

certain ideas. The education which does not widen the mental horizon, strengthen the current of feeling, and enlarge the sphere of activity misses its functions; and the scheme of instruction which fails to accomplish all these achievements relative to the corporate life of the community is a national loss. In this connection the complaint to-day is not alone of a declining concern in church work, in politics, and art and science and amusements; but is chiefly of a limited range of interests, a narrowness of view, a deficiency of public spirit—in brief, of an intellectual and spiritual paralysis. Possibly the malady is merely a temporary reaction, but modern educationists should carefully study the symptoms. If, as they say, the true test of the efficiency of an education system is to be sought in its power to evolve new and useful interests in the m.t.d. and to evoke permanent enthusiasms and enlightened activities, they will need to revise their programmes and methods.

Some observers suspect that the radical fault of modern education is connected with the examination system. Its advantages and disadvantages have been frequently discussed; and it may be presumed that the Adelaide University, which is the highest examining body for both South Australia and Western Australia and for Broken Hill, has brought the institution as near to perfection as possible. Probably more recent improvements may be on the point of bearing fruit and producing a welcome change from the public lethargy due to defects in years past. It is impossible to dispense with certificates, diplomas, and degrees, which are required not alone as stimulants to education, but also as qualifying marks for professional status; and examinations are essential to the issue of those credentials. The evil connected with the practice of coaching and cramming for passes is in the degradation of education to the servile office of procuring the hallmark of learning for purely show or mercenary purposes. In this process the heart is taken out of teachers who must perforce neglect the natural development of the mind, while the reaction on the student is destructive of his spontaneity and his self-culture. The academical examination, however admirably conducted, contains no true test of those administrative powers which assure men of success in the business of life, and lead them to occupy prominent places in public affairs. Experience of this fact has induced the Indian Government to abandon the competitive examination system for employment in the Civil Service. The all-important truths which are apt to be obscured by academical training are that the only culture worth having is self-culture, and that a man's real education begins when he bids farewell to his teachers. Even those who take degrees, and acquire professional status and the right to affix coveted capital letters to their name, should regard their attainments as merely foundation work to an edifice of which they must become their own architects and builders. A new course in higher commercial education has been completed in the Adelaide University this year, and several students are entitled to the full certificates—which should, by-the-way, be termed diplomas. In this enterprise the Adelaide University is in advance of its Australasian contemporaries, though Melbourne is now following in its lead, and Sydney is contemplating a similar departure. The generous support accorded by the Chamber of Commerce and Mr. Joseph Fisher to the cause, which in a singularly happy degree unites theoretical and practical instruction, is one of the few instances of recently displayed public spirit which tend to relieve the gloom of general apathy. The other notable event of the University year was the selection of a Rhodes scholar. Whether the gathering together in the British Universities of the most promising students in the world will fulfil the great expectations of the founder of these scholarships remains to be proved. The experiment is undoubtedly worth the trial, even at the price of the princely munificence of the man who thought in continents—if only for the fact that it exhibits the secret and method of education. The knowledge which is power is more than the mastery of dry sciences or of the entertaining arts. It exceeds even a profound acquaintance with human nature. In brief, it is, in addition, all that is signified in force of character. Such an education includes the wisdom of the past, but is also an infusion of the best ideals and energies and the most hopeful and striking personalities of the day. Culture is a distinction and a trust. It is a talent, not to be wrapped up and buried in a personal gratification, but to be employed for public benefit. The Commonwealth's urgent demands are for men of grit and leading, and for an education system which will tend to supply the demand.

Reg. 14th Dec '04

Reg. 13th Dec. 1904.

"MUSICAL ADELAIDE"

To the Editor.  
Sir—May I unburden myself of an accumulation of disgust, the result of the past few years of concert going? This disgust culminated on Saturday night last, when I had the pleasure and misfortune of attending the farewell complimentary concert tendered to our talented violinist, Mr. Eugene Alderman—pleasure at the opportunity afforded of acknowledging my appreciation of the enjoyment Mr. Alderman has so often bestowed on Adelaide audiences, and disgust at the ingratitude expressed by "musical Adelaide" in attending in such poor numbers. The people of Adelaide who have directly benefited by the services which Mr. Alderman has always been so ready to lend, and those who have been associated with him in musical productions, should have been more than enough to have filled the Town Hall to overflowing. Where were the members of the Choral and Orpheus Societies, and the students and adherents of the Conservatorium of Music? Where were the general public of what claims to be "musical Adelaide"? The programme presented was attractive enough—in fact, the items of Mr. Alderman and the Bach Society alone were well worth the admission money. All the abovementioned people were, however, but poorly represented, notwithstanding that there was practically no counter attraction. Adelaide claims to be music loving. Let me point out a few examples we have had of its love. Firstly, there are the concerts given at the Conservatorium of Music. When admission to these was free they were always packed, and it was a difficult matter for true music lovers to obtain admission, the majority of the tickets being reserved for people who could attend in evening dress, and who attended because it was considered "correct." Of course, these people enjoyed the concerts immensely, and would not miss them for anything. As soon, however, as the modest 1/ admission was asked, they were found wanting. Could they be expected to pay 1/ to hear well-rendered performances of the greatest musical masters? No, the charge was excessive. Musical lovers have now an opportunity of attending the Conservatorium concerts, but the enjoyment is greatly diminished by sitting in a cold, half-filled hall. When Madame Meiba and Miss Ada Crossley visited Adelaide of course they sang to full halls, for again it was considered "proper" to hear them, and people did not begrudge their half-guinea. Far be it from me to disparage these great songsters—they have perhaps afforded me more pleasure than any other visiting artists; but what about the visits of Jean Gerardy (cellist), the Italian operatic singers, Edward Lemare (organist), Mark Hambourg (pianist), and Watkin Mills (the English basso)? All were worthy the unbounded support of "musical Adelaide," but none of them obtained more than a sprinkling of it. The latter especially has my sincere sympathy; for I have never been at worse-attended concerts. Of course, we must remember that England's greatest bass singer is hardly good enough for Adelaide.

My keenest disappointment and disgust were felt when our most prominent and gifted local musicians, including Meiers, Brewster Jones, Eugene Alderman, and Harold Parsons, gave a concert on June 19, and were greeted by a quarter-filled hall. If any one deserved encouragement and support these performers did, but undoubtedly it was too much to expect from people who were shortly to receive Paderewski so coldly. At this latter concert there was only one thing lacking to an expression of enthusiasm—the greatest of living musicians was performing on a magnificent instrument before a full hall of the select of "musical Adelaide." The programme was carried through, and the people applauded mildly the various items. The old world had said that they were well played, so they must be applauded. Foolish remarks were made by half the people during the short intervals between the items, and at the conclusion of the programme the audience "honoured" the artist by listening to one encore, then rose en masse and coldly left the hall. To the majority of those who heard him play nothing whatever remains, but the few received emotions which will never die. We have a few people here who seem really to love the music, and they are to be found at every concert which is worth the hearing. The height, however, of "musical Adelaide's" appreciation is the concert ballad, and instrumental music "bores" them. Some of our "music lovers" have a yearning after something which they cannot express, but of which they feel the need. May I endeavour to supply the want, by recommending them to attend vaudiville entertainments. Should they adopt this suggestion, their thanks will be due to

AUSTRAL.