

Melbourne Age. 18/12/01.

Advertiser 18th Dec. 1901.

Advertiser 19th

Number of Examiners.—In the Musical Society of Victoria's examinations there are three examiners for each subject. For those held in Australia by the visiting institutions only one examiner is appointed, who is required to examine in singing, piano or any other instrument for which a candidate has entered. In no musical centre of any consequence would a single individual be recognised as an all round expert, and, strange to say, even these visiting institutions conduct their examinations in the motherland with two or three examiners. Thus they themselves condemn the practice. One of the visiting institutions, in order to make a greater profit, sends no examiners from the homeland, but contends itself by appointing a local teacher as agent, who, in turn it is understood, appoints another musician as an examiner. What can be thought of an institution which conducts its examinations under such a system, where favoritism and injustice are so easily possible? Remember that it is highly probable that you will at times find a single examiner impatient, over-exacting, faddy or unsympathetic with any system, cult or school excepting his own. It may be possible, though not probable, that you will find three examiners similarly affected; but it is highly improbable, yea, practically impossible, that you will find three examiners affected exactly in the same manner on the same subject at precisely the same moment. The rejection, therefore, of a candidate through the narrow, faddy, unsympathetic and excessive individualism of a single examiner cannot possibly occur in the Musical Society of Victoria's examinations, whereas in the visiting institutions, nothing is more likely.

Financial.—The gross receipts of the Musical Society of Victoria's examinations are spent in the State; with the visiting institutions, probably three-fourths of the gross receipts are sent out of the State, and it is estimated that thousands of pounds have left Australia for examination work which could have been done on better lines locally, and free from all the pernicious tendencies which we have indicated above. The "Musical Herald" of London stated that the English craze for certificates is founded on the commercial spirit of our country. Such a remark cannot truthfully be applied to the examinations of the Musical Society of Victoria, for had such a spirit prevailed we also should have separated the practical from that of harmony, and by scattering broadcast a cheap certificate, obtainable after a ridiculously easy examination, reaped a rich harvest.

In conclusion, we would ask the public to remember that all the aristocratic names in the world cannot increase the value of an inferior certificate, and we trust that the Musical Society of Victoria will never be compelled, in self-defence, to adopt a low grade certificate, or divorce the practical from that amount of useful work in harmony which is absolutely necessary to the proper equipment of the intelligent musician. On behalf of the Musical Society of Victoria, we are,

GEORGE PEAKE, President.
W. H. HEATHCOTE, Secretary.
14th December.

MUSIC AT THE UNIVERSITY
THE EXAMINATION PAPERS.
PROFESSOR PETERSON'S OPINION.
QUESTION FOUR ABSURD. THE WHOLE UNREASONABLE.

The unfortunate condition of affairs in connection with the examinations of the third year students for the degree of Mus. Bac. at the Adelaide University, has excited much comment in musical circles. With reference to the complaint of the students that one question in the harmony paper set by Mr. W. H. Wale, Mus. Bac., was quite beyond the requirements put forth in the regulations for the degree, some explanation is necessary. The students were allowed three hours in which to answer the seven questions appearing on the examination paper. In question four a melody was given, and the task set the students was as follows:—"On the subject given, write the first movement of a sonata for clarinet and strings. Give the melody indicated to the solo instrument. Only such portions of the movement as are non-essential should be abbreviated. State briefly in writing how you would propose to complete the unfinished portion (if any)."

If for no other reason, the shortness of time at the disposal of the students would render the answering of such a formidable question practically impossible, while it presupposes a knowledge and facility of resource not usually attained by third year students. Professor Peterson, of the Melbourne University, to whom, owing to the difference of opinion between Professor Ives and Mr. W. H. Wale, the papers were referred, has reported, we are informed that question four was an absurd one, while he also states that the whole paper was most unreasonable.

Professor Ives, who from motives of professional etiquette did not challenge the question put by Mr. Wale, when seen yesterday said, "The question was practically asking me to write a quarter of a symphony. If I could furnish the answer in four hours I should consider that I had done very smart work; if I took six hours over the task I should not feel at all ashamed."

Mr. E. Harold Davies, Mus. Bac., when interviewed on Tuesday afternoon, expressed himself as loth to take any part in the controversy, but upon being pressed to give his views with regard to question four, said, "My unbiassed and unprejudiced opinion is that the question is altogether beyond the attainments of a third year student. It demands a special and intimate knowledge of the clarinet as a solo instrument, and it would be absolute presumption for anyone to attempt to write such a solo unless he had a very intimate acquaintance with the instrument. Apart from that fact, however, the musician who could satisfactorily work out the question in four or five hours would, in my opinion, have accomplished very good work. No third year student, so far as I know, has ever been asked to attempt such a task as set in this question."

could better answer the question. For a long time past these gentlemen have done all they could in their position to hinder me in my work at this University. (Hear, hear.) That work, I need hardly say, has not been light. To bring the School of Music to its present self-supporting position, to found and organise a Conservatorium such as this we have here, needed much anxious thought, tact, and judgment. And when this had to be done in face of the secret but ceaseless hindering of the University's two highest officials, who abused the privileges of their office in order to satisfy their personal feelings against me—when, I repeat, my work had to be done under such conditions, you can understand that my task has not been a light one. But I flinched not, I dared to do right. (Cheers.) The offices to which the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor have been elevated are positions of great honor. To those who accept them belongs the responsibility of using their office for the furtherance of the welfare of the University. The true interests of the University and its various schemes of work should be the ruling motive of these officers. One department of the University work that has been singularly successful in its operations is that over which I have presided. (Cheers.) I do not need to recapitulate the chief features of that success—the increase in the roll of students from some 20 to over 300, the place it has gained in public favor, the popularity of its concerts, the influence it has had on the development of musical taste, and the position it has gained in Australian educational circles. Nor do I need to remind you that the artistic success thus shown has been won without financial cost to the University; that for once my pleasing artistic dreams have not been followed by unpleasant financial awakenings. For does not its income from all sources exceed its expenditure by some £800 per annum, thus giving artist and Treasurer alike reason to rejoice over those things the professor of music has done for the University? Have I, amid the anxieties and perplexities attendant upon the organisation of this school, received from the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor that moral support and assistance I had a right to expect? I answer No! Those who have been my fellow-workers will tell you No!—nay, even the casual observer has been able to hazard an emphatic No. On the contrary, I have for some time past—the time of my greatest trial—had nothing but ill-will and hindrance from these gentlemen. (Hear, hear.) And what was the reason of this ill-will displayed towards me by the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor? I will tell you briefly. On a certain occasion the Chancellor asked me, as one of the examiners for the degree of Mus. Bac., to place a relative of his in the first class division of the pass-list I had issued. I refused to do so—(cheers)—although at a private interview he sought with me the Chancellor used all those subtleties of argument and persuasion of which he is so crafty a master. (Laughter.) Fancy a mere University professor daring to oppose the Chief Justice! On another occasion the Chancellor sought to hand over to a foreign institution the highest function of the University—that of encouraging the study of music by means of its already established system of examination. I felt it my duty to oppose so undignified and unwise a step, a step, too, which involved a loss of some £300 to £400 per annum to the University. And, again, because I dared to be true to my office and to my conscience, I offended this mighty man. (Hisses, and cries of "The almighty atom.") But my conscientiousness did not meet that reward which we are told right doing merits. I had opposed the Chancellor's wishes—I must pay the penalty—and I have been paying the penalty ever since; and not only I, but the office I hold. Indeed, so vindictively and maliciously has the Chancellor pursued his purposeful course that my students also have at the recent examination been made to feel his awful power. Of Dr. Barlow, the Vice-Chancellor, I need say little. His old-fashioned mind has not been able to contrive original methods of torturing me, so he has had to rely upon his wily chief, and be a faithful jackal to the lion. And a sagacious jackal he has proved, hunting for food to supply the treacherous lion's revengeful hunger, and when it could not be found, digging it up from the shallow ground of his own imaginations, inventing dimsy complaints. Poor, illogical, scantily-clothed mind! I pity it more than I mind it. Dr. Barlow has been at least a faithful servant, if a somewhat foolish one. I almost said "stupid" one. Why a University council composed as ours is should be found so plethoric and indifferent as to permit its most active members to work out their designs under the influence of ex parte statements and subtle innuendo surprises most right-minded people. I do not believe one-half the members of the council have been aware of what has been really going on. The Chancellor has had their ear at the various meetings from which I have been carefully excluded, he has made statements with none by to refute, and they could only arrive at their decisions by the evidence so laid before them. Evidence for the prosecution has been plentiful—that for the defence has been carefully shut out. ("Shame.") The Chancellor's well-earned reputation as a clever lawyer has been well sustained. But has it been honorable? (Cries of "No.") These cases I have mentioned are but examples. Many other instances of wrongdoing on the part of these officers I could mention, among others, the attempt they made to stop the performance of my symphony two days before the date announced for its production. So flagrantly purposeful have they been that I demand, in the best interests of this young University, that the fullest enquiries should be made into its inner workings during the last twelve months. (Cheers.) I could those enquiries. What I have said, I again repeat, is but typical of much more which could be revealed. Will the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, and the University council assist in this being brought about? Surely so, if they have nothing to hide. (Loud cheers.)

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THE UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSOR IVES.

To the Editor.

Sir—Is it a fact that the undergraduates of the University, wishing to make a public presentation to Professor Ives to-day, in recognition of the good work he has done at the University, have been forbidden to do so by the powers that be under suggestion of penalties to follow? At the commemoration in July presentations were made to their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall amid much enthusiasm. Is there any distinction between visiting celebrities and a professor, who has courageously done good work among us? Can the Chancellor of the University (Sir Samuel Way) give an answer?—I am, &c.,

MUSIC.

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, December 18.

The President (Hon. J. L. Stirling) took the chair at 11 a.m.

PETITION.

The Hon. J. WARREN presented a petition from the Mayor and Corporation of Glenelg, praying that before the Outer Harbor Bill was passed expert advice on the claims of Marino should be obtained. Received and read.

MUSICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The Hon. J. VARDON asked if the attention of the Government had been drawn to the unfortunate position in which third year students for the degree of Bachelor of Music at the Adelaide University had been placed through a dispute between the examiners. Could anything be done to help the students?

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Hon. J. H. Gordon) said he knew nothing of the trouble except from casual references which had appeared in the press. He thought, however, the Government had no jurisdiction in the matter.

SCHOOL OF MINES.

The Hon. J. L. PARSONS asked if the attention of the Attorney-General had been directed to the fact that a large number of students in the School of Mines had been placed in consequence of the examinations having been conducted in advance of and outside the tuition which had been furnished.

PROFESSOR IVES.

HIS FAREWELL ADDRESS.

AN ATTACK ON THE CHANCELLOR.

When the ceremonies of commemoration were concluded in the Elder Hall of the Adelaide University on Wednesday afternoon, the Chancellor (Sir Samuel Way, Bart.) and the members of the council and senate withdrew from the platform, but most of the audience and the undergraduates remained in their seats, as an interesting address was expected from Professor Ives, the late director of the Conservatorium of Music, who is severing his connection with the University. A number of graduates also remained. The speaker appeared rather nervous at first, but his voice gained strength as he proceeded.

Professor Ives said:—Members of the University of Adelaide, fellow-workers in the cause of education—I promised some time ago that I would make some explanation as to the reasons that have led me to terminate my connection with the University. On this my last appearance on this platform, I feel it my duty to myself, to my art, to the position I have held so long in this University, and to the public, in whose interests this institution has been established, that a true answer to the question should be given. Probably Chief Justice Way, the Chancellor of the University, and his faithful lieutenant, Dr. Barlow, our Vice-Chancellor,