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MR. E. F. TURNER POISONED.

The news of the death of Mr. Ernest Frederick Turner came as a blow to the residents of Port Adelaide on Sunday night. Mr. Turner was inspector of explosives and Customs analyst, and his laboratory was situated at the rear of the Mercantile Marine offices, and adjoining the Port police-station. During Sunday afternoon Mr. Turner was engaged in his laboratory resilvering an instrument, and for fully an hour he was talking to Constable Wigg through a window, which looked into the police yard, and explaining the work he was conducting. Duty called the constable away, and about half an hour afterwards a hurried message came to the station for assistance, from Dr. Gething, with the intelligence that the inspector had poisoned himself. The story as told by Dr. Gething, however, seems to point clearly enough to the belief that the fatality was quite accidental. At about 4 o'clock Dr. Gething was informed by one of his household that a serious poisoning case awaited attention in his consulting room. The doctor immediately ran to the room, and found Mr. Turner with his coat and vest off. "By God, I've taken cyanide of potassium," gasped the inspector, who could scarcely stand. "How much?" interjected the doctor. The sufferer had only time to say, "Good lot," when he collapsed. It appears that Mr. Turner finding he had taken a quantity of the drug, and knowing its deadly nature well, rushed to the doctor's house, and gave the intelligence. The doctor immediately administered an emetic, which, however, had no effect, and sent for assistance. Mr. Turner had then completely collapsed, and he was carried into the Casualty Hospital a few yards away. His mouth was forced open with difficulty, and the recognised antidote was pumped into the stomach, and afterwards out again. Artificial respiration was immediately resorted to, and this was continued by the police for about an hour and a quarter. Convulsions soon seized Mr. Turner, and about an hour and twenty minutes after his admission to the hospital he died from failure of the respiratory organs. That he was fully aware of the consequences attendant on taking cyanide of potassium had been made evident, and when the doctor first saw him great beads of perspiration stood out all over his face. The body was removed to the morgue, and the coroner informed. Mr. Turner was appointed inspector of explosives and Customs analyst in August, 1898, vice Professor Rennie, and he was widely known. His father-in-law, Mr. F. Hustler, chemist of Port Adelaide, was on the spot as soon as he received the intelligence of the affair, and he made a careful examination of the open bottles and flasks in the laboratory. He was also present while the attempts to preserve Mr. Turner's life was being made.

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

AWARD OF SCHOLARSHIPS.

The examiners for the four Scholarships offered by the Conservatorium of Music have made the following recommendations to the Council of the University:—

SINGING.

Clarence August John Degenhardt. Specially commended, as showing much promise:—Ethel May Otto; Phoebe Annie Morris.

PIANOFORTE.

Maude Mary Puddy.

VIOLIN.

Gwendoline Dorothy Pelly. Specially commended—Annie Gladys Thomas.

MUSICAL COMPOSITION.

Florence Emmeline Cooke.

Mr. Degenhardt is the second son of Mr. G. Degenhardt, solicitor of Petersburg. He was born at North Adelaide twenty-two years ago, and at an early age displayed a good treble voice. For three years he sang as a chorister in the choir of St. Peter's College Chapel, and with the other boys received a certain amount of vocal tuition at the hands of Mr. W. M. Hole, Mus. Bac., the organist and choirmaster of the Church. Mr. Degenhardt's voice is now a bass of good quality and wide range. He has studied singing for a little time under Mr. C. J. Stevens, and has appeared at several city and suburban concerts with a gratifying measure of success. Chief of these have been the concerts given by the Orpheus Society, of which he is a member.

Miss Maude Mary Puddy is the third daughter of Mr. Albert Puddy, of Brompton, where she was born on March 27, 1883. She began to learn the piano when nearly eight years of age, and made her first appearance at the Public Schools Exhibition in pianoforte-playing in 1893. On that occasion she won first, second, and third prizes, and was rearranged as two first-class prizes, and of these she received one. In the following year she carried off the only first prize awarded. Miss Puddy secured first-class passes in pianoforte-playing at the Adelaide and Senior Examinations at the Adelaide University. At the latter test her examiners were Professor Ives and Mr. W. H. Wale, Mus. Bac., F.R.C.O., and she was awarded the additional distinction of a special credit. In January, 1895, she entered the Adelaide College of Music, and continued her studies there until March, 1898, when she became a student of the Elder Conservatorium of Music. Until the time she entered the College of Music and she had passed the Junior Examination she received her musical education entirely from her father, who gave her a good grounding in pianoforte-playing and theory of music. On entering the College of Music she became a pupil of Mr. Reimann, and has since received tuition from him. The numbers she submitted to the examiners for the scholarship which she has just won were Beethoven's Sonata, Op. 2, No. 3, Mendelssohn's "Andante and Rondo Capriccioso," and Cramer's etudes, Nos. 65 and 66, which were played from memory. At the first competition for these scholarships, which was held last year, Miss Puddy was specially commended as displaying much natural talent. She has already made several successful appearances at the College of Music and Elder Conservatorium concerts, where her playing has always excited favourable comment.

Miss Gwendoline Dorothy Pelly, the eldest daughter of Mr. Rupert Pelly, of North Adelaide, was born on September 22, 1884, so is now in her fifteenth year. She commenced to study the violin when seven years of age, and was for four years a pupil of Mr. A. C. Quin, of this city. Early in 1896 she entered the Adelaide College of Music and became a pupil of Mr. H. Heinicke, under whom she has studied until the present time. At the examination in violin-playing held at the University last November she obtained a first-class pass with credit, her examiners being Professor Ives and Mr. Frederick Cliffe. Miss Pelly has appeared at several of the concerts of the Adelaide College of Music and the Elder Conservatorium with considerable success. Her pieces at the competition which she has now won were De Beriot's first concerto in D major, "Herji Kati" (Hubay), and Fiorillo's etudes Nos. 27 and 28.

Miss Cooke, the winner of the first prize yet offered for musical composition, is the daughter of Mr. Ebenezer Cooke, Commissioner of Audit. She has studied composition for some years at the Adelaide University under Professor Ives, and in November, 1898, passed the third year's examination for the degree of Mus. Bac.

Miss Annie Gladys Thomas, who was specially commended for her violin-playing, as showing much promise, is the eldest daughter of Mr. J. Edwin Thomas, of Dequetteville-terrace, Kent Town. She has studied the violin for some years under Mr. H. Heinicke at the Adelaide College of Music and the Elder Conservatorium, and has made several successful public appearances at the concerts given by those two institutions. Like Miss Pelly, Miss Thomas was awarded a first-class pass with credit at the senior examination in violin-playing held by the University last November by Professor Ives and Mr. Frederick Cliffe.

Miss Otto, who was specially commended for her singing, is a daughter of the late Mr. F. H. Otto, a talented and enthusiastic musician. Her brother is Mr. A. H. Otto, the well-known Assistant Organist of St. Peter's Cathedral. Miss Otto has studied singing for two years under Miss Gull Hack, A.R.C.M., and is at present a student of the Elder Conservatorium.

THE LATE MR. E. F. TURNER.

The shocking fatality to Mr. E. F. Turner, Inspector of Explosives and Customs Analyst, was the subject of much sympathetic comment at Port Adelaide on Monday morning, especially in Customs circles. An inquest will be held at the Port Admiral Hotel at 11 o'clock this morning. The funeral will take place at 4 p.m. to-day. On Monday our Gawler correspondent telegraphed:—"The news of the death of Mr. E. F. Turner has caused a great shock here. He had been instructor of the science classes in the Gawler School of Mines since its establishment six years ago, and it was largely through his skilful teaching and genial bearing that the school has attained to its present successful position."

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THE LATE MR. E. F. TURNER.

THE INQUEST.

On Tuesday morning the City Coroner (Dr. H. T. Whittell) conducted an enquiry at the Port Admiral Hotel, into the circumstances of the death of Mr. Ernest Frederick Turner, Inspector of Explosives and Customs Analyst, who died at Port Adelaide on Sunday through having taken cyanide of potassium whilst engaged at work in the Government laboratory.

Constable W. E. Wigg, of Port Adelaide, identified the body. Deceased had a laboratory adjoining the Police Station, where he was working on Sunday afternoon. Saw him first shortly after 2 p.m., and was chatting to him. Witness remarked, "Hallo! working on Sunday again!" and Turner replied that he was very busy. Deceased was working at an instrument, which he said he was going to resilver. It required recleaning, and witness saw Turner mix up some chemicals in a beaker. He took some of the liquid from a jar which contained white lumps, and made a solution in the beaker about three-quarters of an inch deep. He poured some into a test cylinder, leaving some of the solution in the beaker, which he placed close to where he was working. Other conversation took place about different matters, and witness went into the office, deceased remaining in the laboratory. About half an hour afterwards Dr. Gething came into the Police Station, saying, "Mr. Turner, next door, is poisoned. I want assistance at once." Two constables went and carried the deceased from Dr. Gething's surgery to the Hospital. Witness also went in. Turner was unconscious, and his teeth were clenched. Some difficulty was experienced in opening the mouth, but a clothes peg had the desired effect. Witness remained about half an hour, and deceased was still alive when he left. Knew deceased, seeing him almost every day. Believed him to be of a sober nature. He was so on Sunday, and appeared to be in the best of spirits. Did not know if Turner was in any trouble.

Constable Wigg, in answer to the Coroner, said Dr. Gething was not yet present.

The Coroner—Then he should be. The Jury cannot wait for Dr. Gething. This is not the first time we have been placed in this position at Port Adelaide.

Percy Walter Jones was then called. He assisted Mr. Turner in the laboratory, but was not there on Sunday. Deceased on that day was engaged in cleaning a barometer. In doing this work one of the chemicals he would probably use would be cyanide of potassium, a good quantity of which was kept. Was present at the laboratory that morning, when the Jury made their visit. There was standing near where Mr. Turner had been working a wide-mouth bottle containing white salt. There was no label on the bottle. Witness tested the contents, and found by the smell it was cyanogen, and the chemical test showed the presence of a cyanide. In witness's opinion the bottle contained a mixture of cyanide of potassium. A beaker containing about a tablespoonful of clear fluid was situated near where Mr. Turner was engaged. As the result of a test he found that the beaker contained cyanide of potassium. Did not consider that owing to the absence of a label the deceased picked up a wrong bottle. He was of the opinion that Mr. Turner knew it was cyanide of potassium. This contained the same general properties as prussic acid.

By a Juror—No precautions were adopted in the laboratory to distinguish poison from other drugs.

Dr. Gething said that at 4 o'clock on Sunday afternoon he received a message to the effect that there was a case of poisoning in the consulting-room. Went down immediately, and found deceased half reclining on the operating table. Deceased said—"My God, Doctor, I've taken cyanide of potassium by mistake." Witness asked how much and received the reply, "A good lot." Turner was then very blue and twitching. Witness said, "Have you any sulphate of iron in your place?" Turner replied, "Yes." Told assistant to give deceased an emetic, which at the time was ready. Witness could not find any sulphate of iron in the laboratory. Deceased could only take part of it. Turner had torn his coat, vest, and collar off before witness entered the consulting-room. Deceased was removed to the Hospital, where witness applied the usual antidote. Applied the stomach-pump and washed the stomach out with a solution of sulphate of iron. Gave deceased some atropine and applied battery and artificial respiration for over an hour. All efforts were ineffective, and deceased died at 5.20. Witness's place was situated within two minutes' run of the Government laboratory. Witness was satisfied that death was due to cyanide of potassium. Five grains had been known to cause the death of an adult. There was a strong smell about the deceased, similar to bitter almonds. Deceased was very likely to do witness's opinion was not likely to do any harm to himself. Has not seen him since the worse for liquor. He saw the case witness first saw him he seemed to be hopeless, and deceased seemed to res-

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THE ELDER SCHOLARSHIPS.

The results of the examinations held by Professor Ives, Mr. T. H. Jones, Mus. Bac., and Herr Kugelmeyer for scholarships in connection with the Elder Conservatorium were announced on Monday afternoon as follows:—Singing—Clarence August John Degenhardt; specially commended, Miss Ethel May Otto and Miss Phoebe Annie Morris. Pianoforte—Miss Maude Mary Puddy. Violin—Miss Gwendoline Dorothy Pelly; specially commended, Miss Annie Gladys Thomas. Musical composition—Miss Florence Emmeline Cooke. The competition in singing and the musical composition were open to the colonies, but for the pianoforte and violin playing scholarships one of the conditions was that the candidates had to be resident in South Australia. The limits of age were:—Singing, 17 to 24; pianoforte and violin, 12 to 18; and musical composition, 12 to 25; and the numbers of competitors in each subject were singing 13, pianoforte 4, violin 6, and musical composition 2. The scholarships are tenable for three years, and entitle the holders to free tuition in one principal and one secondary subject of musical study at the Conservatorium.