

The Register, 13th Sept 1897.

very harmless and simple—childishly simple—piece of work, and the fond illusion respecting this wonderful piece and its wonderful rendering is hopelessly shattered by the Professor remarking, "The performance was a wofully bad one, on an organ that was inferior, and as for the famous 'vox humana' it was deplorably harsh, in fact unpleasant, and if our local builder could not turn out a better article, well, he would soon lose his business."

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RETURN OF PROFESSOR IVES.

MUSIC IN EUROPE.

Amongst the passengers by the French mail steamer Armand Behic, which anchored off Largs Bay on Sunday afternoon, was Professor Ives, of the Adelaide University, who has been absent for the last five months. Some time ago he became impressed with the desirability of a visit to Europe to bring himself up to date in musical matters in the old world, and the new ideas he has received and the impressions he has gained have, he says, amply justified the voyage. On Sunday evening, during an interview with an *Advertiser* representative, he spoke of what he had seen and heard and the conclusions he had formed. In the first place he had become convinced that it was the duty of all University professors, in whatever department, to go to Europe occasionally in order to bring themselves up to date.

"Developments are continually taking place," he said, "and unless one goes home now and then he cannot hope to advance as he should. In my own profession the developments that have taken place in orchestral performances, in organ-playing, and in pianoforte-playing are most noticeable. I was delighted with some of the pianoforte playing, especially in London, where I heard Paderewski, the greatest of living pianists. In his hands the pianoforte has quite changed its character from that of a cold, soulless instrument to one imbued with life and warmth. It is impossible to describe his playing—it has to be heard."

"I left Adelaide in April, and made my first stay in Paris, where I remained for nine days, hearing the concerts and operatic performances, seeing the sights of the great city and vainly trying to speak the French language. I was greatly delighted with the music at the Opera Comique, where Gluck's 'Orfeo' and Wagner's 'Flying Dutchman' were given in excellent style. Here I heard one of the greatest singers I met during my journey, M^{lle}. Delna, a contralto possessing a wonderful voice and great dramatic powers. The orchestral accompaniments to the opera both here

and at the Grand Opera were remarkably good, although the choral effects were far from perfect. The ballets are a special feature of all the French operatic performances, and are notable for the gorgeous dressing and the picturesque groupings, to say nothing of the dancing, in which, as is well known, French artistes excel.'

'I arrived in London about the first week of June, just in time for all the music of the Jubilee period. Every night for some days before the great procession took place concerts were being given, at which the best artists that the world can produce were heard. Dr. Richter and his orchestra were to be heard in 'A Wagnerian night' at St. James's Hall; Sir A. C. Mackenzie, with his famed Philharmonic Orchestra; the Queen's Hall Orchestra, under the clever conductorship of Mr. Wood; and Mr. Randegger's orchestra, besides ballad concerts, at which Patti, Melba, Ada Crossley, Clara Butt and other singers appeared, while

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such virtuosi as Paderewski, Sarasate, and others particularly claimed a large part of my time.

"I was anxious to consult musical authorities as to the best means of employing the money so generously bequeathed by the late Sir Thomas Elder for the development of the University Chair of Music. With this end I saw Sir John Stainer, Sir Frederick Bridge, Sir A. C. Mackenzie, Sir Walter Parratt, Dr. Parry, Dr. Hiles, Professor Prout, and others. The opinions given me of course differed to some extent, but there seemed to be a general consensus of opinion that a conservatoire of music would be very suitable for colonial requirements, that a standard of examination should be kept up, that a good musical library should be formed, and that if possible arrangements ought to be made for regular performances of orchestral music. The Chancellor of the University (Chief Justice Way) and I arranged with the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music to affiliate our University examinations, and they will send out an examiner, who will arrive at the beginning of November to act with me in conducting the examinations in the practice of music. The arrangement is only tentative, for this year only, but if found satisfactory it will probably be continued. It will place the value of the certificates here beyond cavil, and will ensure their being equal in standard to those usually granted by the highest English examining bodies. I made enquiries into certain new systems for the development of pianoforte technique. First of these was the Deppe system, but I am not sure that it possesses all the merits that are claimed for it. The Virgil-Clavier system is one of greater importance, and although it may have its defects I feel sure that it will be most valuable for the training of young pianistes. I hope to give a fuller account of this shortly at the University, for I believe it will prove of the highest value. Some effort is being made to put an end to the numerous bogus examining bodies which are scattering musical certificates broadcast throughout the British Empire. Attention is being called to the evil being done by such institutions, whose motives are purely mercenary. I trust they will not be permitted to extend their evil practices to the colonies.

"Of church services I think those held in the English cathedrals still stand pre-eminent. I have heard high mass at Notre Dame and La Madeline in Paris and at Cologne, Milan, and other famous cathedrals, but I think that for pure refined worship music they don't equal that which I have heard at St. Paul's. English musical authorities are becoming alive to the fact that Australia is likely to send them great singers. She has already done so in Melba, Crossley, and Saville, and I do not doubt that when we have had more time to develop artistic life in the colonies we will send them others equally great."

Professor Ives was particularly struck with the grandeur of the Cologne, Strasburg, and Milan cathedrals, but a trip up the Rhine did not fulfil the expectations that his reading had induced him to form. The castles were not as

large or as grand as he imagined, and the river was a dirty muddy stream. The mail-boat had a calm voyage out, but the passengers suffered much from the intense heat in the Red Sea and Indian Ocean. While he has benefited professionally Professor Ives has also improved physically, and is anxious to take up the work he relinquished five months ago.

The Evening Journal, 14th Sept^r 1897

ARRIVAL OF THE ORIENT.—The R.M.S. Orient reached the Semaphore Anchorage at an early hour on Tuesday morning, and was boarded by the Health Officer, Dr. Toll, who granted pratique. The voyage out was exceedingly pleasant, excepting the passage through the Red Sea, where one death was

recorded. There were 360 passengers on board on arrival here, the majority having come from London and ports beyond the colonies. Only thirty joined at Albany. Among the passengers was Madame Sherwin, who has brought with her a concert company to tour the colonies. Mr. B. McGuckin is the tenor; Mr. Deane, of Sydney, the baritone; and Szizepanowski the pianist. Madame Sherwin landed at Largs Bay in order to take the overland express to Melbourne, but the remainder of the Company proceeded in the steamer. Mr. C. Lee Williams, one of the examiners of the Associated Board of the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music, and Mr. S. Aitken, the Hon. Secretary, were also passengers to the colonies, where examinations in music, under the auspices of the Board, will shortly take place. Among the passengers for Melbourne were Messrs. J. M. Sinclair, the Victorian Produce Expert, J. G. Duffy, the Postmaster-General of Victoria, who attended the Washington Postal Congress on behalf of the Australasian Colonies, and Sir John McIntyre, who visited England on a holiday trip. The passengers for Adelaide included the Rev. Father Mahoney, of the Port Augusta Diocese, and Passionist Fathers Heffernan and Kevin. Mr. R. Ewers, one of the team of baseballers that visited America, returned via London. Since her last visit to the colonies the Orient has undergone some renovations to the second saloon, and on her return to London further alterations will be undertaken. This is being done in view of the new mail contract. The speed of the vessel will be increased by means of new boilers, and the number of masts will be reduced to two, so that she will present the appearance of a modern type of vessel.

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MUSICAL TALENT FOR AUSTRALIA.

The musical world was well represented on board the R.M.S. Orient, which arrived at Largs Bay on Tuesday morning. Among the arrivals were Madame Amy Sherwin and the members of her concert company (Messrs. Barton, McGuckin, A. Deane, and Szczepanowski). Madame Amy Sherwin, who has with her her little daughter, came to the city and left by the afternoon's train for Melbourne, where she will begin her concert season. The chairman (Mr. E. C. Clucas), the conductor (Herr Heinicke), the secretary (Mr. W. McInerney), and members of the committee of the Adelaide Harmonie Society waited upon the "Australian Nightingale" at the South Australian Hotel during the day and welcomed her to Adelaide. Mr. Clucas apologised for the absence of the president of the society (Sir Edwin Smith), and Madame Sherwin heartily thanked the members for their kind wishes. The same gentleman bade her good-bye at the railway-station, and presented her with a basket of beautiful flowers. There were also on board Mr. S. Aitken, the honorary secretary, and Mr. Lee Williams, an examiner in connection with the Associated Board of Music, London. Mr. Aitken is an enthusiast in musical matters and devotes much of his time and energies gratuitously to the advancement of musical education. Mr. Lee Williams has been organist for 16 years at Gloucester Cathedral, and has conducted the triennial musical festivals in that city for a similar