing Teacher

By H. BREWSTER JONES

Mr. Frederick Bevan, who will be 80 next year, has retired from the staff of the Elder Conservatorium, where he has been senior teacher of singing for many years. Miss Hilda Gill, a former pupil, who recently returned from abroad, will take over Mr. Bevan's pupils.

The Director (Dr. Harold Davies) yesterday voiced the general regret at Mr. Bevan's retirement, as well as a deep appreciation of his service. Dr. Davies spoke of Mr. Bevan's long and ripe experience as a teacher, his sturdy adherence to the old and tried methods of the singer's art, his intense loyalty and devotion to the Conservatorium, as well as his personal care and interest in the welfare of his students. "Mr. Bevan," he added, "has done a great and honorable work, for which he will ever be remembered."

Mr. Bevan, who was born in London, arrived in Adelaide in 1898, under engagement to the University of Adelaide. He was selected by a committee which included Sir Frederick Bridge, Signor Randegger, and Visetti. Educated at All Saints', London, Mr. Bevan was appointed Gentleman of Her Majesty's Chapel Royal, Whitehall, under Queen Victoria, in 1878, and to St. James's Chapel Royal in 1888. During this period he also held appointments at Westminster Abbey, where he was assistant Lay Vicar, and at St. Paul's Cathedral as Vicar Choral. Mention is made in the London "Musical Times" of a farewell dinner given to Mr. Bevan at St. James's Restaurant by 150 members of the musical profession before his departure for Adelaide. A treasured memento is a book of signed autographs of all those present, which includes familiar names such as R. Watkin Mills, the celebrated bass, who once visited Adelaide, and Sir Frederick Bridge, organist of Westminster Abbey. Before his arrival in Australia the name of Frederick Bevan was well known as a composer of such popular songs as "The Flight of Ages," "The Admiral's Broom," and "Peg Away," and his output includes more than 100 songs, part-songs, and anthems.

He had made frequent appearances on the concert platform, and in oratorio in the old country, and was the first one to sing in the Elder Hall. Mr. Bevan acted as conductor of the University Choral Class from its formation in 1898, and held that post for more than a quarter of a century. He was appointed organist and choirmaster of the North Adelaide Congregational Church in 1909, where he remained in this capacity for 21 years. In 1925 Mr. Bevan ended his choral activities with performances of "Acis and Galatea" (Handel), and "Athalia" (Mendelssohn).

Famous Names

Among the past pupils of Mr. Bevan are Otto P. Heggie, the film actor, and Clytie Hine, both of whom are now in America; Muriel Cheek, who is teaching singing at the Melba Conservatorium, Melbourne, the director of which is Fritz Hart, who was a chorister at Westminster Abbey at the same time that Mr. Bevan was Lay Vicar there. Ethel Hantke is a name many music lovers will remember. Now Mrs. Trafford Cowan, she has abandoned the concert platform. She was a fellow-pupil of Max Fotheringham, a favorite pupil of Mr. Bevan.

At his home in Melbourne street, North Adelaide, Mr. Bevan recalled names such as Elsie Jones, Maurice Chenoweth, Harold Savage, Walter Wood, Leslie Martin, Ethel Ridings, Francis Halls, Mary Roach, May Forsyth, Myrtle Ingham, Ada Wordie, Sydney Coombe, Jean Sinclair, and Gwen Collett. Mr. Bevan spoke enthusiastically of many of these voices which have been trained by him, and, although he would not be led into making a claim for the superiority of Australian voices, spoke highly of their quality. Mr. Bevan has acted as vocal adjudicator at the Ballarat Elsteddod upon three occasions. The life and works of Sir Arthur Sullivan have been dealt with in a publication which appeared in 1921 under the pen of Frederick Bevan. It embraces three extension lectures which were delivered at the University, and repeated in the

ENGLISH DOCTORS FOR ADELAIDE HOSPITAL

New Students Also At End Of Year

Following the announcement from London yesterday that two doctors would sail for Adelaide soon to take up positions at the Adelaide Hospital, the Inspector-General of Hospitals (Dr. B. H. Morris) said that the arrival of the two doctors would alleviate the difficulty with which the hospital had been faced because of the shortage of house surgeons. It was expected, also, that a number of students from the University of Adelaide would join the hospital staff in February, following examinations at the end of this year.

The doctors, who already had been selected in England, were Dr. Smith, who graduated at London, and Dr. Fife, a graduate of Birmingham.

The appeal for doctors in England has been made by the British Medical Association, assisted by the South Australian Agent-General (Mr. McCann). Other applications besides the two mentioned have been received in London, and are on their way to Adelaide by air mail for consideration of the authorities.

Legacy Club Address.—Mr. C. R. Badger, the winner of the 1931 Tinline Scholarship for History, addressed members of the Legacy Club at their weekly luncheon yesterday on "Politics and the Younger Generation."