

Register July 27 1889.

AN OUTDOOR MIDWIFERY DEPARTMENT.
—A Medical School having been established in Adelaide, it has become necessary to see that the students shall be converted into qualified practitioners in regular form. In all parts of the world where such schools exist knowledge gained by actual practice forms a necessary part of the equipment of the medical neophyte, and it is obviously essential that the same rule should exist here. Among the obligations imposed on the student is one that he shall attend a certain number of midwifery cases. In a small community like this it is not easy to give effect to that requirement. Students are comparatively numerous—there are about twenty-five of them in all—confinements at which their attendance is practicable are few, and the problem is how to get over this discrepancy. Very good-naturedly the Senate of the University has come to the aid of the School, and has decided that the minimum number of midwifery cases which the aspirant for a degree must attend shall be reduced from twenty to ten. So far so good, but there still remains the question as to where to find the ten. Here the Governors of the Hospital have opportunely stepped in, and have resolved upon founding an outdoor midwifery department. This is not to be, be it understood, a Maternity Hospital—an institution which is generally condemned by the faculty, and evidently possesses objectionable features which render its establishment very undesirable. All that it is proposed to do is to arrange that outdoor cases shall be found for the students in sufficient numbers to enable them to complete their qualification. At the present time the cases dealt with in the lying-in branch of the Destitute Asylum are undertaken by a trained midwife, and it is not proposed to change this arrangement. To some of the confinements students are to be admitted, but it is not intended that they shall interfere with the treatment. There is, however, a considerable number of cases not brought into the Lying-in Department, but treated outside—cases of poor women who are unable to engage medical aid, and who have assigned to them by the Destitute authorities midwives, who may or may not be competent to perform the work entrusted to them. The proposal is that the charge of these confinements shall be transferred to the medical students. At first sight it might appear as if the scheme were to substitute for midwives, who if they have had no proper training, have as a rule had considerable practice, youthful students without experience or special knowledge. This, however, is not the case. It is only students who are nearing the end of their course, and who have been carefully drilled in the science of midwifery under competent masters, who will be allowed to undertake the work. Not only so, but a selection will be made from among these students, care being taken not to confide the duty to any who are not thought to be capable of performing it carefully and skilfully, or who have been in recent contact with diseased or dead bodies. Should the student find it necessary to call in help his first appeal will be to the Hospital surgeons, and should further assistance be necessary appeal will be made to the Principal of the midwifery branch of the Medical School. It is claimed that the well-trained student, thoroughly instructed in the theoretical part of his work, and schooled in the necessity for scrupulous cleanliness in all matters of midwifery, will be a great improvement upon the self-taught and, it may be, not very cleanly midwife. Assuming that all the precautions are taken which were detailed in the course of the discussion at the Hospital Board meeting on Friday, it seems to us that the establishment of the proposed department will be of real public benefit. It will be economical, as no charge will be made; it will ensure the attendance at the confinements of the very poor of men who have undergone a strict course of study, and who act under a sense of professional responsibility; and it will be manifestly serviceable to the Medical School. We have never concealed our opinion that the school has been established too soon, but being in existence it must be made as efficient as our means and circumstances will permit.

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MUSICAL LECTURE BY
PROFESSOR IVES.

The first of the series of public lectures on "Music" was delivered by Professor Ives on Thursday evening in the library of the University, there being a large attendance present. The lecturer, in opening his subject, referred to the increased interest that had been evoked of late in musical matters in this colony, and stated that from time to time he had been urged to give a series of lectures such as he had now entered upon. His desire was to avoid technicalities and to familiarise the subject to his hearers, and also, with the aid of lady and gentlemen performers, give practical illustrations that would appeal at once to and interest his audience. The professor then discoursed at some length upon "Some English Songs and their Writers," with the object of showing that England had more than held its own with other nationalities in supplying vocal and instrumental music of a refined character from a very early period. He did not claim for the earliest examples the art and technique which characterised the later compositions of English writers, but he entirely refuted the charge that the English were not a musical people. He said this charge had been made by such a man as Napoleon the First, who declared that "English music is execrable; they have only one good tune, "Ye banks and braes," which as it happened was not English, nor Scotch, but was of French origin. Rossini described "The girl I left behind me," as a beautiful Irish melody, whereas it was purely English. The professor denied that our literature, which was so rich in poets was poor in song. He said this was exploded by the publication of a work by William Chappell, entitled "Popular Music of the Old Times," which showed that the English possessed the finest collection of national songs of any country in the world. Hundreds of years ago England was called "Merrie England" because her children loved and attained such proficiency in vocal and instrumental music, beginning with her scalds and minstrels. The earliest known piece of music in existence is by an Englishman, a monk of Reading Abbey, and shows that even in 1225 the musicians of our country must have been proficient in the art of part-writing. The professor then referred to the minstrels, who were more gifted at improvisation than at musical notation; the relics of secular music antecedent to the sixteenth century, which were written in the contrapuntal style in two, three, and four parts; and how music flourished with the sister arts in the golden or Elizabethan age. Vocal music was the great pastime of the people, and guests were expected by the host to be able to take part in a catch madrigal or some other form of vocal composition at sight. Many good ballads belong to this period, when the madrigals entitled "The Triumphs of Oriana" were written at the time of Hooker and Spenser, and "The British Grenadier," "The Friars of Orders Grey," "The Bailiff's Daughter of Islington," &c., were good examples of the ballads of the time. The professor then dealt with the English songs and their writers of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and explained the extra culture that had been displayed by the later composers both in the sentiment, the melody, and the accompaniments of the songs, and how political and national feeling had been introduced into them as well as the personal affection that Dibden displayed for his brother in the well-known "Tom Bowling." The origin of "Rule Britannia" and the National Anthem was dealt with, and many other familiar and excellent specimens of song writing. Sir Henry Bishop received a high encomium from the lecturer for his skilful and beautiful construction of such songs as "The pilgrim of love" and "Could he upbraid," and by way of illustrating these and other examples of the various composers the professor had the assistance of Mrs. T. H. Jones, Mrs. Ramsay, Mr. W. M. Green, and Mr. G. V. Wood, who rendered in the most satisfactory manner the following programme of music:—Part song, "O, for a husband," harmonised by Professor Ives (traditional); song, "The bailiff's daughter of Islington" (traditional); song, "Down among the dead men" (traditional); song, "Drink to me only with thine eyes" (traditional); part song, "Early one morning," harmonised by Professor Ives (traditional); "Tom Bowling" (Dibden); "Hearts of oak" (Dr. Boyce); "Cherry ripe" (C. E. Horn); "The pilgrim of love" (Bishop); "Could he upbraid" (Bishop); "Rocked in the cradle of the deep" (Knight). All the numbers were received with hearty applause, Mrs. Jones being particularly effective in "Could he upbraid," and Mr. Wood, who has a very rich voice of exceptional compass and power, being encored for his able rendering of the last number on the list. Mr. T. H. Jones was an able accompanist. The professor announced that his next lecture, "Classical music; what is it?" would be delivered on August 22, and we perceive it will be under the patronage of the Governor and Lady Kintore. The date of the third lecture has yet to be fixed.