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## TRINITY COLLEGE MUSICAL EXAMINATIONS.

HIGH PERCENTAGE OF PASSES.

A CHAT WITH THE EXAMINER.

[By Musician.]

The results of the last Trinity College examinations conducted in this city, published below, will doubtless excite widespread interest, as the entry was the largest ever known in a practical examination in South Australia. Mr. Charles Edwards, the special examiner, has now established a record among examiners as far as Australia is concerned, for this is his fourth visit to these states, and the number of Australian-born candidates that he has heard would total several thousands. In these circumstances he is well qualified to speak with authority upon the state of musical progress among our young people. When in Adelaide on two former occasions Mr. Edwards addressed meetings of the teachers, and gave much welcome and useful advice, pointing out general weaknesses with students, and the best methods of overcoming these points. As this could not be done this year, for a variety of reasons, I met Mr. Edwards when the examinations were nearly concluded with a view to ascertaining his opinions upon the latest batch of South Australian candidates he has heard. Speaking of the examination from a general standpoint he said:—

"I notice this year a marked improvement in every direction. All the work has been well done, the preparation being excellent, and the senior candidates have been particularly good. Compared with the other centres, Adelaide must be reckoned with the best. I have not made up the figures yet, and you may even be higher than any of the other Australian centres, as was the case last year, when Adelaide secured a higher percentage than any other Australian capital. Your town is now the best centre Trinity College has in Australia, for the entry this year—500 candidates—is a good deal larger than that of Melbourne or Sydney. In addition to this the work has been so good that I have been quite delighted with the students. In the preparatory grade, pianoforte playing—the children, who I always regard as my most interesting candidates—the preparation has been excellent, and five or six of the little folk obtained full marks. I find that this division is growing better every year, which shows that the teachers are getting a much better idea of their work than formerly. It is worthy of note that the children were generally very good in the ear tests; indeed, in this respect they did much better than some of the older candidates."

"Now, with regard to the higher grades?"  
—"Well, in respect to the junior, all I can say is that the preparation has been very good, indeed. The selection of pieces, too, in most instances, was quite suited to the powers of the students, and there were no general faults, as in former years. Of course, I had some failures, but they were very few compared with the number who passed. All these remarks apply to the intermediate grade of pianoforte playing, and in the senior division you have put up quite a record. A far greater number of these students have passed with honours than was ever known before in Adelaide, and five were so good that I have recommended them to go on for the higher examinations of the college, and try for a professional standard. If they work hard I am sure that they will succeed in this too, for they were all distinctly gifted. One young lady, for instance, played a Chopin nocturne with a taste and finish that I can assure you have not been exceeded by some of the greatest pianists of the day whom I have heard play the same piece. In respect to teaching the pianoforte, I am sure that we are making tremendous advances. Why, during this visit to Australia I have heard some playing in various towns from, of course, the very best candidates, that I can assure you was simply not produced in England or the Continent 20 years ago. I feel sure that musical examinations have had something to do with this. Our best students, as a rule, come from the convents, and one institution in Brisbane has achieved splendid results every year that I have visited that town. This may be mainly attributed to the fact that the girls in the convents have to practise a certain time every day, and this practice is invariably supervised. The ordinary teacher, with one or two lessons a week, has, of course, very little chance with his pupils against those who have a daily lesson, and it is the practice, and the quality of the practice, that tells in an examination. To come back to the details of the Adelaide senior students I may say that I found a marked improvement in the ear tests on last year's work, the sight reading and theoretical questions were invariably good, and the only really weak point was the scales, which I fear in many cases had not been prepared in a systematic manner. But the pieces and studies were excellent indeed."

"Have you discovered any striking voices among the Adelaide candidates?"—"Yes; I think I can say that about half a dozen were really good, and two of those were unusually fine. One, I understand, is a young lady who did well recently at the Ballarat competitions, and the other was a fine soprano. I had also one promising young organist and several good violinists; indeed, the whole examination in Adelaide has been quite delightful to me, for the preparation was so thorough in all departments, and I am gratified to see that so many good teachers are sending their pupils up for the Trinity College examination."