

Music Aug. 1900.

THE UNIVERSITY MUSICAL EXAMINATIONS.

There was a large attendance of the local musical profession at the University on the evening of the 3rd ult., when a conference was held with the Board of Musical Studies. In reference to the examination question, Sir Samuel Way, the Chancellor of the University, occupied the chair. The chief speakers for the teachers were Mr. C. J. Stevens and Mr. E. E. Mitchell, while the Chairman and Professor Ives acted as the principal representatives of the University. The chief reforms desired by the teachers were as follows:—

"1. Both examiners in practice of music should be non-residents of South Australia, and should have exclusive charge of the examination. 2. The examiners in singing and violin should have a technical knowledge of their subjects. 3. In view of the limited time at the disposal of students who are being generally educated, especially those at schools, the teachers suggest that three studies and three pieces are an excessive requirement. They would recommend that in future two studies and two pieces selected from the Associated Board's lists should be sufficient for a first-class certificate, and that a honours section be established for those who satisfy the examiners in the whole contents of the book. 4. In reference to the theoretical examinations we suggest that a detailed and comprehensive syllabus be issued. That for the Senior Theoretical Examination candidates be requested to satisfy the examiners in harmony and counterpoint only, and that the present history questions be eliminated and made a separate paper, constituting an honours section. In support of this suggestion, we beg to point out that at present no history is required for the Mus. Bac. degree. 5. We should like to know the intention of the Council with regard to the locale of future practical examinations, and suggest that they be held on common ground. 6. While recognising that the present conference has been called to consider the examination question only, the teachers would again request that the pass certificate of the Junior Examination should be made the entrance test of the Conservatorium, so as to do away with the present primary instruction that is being given there."

Mr. Mitchell also mentioned that it was the wish of some of the teachers that the outside profession should be represented on the Board of Musical Studies.

After full consideration the Council of the University have conceded the main reform desired and their decisions are embodied in the following letter to Mr. Mitchell.

"The University of Adelaide,
August 3, 1900.

"Dear Sir—The proposals submitted by teachers of music to the Board of Musical Studies at the conference on the 3rd ult. have been considered by my Council, and I am now directed to forward the following reply:—

"1. The Council have given careful consideration to the request 'that both examiners in the practice of music should be non-resident in South Australia, and should have exclusive charge of the examination,' but they see no reason to alter the expressions of opinion contained in their resolution on this subject in 1898, as follows:—(a) 'We have thorough confidence in Professor Ives, and are satisfied that he was not interested, directly or indirectly, in the success of any of the candidates at the public examinations in music, except so far as any Professor in any faculty is interested in the success of students under his care.' (b) 'It is essential for the University to maintain the principle that the services of the Professor of Music, as well as those of Professors in other faculties, shall be available for examinations in the subjects proper to their respective courses.' Professor Ives, however, having expressed a desire to be relieved of the position of Examiner in the Practice of Music, it has been resolved that those examinations shall, in future, be conducted by the Examiner of the Associated Board alone, or by that Examiner in conjunction with some other person unconnected with the Conservatorium. The teachers present intimated that they would be satisfied with either of the alternatives."

"2. The Council are unable to make any alteration in the syllabus, as it is prepared by the Associated Board. Negotiations are proceeding with a view of adopting the entire scheme of the Board's examinations in practical music. If, as is hoped will be the case, these negotiations are successful the desire for the omission of some of the pieces will be met in another way.

"3. My Council are also unable to act upon the suggestions made by you and Mr. Stevens as to the examinations in theory, as their tendency was in the direction of lowering the present standard. Care, however, will be taken to furnish a complete syllabus as requested. My Council are advised that the History of Music cannot properly be excluded from the examinations in theory, but contemplate including it in the examination for the Mus. Bac. degree.

"4. As was intimated at the conference, the examinations will continue to be conducted at the Elder Hall. One of the reasons for its erection was to supply a suitable place for holding examinations.

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"5. In conclusion, my Council desire me to express their gratification that the Board of Musical Studies had the opportunity of a free discussion with the members of the teaching profession on the matters referred to at the conference, and that it has been found practicable to give effect to the wishes of the teachers on the principal matter as to which any difference of opinion had existed."

This is on the whole a very satisfactory result, and we think that the local profession have every reason to feel gratified with the success of their efforts. Of course, the decision of the Council has been arrived at too late to affect the entries for this year's examination, but we may expect a steady increase in the future, particularly if the number of pieces and studies to be performed in the pianoforte-playing divisions is limited as was suggested at the conference.

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ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

Despite the uninviting weather that prevailed on the evening of the 13th ult., the Elder Conservatorium was crowded, the occasion being the eleventh students' concert. Those who appeared were mainly pupils in what may be termed a middle grade, and consequently the performance did not possess quite so much musical interest as its predecessors. Special mention may, however, be made of the violin playing of Miss Gladys Lloyd Thomas, who exhibited a good tone, and considerable command of expression in a couple of short solos. Miss May Manning, a young pianist, also showed much promise in two movements from Hillier's suite, Op. 144, and Miss May Otto manifested satisfactory progress in her vocal numbers. One of the most enjoyable items of the evening was Fesca's Trio in B flat, for pianoforte, violin, and 'cello, excellently played by three young people, Miss Reinecke, and Masters Alderman and Parsons; but another specimen of chamber music, a movement from Mendelssohn's quartet in C minor, did not fare so well at the hands of Misses Edith Ward, Gwendoline Pelly, Fanny Ward, and Master Cade, who were lacking in unity of purpose and balance of tone. Various solos were submitted by Misses Minnah Gebhardt, Isabel Beresford, Edith Lungley, Marie Edmeades, Elsie Porter, and Emmie Harris. Mr. F. Bevan's choral class gave three numbers, their best being Gounod's pretty setting of Tennyson's verses "Soft and low." The accompaniments were played by Miss Gull Hack, A.R.C.M., Mr. Heinicke, and Mr. Bevan.

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AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY.

The study of rural economy is rapidly making its way as a subject of prime importance into the world's foremost Universities. Some time ago "The Register" pointed out that a Board of Agricultural Studies had been created in Cambridge, and that a regular course intended for students of rural economy had been inaugurated. We suggested that the University of Adelaide might follow the worthy and progressive example of the ancient seat of learning in England; and we proposed that for the encouragement of agricultural studies—not only among those in the rural districts, but also among the youths growing up to manhood in the city and suburbs—the Roseworthy College might be in some degree affiliated to the University, the one institution supplementing the instruction given by the other. Obviously much of the science now taught in the University must have a direct bearing on the theory and practice of agriculture, while the farmwork at Roseworthy and the careful instruction imparted by the staff of the College are essential to enable agricultural students to profit by the more theoretical curriculum in the classroom. One great aim in the systematizing of our national educational efforts should be to avoid duplicating—to strengthen each special agency for the particular work for which it is most distinctly fitted, and to make the various parts of the whole plan harmonize with one another. Difficulties at first stood in the way of the reform indicated; but it is eminently satisfactory to learn—from the programme drawn up by the University Council for the authorization of new statutes by the Senate at its meeting to-morrow—that these have all been overcome. The Council propose to grant the degree of Bachelor of Science to those who have proved their proficiency in agricultural subjects, just as it has already been decided to confer a similar science de-