

Advertiser 27th June 1901

The June number is on page 208. 1901

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

Professor Ives delivered the first of a series of lectures on the "Teaching of music, viewed from a psychological standpoint," at the Conservatorium on Wednesday evening. There was a good attendance. The lecturer explained how the psychologic half of a human being acts on the physiological half. To know psychology, however, was no guarantee that they would be good teachers. To advance to that result they must have an additional endowment altogether, a happy tact and ingenuity to tell them what things to say and do when the pupil was before them. The office of the teacher was to supply the most favorable conditions for the natural process of mental developments. What they might hope to do was thus to minister to nature. They could do little for the geniuses except to be very careful not to stand in their way; they could not do much for the dunces, except to help them to realise where their weakness and where their strength lay; the teacher's real field of effort lay amid the mediocrities, those who are gifted with average faculties, which they would fail to develop without assistance and guidance. Speaking of pianoforte playing, the professor said it seemed possible that the great improvement manifested by modern pianos in the direction of sonority and sustaining power may have given rise to a danger that the second kind of touch—that which has for its object the production of beautiful tone in cantabile—may be neglected. This, if it were so, would be very much to be regretted. The very fact that the pianoforte is at its best unable to sustain tone equally, renders the acquirement of a "singing" touch at once the more arduous and the more necessary. For an expressive melody to be hammered out with unsympathetic fingers of steel was far worse than for a passage to lose somewhat of its sparkle through lack of percussion. Later in the season Professor Ives will lecture on "Curious effects in acoustics" and the "History of organ music."

PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

SIR,—The chemist who makes tinctures, fluid extracts, and plasters in small quantities and by hand must necessarily produce far finer and more accurate preparations than those prepared by highly-qualified men in large quantities and with extensive machinery! And as this profession has not only to depend on the professional side, but also on the commercial side of the business, it is far cheaper and more expeditious to obtain these preparations from wholesale houses than prepare ourselves. Under present conditions, anyone who pursues the course of preparing his own tinctures, plasters, and fluid extracts, lacks business ability, perception, and sound sense.

The manufacture of these products has become a fine art amongst wholesale houses, and they can always outdo the retail chemists in exactness and price. For the same reason we do not manufacture for ordinary use iodoform, chloroform, sodii bicarb., &c.

We know, or ought to know, how these preparations are made, and most certainly we should be able to test their accuracy before placing them into stock. And the absurdity of the statement, by "One who has been through it all," that the chemistry taught by the University is not applicable to every-day business is apparent, for the classes provided by the Council deal with the manufacture of most of the organic and inorganic preparations of the "B.P.," their properties, and the analytical processes employed in testing their purity. Experimentally, many of the preparations are made before the students' eyes, the mode of manufacture on a large scale explained and illustrated by drawings of machinery, &c., and the chemical action which takes place explained.

In like manner, every apprentice in a well-regulated pharmacy has to prepare small quantities of tinctures, &c., and gains an insight into the processes of percolation, maceration, &c. Thus the student gains a thorough knowledge of the drugs he has to handle, which is most necessary for everyday retail business. I regret your correspondent has so sadly aired his ignorance of the pharmaceutical education of this State. Surely, as a live chemist expressing views on the subject, he should know that Materia Medica classes are conducted at the University, and also that there are live and able men on the council, whose interest in the education of the future chemists is indisputable, and whose knowledge of the requirements of apprentices is practical and far-reaching. The course provided by them for students at the University amply illustrates their foresight and sound sense. I trust they will long continue to give their valuable services in the interests of pharmacy.—Yours, &c., CYRIL H. STUBBS.

Semaphore, June 19, 1901.

SIR,—I am very pleased to see by the "CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST" of this month that the question raised by Mr. Hill, after his resignation, viz., the proper education of the pharmacy students, has begun to bring forth good fruit. I do hope it will not be allowed to drop till it is placed upon a better basis. I see from the report of the committee appointed to inquire into the matter that they say—"There appeared to be very good reason for some training in Materia Medica and Pharmacy, and the committee had under their consideration a plan whereby it might be possible to combine such instruction in the class now given to Pharmaceutical Chemistry, and that by a person closely in touch with the practice of pharmacy, and then the problem would be solved, and, further, the committee would remodel the present syllabus, and submit it to the Council of the University." I think if this is done it will go far to remove the difficulties I referred to in my last letter, and should think it ought, to a very great extent, to meet those raised by the very sensible letter of your correspondent, "One Who Has Been Through it All," who merits the thanks of pharmacists generally. I see by the present "C.D.A."

that we in South Australia are not the only ones dissatisfied with the education of the students in Pharmacy. Mr. C. E. Newman, the President of the Registered Pharmacists' Society of New South Wales (see fol. 174), speaking at the Council dinner, says, among other things:—"For the training of pharmacists there were no Schools of Pharmacy in New South Wales, nor was there any provision made for the training of students in pharmacy proper, and so on." In case of any of the chemists in this State being under the impression that I am for lowering the standard of our examination, let me say at once that this is not my object. What I do want, and I do think all right-thinking pharmacists of this or any other State will agree with me, is an examination equal in every respect to the present one, only more fitted to qualify the candidates for the ordinary position of pharmaceutical chemists, which the students will have to take when they have passed their "Standard."

I am very much struck with the truth of a statement made by your correspondent, "Physic," in the present number of "C.D.A." After praising our present system of education, he says the greater burden of the apprentice's education has been taken from the master's shoulders, and he is responsible only for the apprentices in pharmacy and dispensing. My advice to him is that he had better sing small on that topic, for if that gets into the minds of the public they will reasonably ask the question—"Why do the chemists then charge the parents of the lads from £25 to £100 to teach them what most smart lads can pick up as chemists' errand boys in two or three years?" I have been wondering what premium the parents of B. paid, who your own correspondent mentioned received 20 marks for Pharmacy, 50 for Materia Medica, and none for Dispensing. If "Physic" enlightens the public too much they will say presently that we are not honest in taking the money for teaching the lads, and then make their parents pay again for them to be taught at the University. "Physic" of the Semaphore, is very severe in his remarks on the master of B. and masters generally, who by deed and covenant, and after cash paid in advance, undertake to teach their apprentices the business of a chemist and druggist. It is to be hoped that they will profit by his superior criticism. But he has yet to learn that chemistry and volumetric analysis are very small factors in a drug business; supplying a small aristocratic watering place does not teach everything. The majority of pharmacists earn their living in open competition with keen business men in supplying a public devoid of sentiment, who want full value for their money, and often much more. Business tact is required, and the University course does not include this. Three or four years spent in studying abstruse science simply to pass an examination, and then be forgotten, or found almost useless, may be professional, but is not business. I do not undervalue education, far from it, but the code of the Pharmaceutical Society bulges out too much on one side, and that of the least useful in modern modes of business.—Yours, &c.,

AN ORIGINAL MEMBER OF THE P.S. OF S.A.

June 26, 1901.

[Our correspondent evidently recognises that neither Pharmaceutical Society nor University professes to teach everything a man has to learn. "Physic" surely overlooks the whole round of business experience and business habits which the master ought to ensure for his apprentice, as well as the art of dispensing. The "Original Member," too, must have limited ideas of dispensing if he seriously thinks that a chemist's errand boy can pick up all that is wanted in two or three years. The subjects taught at the University never were part of the knowledge which the master chemist covenanted to teach his apprentice. They are subjects which the Legislature says the pharmacist must study—the real reason being that they will make him better fitted to learn and apply the knowledge he gains otherwise from his master.—Ed.]

Register 29th June 1901

UNIVERSITY TEXT BOOKS. BISHOP GIBNEY AND THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY. CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE CHANCELLOR.

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Perth, Dr. Gibney, in reading the programme for the higher public examination of the Adelaide University (says the "West Australian Record"), was startled to find Carlyle's work on "Heroes and Hero Worship" among the prescribed text books. His Lordship wrote to the Chancellor of the University, Sir Samuel Way, protesting against the text book, and remarking that "it is untrue of, and insulting to, Catholics. I must ask an alternative text book for Christian Brothers' and other Catholic schools." The protest was telegraphed from the palace at Perth on May 28, and on May 30 the Bishop wrote explaining more fully the reason of his action, and giving long extracts from the work. Dr. Gibney remarked:—"Books prescribed for public examinations are supposed to be free from sectarian bias, and not calculated to give offence to the religious feelings or belief of the candidates who present themselves for examination. Now, that this condition is far from being verified in the case of Carlyle's work, the enclosed extracts cannot fail to prove. In places it seems to attack Christianity in general, and throughout it contains nothing but untruths and falsifications of Catholic doctrines and practices, and is most insulting to the members and ecclesiastical superiors of the Catholic Church. The spirit of prejudice, bigotry, and intolerance is stamped on every page. To put a book of this character into the hands of children is to present them with a caricature of the Catholic religion, and to prescribe a work so full of a diabolical hatred of the Catholic faith, in a state institution, where all religious beliefs are supposed to have an equal footing, and to receive the same deference and respect, is an act of grave injustice. For these reasons I am compelled to ask for an alternative textbook for the Christian Brothers' and other Catholic schools for the higher public examinations, and to request that this be the last occasion on which Carlyle's "Heroes and Hero Worship" or works of a similar character be prescribed as University text books." On June 19 Mr. C. R. Hodge, Registrar of the University, telegraphed to Dr. Gibney:—"Suggest matter. Your telegram and letter to Chancellor under consideration." On the 15th the Bishop replied, suggesting either one of Cardinal Newman's works or Bucke's "Reflections on the French Revolution." The Chancellor wrote on June 12 as follows to Dr. Gibney:—"I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of the 8th inst. of your letter of the 1st, and of your telegram of the 28th May. The University has given effect to your request by notifying that candidates for the higher public examination, in November may substitute for Carlyle's 'Heroes and Hero Worship' Macaulay's 'Essays on Clive and Warren Hastings.' This alternative will, I trust, be altogether unobjectionable. It is our endeavour to avoid the use of text books of a controversial character, and in order to give an opportunity of rectifying any oversight in that direction we publish and circulate details of the books to be used at examinations from three to five months in advance of the calendar issued at the beginning of the year. In pursuance of this practice, 'Heroes and Hero Worship' was notified as early as August last year. Your Lordship's telegram, however, was the first intimation we received of any objection to that book for Catholic students. We are always grateful to have our attention called to unintentional mistakes of the character to which you have been good enough to direct attention." Six days later the Bishop forwarded the following communication to Sir Samuel:—"I have advised of your having substituted Macaulay's 'Essays on Clive and Warren Hastings' for Carlyle's work on 'Heroes and Hero Worship' in the higher public examination. I think you must cordially be satisfied. I am now satisfied the error was unintentional."

Register 1st July 1901

In the primary practice of music pass list (pianoforte), published on June 18, the asterisk, denoting that the candidate passed in credit, was omitted from the name of Annie Gladstone Williams (Tormore House School).

Register 2nd July

It is understood that Professor Joshua Ives, Mus. Bac., Elder Professor of Music at the University of Adelaide, will probably relinquish the duties of his chair at the end of the current year. Having heard of the project of the professor's retirement a number of representative members of the musical profession at once conferred for the purpose of arranging a meeting to endeavour to secure the continuance of his services at the University. Professor Ives was appointed to the chair in 1884.

Sir Henry Wrixon (Vice-Chancellor) and Professors Morris and Kernot will represent the Melbourne University at the special inauguration of the Adelaide University this month.

Advertiser 2nd July 1901

THE CONSERVATORIUM.

If any further proof than what has already been furnished were needed of the popularity of the students' concerts at the Conservatorium it was provided on Monday night, when the members of the ensemble class gave an exhibition of their powers in the Elder Hall. The room was crowded, and the audience was an attentive and interested one. The programme opened with a trio in D minor, op. 32 (Arensky), by Miss Maud Puddy, Miss Gwendoline Pelly, and Herr Kugelberg. Both Miss Puddy and Miss Pelly are well known to and popular with the frequenters of the Elder Hall, and their performance met with great approval. The trio consists of four movements, allegro, moderato, scherzo elegia (adagio), and the finale (allegro non troppo). Miss Pelly has made great strides in her study of the violin. She has gained confidence, and has increased in power. Miss Puddy's playing of the piano part was sympathetic and correct, while the master touch of Herr Kugelberg on the cello was recognised and appreciated. Miss Pelly was associated with Mr. Eugene Alderman (viola) in Johan Halvorsen's "Passacaglia." This composition was played for the first time in Adelaide. It requires most careful attention to the tempo, delicate treatment and facility in double stopping, and it is sufficient to say that the performers acquitted themselves well. Mr. W. Cade is another young violinist who shows great promise, and who is rapidly improving in his playing. He submitted the first movement of Hauptmann's sonata in D minor, op. 25, the piano part being entrusted to Miss May Manning. The students applauded heartily at the conclusion of the number. The trios, "Remembrance" (Kincher), and "Saxa dance" (Dvorak), were played

by Miss Kate Reinecke (piano), Mr. Eugene Alderman, and Mr. Harold Parsons (cello). Both numbers were well rendered, and the capriciousness of Dvorak's dainty dance was especially well brought out. The introduction of a harp is a novelty in the Conservatorium programmes, but a novelty to be heartily welcomed. Miss Susie Winwood appeared as harpist, and Mr. Parsons as celloist, in Victor Hennis's romance, "Dreaming" (op. 30). The harp accompaniment to the cello solo was scarcely loud enough to be effective, and on the other hand the tones of the cello might have been somewhat modified with advantage. Schubert's well-known Trout quintet closed the programme. Miss Eva Burford (piano), Miss Florence Cook, Miss Bac. (violin), Mr. Eugene Alderman, Mr. H. Parsons, and Herr Kugelberg, were the instrumentalists, and from the sweet opening for the strings, throughout the two movements played, they gave an excellent interpretation of the work. The soloists of the evening were Miss Katie Joyce, Miss Ada Thomas, and Miss May Otto. Miss Joyce has a sweet mezzo-soprano voice of fair power. She sang "Rest thee, my lady" (Brahms). Miss Ada Thomas submitted a "bracket" from Schubert's album, "Who is Sylvia?" and "Impatience." She sang both songs correctly and well. Miss May Otto is a contralto, who was listened to with the greatest pleasure in the recitative aria, "The evening prayer," from Costa's "Eli." Her voice is rich, her enunciation excellent, and her command over her voice and her possession of feeling could not have been better displayed than in the concluding lines of the aria she sang.