

MUSICAL NOTES. 6.129

[By MUSICUS.]

The results of the examinations recently held at the Adelaide University in theory of music may be briefly summarized as follows:— Out of 32 candidates who entered for the senior examinations 23 have passed, 6 being placed in the first class and 17 in the second. The failures thus amount to about one in three. In the junior division we have 117 passes out of 173 entries; 31 students have secured a first class, and 86 a second. In this section the failures are slightly heavier than last year. Of the various teachers or teaching institutions who have successfully prepared pupils for the theoretical examinations, Hardwicke College leads the list with fifteen passes. Then we have Mr. E. E. Mitchell, ten passes; the Dominican Convent, Cabra, eight; the Adelaide College of Music, seven; and Miss Newman, five. Five teachers have secured four passes each, seven have passed three pupils, ten have succeeded with two, and lastly we have twenty-eight different instructors with one apiece. An examination of the pass-lists of both the practical and theoretical examinations reveals the fact that in all eighty-eight different teachers have passed one or more students; last year there were ninety-nine. Adelaide is certainly well supplied with teachers of the divine art.

A gentleman visiting England says:— "Calling upon Messrs. Radall, Carte, & Co. the other day, I found them weighing up 18-carat gold with which to manufacture one of their '67 flutes. This instrument when finished will cost its owner £186 13s. 9d. Its range is to extend down to B natural.

It is related of a celebrated seventeenth-century vocalist, John Abell, that he on one occasion was terrorized into singing against his inclination. He was in Poland, and on refusing to sing before the King at Warsaw, he was seized, and suspended in a chair over a bear-pit, when the threat of being lowered into its midst compelled a display of his vocal powers.

One of the youngest pupils to pass the senior examination of the University in piano-playing first-class, is Miss Mary Chatterton Ellery, who is now but twelve years of age. This young lady, who is a pupil of Mr. W. B. Hills, of Glenelg, passed her junior examination in piano playing first-class when eleven years old, thus establishing the same record as Miss Mary Trenna Corvan, the winner of the Elder Scholarship. Another pupil of Mr. W. B. Hills, Miss M. E. Birks, at the recent examinations passed the senior organ-playing test, first class, being the only lady performer to do so.

Seeing that there is a general interest in the new University Conservatorium of Music, which we may confidently expect to see in active operation by March, 1898, the following particulars of the great Guildhall School of Music, London, will doubtless prove interesting. At this institution the total amount received from fees in 1880 was but £517. In 1890 it had increased to £26,380, and by 1896 the total was no less than £31,836. A fee of 10s. 6d. is charged for entrance, and a deposit fee of 5s., which is returnable when the student leaves the school. The fees for instruction range from £1 11s. 6d. to £4 14s. 6d. for a series of twelve lessons, varying with the prominence of the teacher. Second studies may be taken at a cheaper rate, and run from one to two guineas. Of the sums received by Professors for 1896, the singing department leads with £11,260. The highest sums were received by two teachers, who had respectively £750 and £737. Mr. Francesco Berger, who teaches the piano, was paid £629 and another pianist £627. The leading Professor of the violin received as his share £559. If our Adelaide institution can engage many of the local profession on such terms as these, they will have little cause to regret the founding of the Conservatorium.

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THE CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—All music lovers must be pleased that Adelaide is to have a conservatorium. There surely will not be one jealous eye cast on the institution. Therefore if what I now say savors of criticism my remarks are not intended to have any flavor of censoriousness. I noticed the advertisement of the conservatorium authorities in your issue of to-day inviting applications for teachers' positions. No. 1 position is set down as "Teacher of singing" (solo and class). I venture to suggest that a mistake is being made by following the old lines. There are two departments of vocal training, and they should be practised separately. One—the first—is purely a physical process, and consists in what is termed, for want of better phraseology, voice "placing," i.e., so developing according to physiological law, and by judicious practice, the physical, vital, and organic forces of the student that the best use may be made of those forces in the production of tone. The second department should be used to build upon the foundation of the first a superstructure of musical merit, i.e., adding to the physical capacity already attained the higher mental and other accomplishments which music demands. These two departments are so widely divergent, and demand such different qualities in the teachers of them, that it seems to me a mistake to entrust the serious process of voice "placing" to the conventional "teacher of singing." Numbers of excellent professors could be found to teach (and teach well) singing in class. How many have the necessary experience and knowledge (as practical vocalists) to be trusted with the "placing" of a voice? Let Adelaide, which has made bold in so many reforms, make bold also in this, and separate the departments of tone-making and tone-using. The conservatorium will gain some fame if fine voices are developed and then handed over to the teacher of singing, or if is discovered that *rara avis*, a teacher who combines in his personality the experience and knowledge required for the proper conduct of both the departments, referred to. I venture to think that if the bracketing of solo and class singing is insisted on the measure of success which would otherwise accrue will not be attained.—I am, &c.,

C. M. LEUMANE.

Balhannab, December 20, 1897.

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### THE SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

The next meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science will be held in Sydney, commencing on January 6. The president on this occasion is Professor A. Liversidge, his predecessors in the chair having been Mr. H. C. Russell, the late Baron von Mueller, Sir James Hector, the late Sir Robert Hamilton, Professor Tate, and the Hon. A. C. Gregory. Professor Liversidge is also the permanent hon. secretary, while Mr. Russell occupies the post of general treasurer. The sectional presidents for this meeting are:—Astronomy, mathematics, and physics, Mr. P. Baracchi, the Victorian Government Astronomer; chemistry, Mr. T. C. Cloud, of South Australia; geology and mineralogy, Professor F. W. Hutton, F.R.S., of New Zealand; biology, Professor T. J. Parker, F.R.S., of New Zealand; geography, Sir James Hector, F.R.S., of New Zealand; ethnology and anthropology, Mr. A. W. Howitt, of Melbourne; economic science and agriculture, Mr. R. M. Johnston, of Tasmania; engineering and architecture, Mr. A. B. Moncrieff, of South Australia; sanitary science and hygiene, the Hon. Dr. Campbell, of South Australia; and mental science and education, Mr. John Shirley, of Brisbane. Amongst other South Australians taking an active part in the proceedings are:—Mr. W. Howchin, who is a vice-president of the geological section; Mr. Thomas Worsnop, who is a vice-president of the ethnological section; Mr. C. C. Farr, who will deliver a paper in the astronomical section; and Sir Richard Baker, who is to read a paper in the economic science section entitled "An introduction to political economy." The subject of Dr. Campbell's presidential address in the sanitary science section will be "Aspects of public health legislation in Victoria." The meetings will last till January 14, and a number of excursions have been arranged. Those contemplating joining the association or desiring to attend the meetings have been invited to apply to Mr. Frederick Wright, the hon. local treasurer, Exchange Chambers, Pirie-street, who will afford them every facility in his power. Professor Rennie, one of the local secretaries, left for Sydney last Saturday to confer with and assist Professor Liversidge in the arrangements.

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GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AND THE ART GALLERY.—We understand that the Minister of Education has declined to accede to the request made to him by a recent deputation that the Government should proceed with the erection of the eastern wing of the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery, and that the foundations of the proposed structure to accommodate the Art Gallery should be placed at the disposal of the University for the purpose of erecting upon it a Conservatorium of Music. Thus does the Ministry waste the public money.