

Adv. 21.5.35

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CONSERVATORIUM CONCERT

LARGE PROFESSORIAL STAFF AT UNIVERSITY

List Of Appointments Completed

Varied Programme By Staff

By H. BREWSTER JONES

A varied programme, presented by members of the staff of the Elder Conservatorium, and which had as its chef d'oeuvre the attractive string quartet of Ravel, was given at the Elder Hall on Monday night. It opened with an expressive example of duo-piano playing by George Pearce and John Horner, in which Duparc's arrangement of the organ Chorale in E Major of Cesar Franck served as the happy medium. These pianists have at their command a variety of dynamic shading which is eminently suited to the chromatic curves and twists of the music of this great Franco-Belgian composer.

The Recit. and Air from Gounod's "Queen of Sheba," "She Alone Charmeth My Sadness," with its melodic flow demanding a suavity of vocal style, sounded somehow a little clumsy as sung by Harry Wotton. Most effective support was lent by John Horner at the organ.

Harold Parsons made his first appearance since his trip abroad in the Sonata in G minor, Eccles. This is really a suite for 'cello solo with piano-forte accompaniment, as its individual movements imply. They are Preludium, Courante, Sarabande and Gigue—all brilliantly written for violoncello, and performed with technical accuracy, and considerable emotional warmth by our talented local 'cellist, who had, upon this occasion, the able assistance of Maude Puddy at the piano.

Opening the Allegro moderato of the Ravel String Quartet with an almost excess of refinement, the Elder Conservatorium Quartet, now led by Arved Kurtz, caught much of the sheen but lost some of the sonority of this movement. Idiomatic phrases of primeval purity, and idyllic snatches of melody which call for poignancy of expression, abound in all four movements; but most of all in the third, Tres lent, which was, by far, the best performed musically. The second movement, Assez vif-Tres rythme, although definitely rhythmical, did not hold together, especially in the cross-accentuation of the pizzicato. The finale, "Vif et agite," with its fascinating flow and vibrant agitation, went with a swing, and brought its inevitable applause from an enthusiastic audience.

An offering of three French songs by Harry Wotton, embraced "Offrande," Reynaldo Hahn; "Psyche," E. Paladilhe; and "Au Pays Bleu," Chaminade. Psyche served to demonstrate the direct manner of this singer, who knows exactly that which he intends to express. Quite at home in the language, his French group proved the more appealing. After the femininity of Chaminade, to be treated to the dour masculinity of Max Reger seemed a somewhat sudden transition; but, although John Horner, with a varied registration, attempted to color the monotonous sequential development of its inconsequential thematic material, "Kyrie Eleison" did not succeed in making a sufficiently definite impression for the transition to be real.

The Introduction and Fugue from Reger's second organ sonata, which brought the concert to a conclusion, was a more concrete example of organ writing. Reger was unquestionably indebted to John Sebastian Bach in the contrapuntal working out of the fugue; but, with his originality of effect, one is not quite sure that he is not poking fun at the past with an elephantine puckishness.

Held up with a ciphering note, the final number was delayed until expert aid was brought to the refractory mechanism of the recently renovated organ.

Dr. Davies, in a brief speech, drew attention to the historical chamber music recitals to be given under the direction of Percy Grainger in the Elder Hall in June.

The recent appointment by the council of the University of Adelaide of Mr. J. I. M. Stewart (of the University of Leeds) to the Jury chair of English language and literature, and the occupancy of the chair of economics by Professor E. O. G. Shann, and the chair of political science and history by Professor G. V. Portus, completes the list of appointments that the council has for some time been contemplating.

Mr. Stewart is expected to begin duties at the University early in September, and with the return from abroad of Professor C. S. Hicks (professor of human physiology and pharmacology), at the end of the second term, and the return early next year of Professor J. McKellar Stewart (professor of philosophy) from his investigations in England and America, the professorial staff at the University will be larger than it has been for many years.

The first term will end on Saturday, and for the second term, which will open on Monday, June 10, a series of public lectures has been arranged as follows:—

June 25, July 2 and 9—Three lectures by Professor Kerr Grant (professor of physics) on "Transmutation of the Elements."

July 16—Professor E. O. G. Shann (professor of economics) on "The Human Factor in Economic Progress."

July 23 and 30—Two lectures by Professor J. A. Fitzherbert (professor of classics and comparative philology and literature) on "The Spirit of Greece in its Daily Life," and "The Spirit of Rome in its Daily Life."

August 6 and 13—Two lectures by Professor J. A. Prescott (Waite professor of agricultural chemistry) on "Soil Deficiencies and Crop Production," and "Soil Deficiencies and Animal Health."

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IMPORTANT POST FOR DR. L. B. BULL

In Charge Of Animal Health And Nutrition Work

MELBOURNE, May 23.

The Postmaster-General (Senator McLachlan), who is the Minister in charge of the Council for Scientific



Dr. L. B. Bull

and Industrial Research, said today that the animal health and animal nutrition divisions of the council would be amalgamated and placed under the control of Dr. L. B. Bull.

Dr. Bull, who is at present engaged on research work abroad, was for some time in charge of the bacteriological and

pathological laboratory at Adelaide. He will take up his duties on July 1.

The appointment of Dr. T. A. Gilruth, acting chief of the division of animal health, will expire on June 30; but, in view of the amalgamation, his appointment has been extended for a year, during which period he will act as consultant and assistant to Dr. Bull.

Professor J. B. Cleland, chairman of the Federal Board appointed to enquire into the alleged ill-treatment of aborigines in Central Australia, Mr. C. P. Mountford (secretary of the board), and the Rev. J. H. Sexton (secretary of the Aborigines' Friends' Association), left by train yesterday for Alice Springs, where the enquiry will begin on Monday. They will join the Deputy Chief Protector of Aborigines in the Northern Territory (Mr. White), the fourth member of the commission appointed by the Commonwealth Government, at Alice Springs. The party will be absent for an indefinite period.

Dr. C. T. Madigan, lecturer in geology and mineralogy at the University of Adelaide, left yesterday by train for Alice Springs, whence he will go on Monday by motor truck to the country between the Jervois Range and the Queensland border. This will be his eighth geological investigation in Central Australia.