

Register 30th Sept 1901.

Register 7th October 1901.

The applications for the position of professor of music in the University of Adelaide have been coming in rather slowly. About a dozen gentlemen have sent in testimonials, but several of these are destitute of the essential qualification of being university graduates. The number of applicants for the vacancy created by Professor Lowrie's resignation has also, so far, been decidedly limited.

Register 1st October 1901.

PERSONAL NOTES FROM LONDON.

[From our Special Correspondent.] LONDON, August 30. Professor Stirling, F.R.S., writes that he has been having a very pleasant time among the moors at Iovermarkie Lodge, Glass, Scotland. The sport has not proved so good as in Westmoreland, but the tramps over hill and dale in pursuit of game are proving most invigorating. So far as I can learn he has not yet joined Mr. T. Barr Smith, who is located at Claygahart, Blairgowrie, Perthshire.

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ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

In providing free concerts of chamber music the Elder Conservatorium performs an important service to the cause of musical art in Adelaide, for experience has proved only too often that the general musical taste is not sufficiently cultivated to make concerts devoted entirely to this charming branch of music a paying venture for the average entrepreneur. Even when given under the condition mentioned it is seldom that a chamber music performance crowds the Elder Hall, as miscellaneous programmes do, and on Monday night, when the third concert of the season was given, though there was a large attendance, more people could have been accommodated without serious inconvenience. The programme consisted of three "novelties," one, a Brahms' trio, being of considerable importance, relieved by vocal selections by Miss Guli Haek, A.R.C.M. The instrumentalists, Messrs. Bryceson Treharne (pianoforte), H. Heinicke (violin), and H. Kugelberg (cello), were in some respects highly pleasing, but on the whole their efforts scarcely came up to the standard of some of their previous performances. There was a lack of cohesion in some of the movements, which suggested that each performer was more anxious for the prominence of his individual part than for the general effect of the whole combination. This was particularly noticeable in the last movement of Brahms' trio in E minor, which concluded the programme. In the two middle selections of the work—a charming little presto played on sordini, and an andante grazioso—the three performers did much better, and the result was thoroughly satisfactory. Messrs. Treharne and Kugelberg played Strauss's sonata in F major for pianoforte and cello with technical skill and generally good effect, particularly in the pretty andante movement, and were rewarded with appreciative applause. Enrico Bossi's sonata in E minor, for pianoforte and violin, was given by Messrs. Treharne and Heinicke, who scored a pronounced success in the spirited and brilliant finale. In the opening movement, however, the violinist's intonation was not always beyond reproach. Miss Guli Haek, who can always be relied upon to sing something new of distinct musical worth, introduced a scena "Long after," a study on Tennyson's "Maud," by G. W. L. Marshall Hall, which she rendered with intelligence and finish. She also gave a bracket of three charming songs, by MacDowell, entitled "Constancy," "Sunrise," and "Merry maiden sprig," with equally satisfactory results. Mr. Treharne accompanied with great skill and taste. Before the programme was commenced Professor Ives played Handel's "Dead march" on the grand organ out of respect for the memory of the late Dr. E. W. Way, during which the audience remained standing.

Advertiser 8th Oct.

The appointment of Mr. W. Howchin, F.R.S., as lecturer at the University on geology and palaeontology will date from January 1, 1902. In the meantime Mr. J. Guller, B.Sc., Mr. I. H. Ross, B.Sc., and Miss Ellen Benham, B.Sc., who conducted the classes of the late Professor Tate during his illness, will continue their much appreciated services at the University. Another lecturer is to be appointed to take the subjects taught by Professor Tate, and not included in the work apportioned to Mr. Howchin. Miss Antonia Dolores, the celebrated vocalist, and Mrs. Vachour arrived from West Australia by the Austral on Monday morning.

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY.

The governing authorities of Melbourne University have been virtually placed on their defence against charges of gross laxity of management through the lamentable disclosures of the heavy pecuniary losses which have been accumulating unsuspected for years. Placed in a position practically of insolvency by the abstraction of about £20,000 of its funds, the institution is compelled to appeal to the Government for assistance; and the Premier, of course, intimates that Parliamentary sanction, accompanied by a searching discussion on the affairs of the University, will have to precede any appropriation of state money for the purpose indicated. Among the latest disquieting facts brought to light has been the existence of a practice of cashing the promissory notes of employes of the University by the official who is accused of being mainly responsible for the losses; and it is now plain that there will be an extensive public overhaul of the details of collegiate management. If the taxpayers of Victoria are to be asked to make up a heavy deficiency in the University funds, it is only reasonable that they should desire to know what work is being done by the institution in return for the money paid to it by the people—first, as Government grant, and then in fees for attendance at lectures and for the privilege of examination. This will lead up to the enquiry whether it may not be possible for the collegiate staff to undertake in the cause of education duties beyond those which they now perform. Lastly, there will arise the question whether economies may not be possible in the ordinary working of the University; and members of Parliament will want to know whether the best interests of the state and of learning are being promoted by the present system of distributing and apportioning the salaries and fees. Quite recently occurred an instance in which Victoria was obliged to lag behind both South Australia and New South Wales in a matter that vitally concerns one of the great staple industries of Australia. The proposal to establish a curriculum and a diploma in mining and metallurgy has been retarded because of alleged lack of funds with which to equip the necessary laboratory.

The professors of Oxford and Cambridge Universities, some of whom are among the most famous of the world's experts in their various branches of knowledge, might well envy those of Melbourne the scale on which their salaries have been arranged. One or two notable exceptions exist in the case of Oxford; but, allowing for these, it may be said in general terms that most of the salaries range from £800 to about £400 per annum. At Cambridge the highest is £850, and many are under £500. Melbourne University, which cannot command or expect to receive the services of men of the same calibre as the chief teachers at the two English seats of learning, pays its professors from £850 up to £1,300 per annum. The work is by no means heavy, because, the classes being held in the daytime, hardly any but the sons and daughters of people in easy circumstances are able to take advantage of the instruction given. In Adelaide University evening lectures have long been in vogue, and have attracted students whose education is highly important—those young men of grit and good brain power, but comparatively modest means, who are obliged to earn their living by working during the daytime. In addition, the University at Adelaide has recently undertaken the work of educating state-school teachers. The Melbourne University professors are not asked to bear either of these burdens; but to fill up their abundant spare time and supplement their large incomes they examine matriculation papers, which are paid for at the rate of a shilling or tenpence each. This duty might profitably be assigned to younger graduates, so that the professors could have time for work of higher public utility. The Professorial Board allots the examinations each year, and the Victorian public may well object to the system under which the professors, with few exceptions, assign to themselves this elementary examination work and its fees. When there are so many young men desirous of pursuing courses of study in the evening—3,000 is the number attending the Working Men's College—highly paid professors should not be earning money by judging the writings of boys and girls.

The delay in establishing the proposed school of mining and metallurgy at Melbourne University is only one example of the way in which the lack of money for spending in some directions has hindered the usefulness of the University classes relative to important industrial development. The same lack of peace with the Council has rendered it impossible to establish a school of

agricultural science similar to that inaugurated at Adelaide University. Agricultural chemistry receives little or no attention, although various laboratories in connection with Melbourne University have cost about £30,000. All these aspects of the academic position must be considered in connection with the financial tangle in which the highest scholastic institution in Victoria has become involved. After enquiry, the teaching staff as a whole will probably be offered the alternative of accepting less pay or doing more work; and the public may witness the removal of some of the glaring anomalies which have led to the inexcusable starving of useful and intellectual studies. It seems as if some of the professors of Melbourne University have been a law unto themselves for a long time, and in such circumstances, as Adam Smith pointed out a century and a quarter ago, even University teachers "are likely to make a common cause to be all very indulgent to one another, and every man to consent that his neighbour may neglect his duty provided he himself is allowed to neglect his own. In the University of Oxford the greater part of the public professors have, for these many years, given up altogether even the pretence of teaching." But the conditions thus indicated led in time to the appointment of a University Commission and the introduction of sweeping reforms—a precedent which will perhaps be followed in Melbourne.

Register 10th October.

THE DIPROTODON.

London, October 8. Dr. E. C. Stirling's skeleton of the diprotodon, the extinct mammoth marsupial from the north of South Australia, has been erected in the Geology Gallery of the British Museum, where it is an object of much curiosity.

Register 10th October.

THE LATE PROFESSOR TATE.

"An Old Student" wrote to us yesterday:—"I have been expecting to see a memorial started in memory of our late dear Professor Tate. How many are indebted to him for his good, kind instructions and advice, which was always given with so much pleasure. I need not relate his valuable services—they are well known. To know him was to honour and love him. Let us show that honour by erecting a monument to his memory at his grave in the North road Cemetery. I enclose £1 with gratitude." This money is available to any authorized committee who may start the proposed fund, and any other subscriptions received by us will be duly acknowledged.

Register 11th October.

THE LATE DR. E. W. WAY.

The public will be delighted to learn that a movement is on foot to perpetuate the memory of the late Dr. Edward Willis Way. A number of public men and leading medical practitioners have been conferring on the subject. The Hon. J. L. Stirling, President of the Legislative Council; the Hon. G. Brookman, M.L.C., Mr. G. J. R. Murray, and Drs. J. A. G. Hamilton, Poulton, and Corbin met this week, and, feeling that they would be consulting the wishes of citizens generally, decided to hold a public meeting with the view to establishing some permanent memorial. The Mayor of Adelaide has granted the use of the town hall banqueting hall for this purpose.