

EXAMINATIONS IN MUSIC

In a recent issue we published the report of several interviews between a representative of this journal and leading music teachers of this city on the subject of the annual public examinations in music. From that report it appears that the teaching profession generally is dissatisfied with the manner in which these examinations have been conducted. The consensus of opinion was, firstly, decidedly against the present system of having only one examiner in all the different branches of the art taken up by the candidates. Secondly, it was generally hinted, if not openly stated, that to avoid either conscious or unconscious favoritism it would be advisable that the examiner or examiners should be a person or persons who would be free from all suspicion of previous knowledge of the candidates. With this view it was suggested that examiners should be procured from outside the colony. Then it was represented by several of the teachers that the fees charged for the various subjects, especially in the senior division, were too high; and it was pointed out that consequently parents were debarred from sending likely candidates up, the corollary being that the aim of the examinations to raise the general standard of music in the community was thus defeated. There was also general agreement that without the publication of a full report of the examination, together with a list giving the relative position of each candidate according to the marks gained both in each subject and in total, teachers and candidates were left without any guide by which to determine the lines and method of future study. A further argument advanced in favor of publishing the results in full was that by this means the general public would have the opportunity of knowing how the study of music, as a whole, is progressing in the community. The day when music was regarded as a kind of exotic luxury, in which only the rich and leisured could indulge, has gone by, and in the older world of Europe among the most cultured people, as well as in these new countries, it is now, more or less, accepted as an important factor in the education of the young, irrespective of class or prospective position in life.

In the effort to give as large a share of high culture as possible to the rising generation it is recognised that music, the most universally and easily appreciated of all the arts, should be included as a matter of course in the scholastic curriculum, and that every encouragement should be given to the study of the art in its higher forms. The establishment of the open annual musical examinations, by stimulating the instinct of competition, was a step in the direction both of popularising music and of raising the standard of study and performance in Adelaide. The question, therefore, whether these examinations are fulfilling the end for which they were instituted is one in which the general public has a deep and direct interest. For the sake of the people at large, as well as in the interest of the students and their parents, teachers, and friends, it is required that this question, now publicly raised, should be examined into and answered. And if it should be found that the reasons given by the various teachers for the discontent they express with the present method of conducting the examinations are well founded it is imperative that the grounds of dissatisfaction be removed. The duty of dealing with this matter devolves upon the Board of Musical Studies of the University, and should that body shirk this duty pressure should be brought to bear to induce the University Council to take the required reformation in hand.

At the same time it behoves the musical teachers of the city and suburbs to do something more than register their complaints. They should do more than talk; they should act and act in common. But will they act together? There's the rub. It is alleged that the musical people of this city do not by any means form a united and happy family. This state of things can only be due to a tendency on all hands to view musical pursuits far too much from the sordid trade point of view. One cannot serve both art and mammon. Pure art is a sensitive plant whose growth is quickly stifled in the atmosphere of rank commercialism. If those among us who have a native artistic instinct for music would only allow that instinct full play Adelaide might establish a claim to a far higher and prouder distinction in being recognised as a truly musical city than her rivals in Victoria and New South Wales can ever reach in their all absorbing quest of mere material prosperity. Strange it is, indeed, if musicians of all classes of men should not be able to consort in harmony. There was once upon a time an association in this city called the Adelaide Society of Musicians, and if that society had not been allowed to die out the present trouble about the musical examinations would not have arisen. This society was composed of all who follow any musical pursuit as a means of livelihood; and in the vigor of its existence the members used to meet and discuss general questions in connection with their calling. The society, as one teacher remarks, concerned itself with the very matter of the annual examinations, and made certain recommendations thereupon to the University Council. What those recommendations were, or whether they were ever carried out, we do not know. But we certainly think the society should be reconstituted on a firm and lasting basis, so that it may speak with a single and authoritative voice for musical Adelaide on all subjects cognate with its designation. This suggestion may be commended principally to the teachers who have generally given their opinions in our columns on the question of the musical examinations.

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GERMAN IN THE JUNIOR EXAMINATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—Permit me in reply to your correspondent, E. L. Heinemann, to state that I consider the German paper set this year by Mr. Trechmann at the University easier than any that has been set for years past. Mr. Heinemann, one of the junior masters at St. Peter's College, who has been preparing boys in German for the first time this year, and who probably feels that his pupils have not done well in the subject, rushes foolishly into print in the hope that Mr. Trechmann will mark the papers more liberally. Surely, Sir, it shows want of taste and etiquette on the part of a teacher who, dissatisfied at a paper set, makes his grievances known in the public Press. If Mr. Heinemann had to prepare boys in German for the Melbourne University he would find the task very much harder, as there are no set textbooks whatever, and therefore only the most experienced teachers are able to cope with the difficulties which necessarily arise when preparing pupils in this subject.

I am, Sir, &c.,
Melbourne. E. L. WILSON.

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UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.

JUNIOR PASS-LIST.

The following pass-list of the Junior Examinations which took place at the end of November was posted at the University on Thursday. Eighty candidates presented themselves:—

First Class.—D. F. Brazel, 1, 2*, 4*, 6*, 7A, Christian Brothers' College; A. W. Campbell, 1, 2, 4, 6*, 7B*, St. Peter's College; E. V. Clark, 1, 2*, 4*, 6*, 7B*, Prince Alfred College; A. E. Davis, 1*, 2, 5, 6, 7B*, St. Peter's College; J. S. Gillman, 1*, 2*, 4, 5*, 7B*, St. Peter's College; H. Laycock, 1, 2*, 4, 6*, 7B*, St. Peter's College; H. M. Newman, 1*, 2*, 6*, 7B*, Prince Alfred College; Edith V. Plummer, 1*, 4, 5*, 6, 7c, Advanced School.

Second Class.—F. M. Angel, 1, 5, 6*, 7A, Adelaide Collegiate School; Caroline Clark, 2, 4*, 5, 6, Miss Martin's School; Isla May Conigrave, 1, 4*, 5, 7c, Advanced School; T. M. Drew, 1, 2*, 5, 6, Prince Alfred College; Annie F. Hollidge, 1*, 4, 5, 7c, Advanced School; Annie G. Mahoney, 1, 4*, 5, 6, Dominican Convent; M. B. Saunders, 1, 2, 6, 7B*, Prince Alfred College; A. A. Simpson, 1, 2*, 5, 7B, Prince Alfred College; T. J. Storen, 1, 2, 4*, 6, 7A, Christian Brothers' College; B. Whittington, 1, 2, 5, 6*, 7c, North Adelaide High School.

Third Class.—Catherine May Baker, 1, 4, 5, 6, 7c, Advanced School; W. G. Bell, 1, 2, 6, 7B, Prince Alfred College; W. H. Campbell, 1, 2, 6, Prince Alfred College; Myra Cant, 4, 5, 7c, Hardwicke College; Jessie R. Clarke, 1, 4, 5, 7c, Advanced School; C. A. Hack, 1, 2, 6, Prince Alfred College; A. H. Harry, 1, 2, 6, Prince Alfred College; Annie R. James, 1, 4, 5, 7c, Advanced School; Frances C. Lynch, 1, 4, 5, Dominican Convent; F. H. Makin, 1, 4, 5, St. Peter's College; P. M. Newland, 1, 2, 4, 5, St. Peter's College; Mary E. Proctor, 1, 4, 7c, Advanced School; G. C. Stanton, 1, 2, 6, Glenelg Grammar School; L. C. Stuckey, 1, 4, 5, 6, St. Peter's College; H. J. Summers, 1, 2, 6, Glenelg Grammar School; C. A. Verco, 1, 5, 7A, Adelaide Collegiate School.

The following candidates also passed the examination, but being above the specified age are not classified:—F. J. Anthony, 1, 6*, 7B*, St. Peter's College; E. J. W. Ashton, 1, 2, 6, 7B*, Prince Alfred College; Mary Benham, 1, 4, 6, 7c*, Advanced School; F. J. A. Bowen, 4, 6, 7B, St. Peter's College; C. T. Bray, 1, 4, 6, 7B, St. Peter's College; J. P. Cochrane, 1, 2, 4, 6, Christian Brothers' College; Edith Collison, 1, 4, 5, 6, 7c*, Advanced School; Maud M. Collison, 4, 5, 7c, Advanced School; Mabel E. Cross, 1, 4, 5, 7c, Advanced School; G. A. Davey, 1, 2, 7B, Prince Alfred College; S. L. Dawkins, 1, 2, 6, 7B, Prince Alfred College; H. Drew, 1, 2, 6, Prince Alfred College; Mary A. Fisher, 1, 4*, 5, 6, Dominican Convent; W. E. Goode, 1, 2*, 6, Glenelg Grammar School; R. J. C. Graham, 1, 2*, 4, 6, 7A, Christian Brothers' College; W. W. M. S. Hack, 1, 2*, 6, Glenelg Grammar School; May Hill, 4, 5, 6, Hardwicke College; Jessie Höltze, 1*, 5, 7c, Advanced School; T. W. Lloyd, 1, 2, 6*, 7B, Prince Alfred College; Margaret A. Main, 1, 5, 7c, Adelaide High School; H. W. Marshall, 1, 2, 5, 6, 7B, Prince Alfred College; H. S. Newland, 1*, 4*, 5, St. Peter's College; Lilly E. M. Oldham, 1, 4*, 7c, Misses McMinn's School; Jessie Richardson, 1, 4, 5, Advanced School; H. W. Zeunert, 1, 2, 5*, 6, Hahndorf College.

1 English, 2 Latin, 3 Greek, 4 French, 5 German, 6 Mathematics, 7A Physica, 7B Chemistry, 7c Botany and Physiology; * signifies that the candidate passed with credit in that subject.

R. W. CHAPMAN, Chairman of Board of Examiners.