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PROFESSOR ENNIS' ORGAN RECITAL.

The second of the six organ recitals which Professor Ennis arranged to give this year at the Elder Conservatorium took place on Thursday evening. There was a large audience, who thoroughly enjoyed the interpretation of the writings of some of the greatest composers for the "king of instruments" by one of the best organists in the Commonwealth, Rheinberger's sonata in F sharp, in three movements, was beautifully played, while "Die frage" and "Die antwort," by the blind composer, Wolstenholme, and Guilman's lovely "Allegretto in B minor" and "Grand choeur" were rendered with the refinement and delicacy that always characterise Dr. Ennis' playing. Bach's gigantic prelude and fugue in C minor was treated with all the scholarly instinct of which Dr. Ennis is capable, and his final item, "Marche cortege" (Gounod) was rapturously applauded. Miss Elsie Jones was the only vocalist of the evening, and she gave several songs charmingly, her father, Mr. T. H. Jones, accompanying her. Mr. H. S. Parsons played a violoncello solo.

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UNIVERSITY SPORTS GROUND.

The sports committee of the University of Adelaide has approached the City Council for a 21 years' lease of about 6 1/2 acres of park No. 12, which is on the north side of the Toarens, between Avenue road and the corporation nursery, for the purpose of laying out a sports ground for the use of students. The markets and parks committee has given the application favourable consideration, and referred the matter to the Chairman of the permanent committees to arrange terms with the University Council, and report to the next meeting.

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The British Classical Review for June, in an appreciative note, remarks upon the establishment at Adelaide of a Classical Association for South Australia. "The association has adopted the scheme of Latin pronunciation put out by the Classical Association, and an agreement was reached on the reform of Greek pronunciation also. It is hoped that the association will follow the example of South Africa and affiliate to the British society."

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AGRICULTURE AND ELECTRICITY.

That electricity will at some future time provide an aid to the farmer in growing his crops seems probable. A cablegram in "The Advertiser" this morning gives the results of some experiments conducted by Sir Oliver Lodge, principal of the Birmingham University. According to the cable message the crops treated yielded 40 per cent. better results than other crops. It is presumed that experiments only refer to small plots. The idea of utilising electricity in connection with the growth of crops is not altogether new. For the past four years experiments with electricity have shown that under certain conditions crops mature and ripen earlier than if they are not placed under the influence of the electric current or electric light, and larger returns from various kinds of crops have been obtained as the result. The chief point of interest to the cultivator of the soil is to discover whether the system can be profitably applied to farm crops on a large scale. It would be unsafe to say that this is impossible, for in this age of scientific discoveries electricity, which already has been put to various uses, may have many other and unexpected tasks added to it. A few years ago a farmer on Yorke Peninsula claimed that he had applied electricity to comparatively large plots of ground with satisfactory results, but whether his experiments were sufficiently remunerative to induce him to continue his experiments is not known.

Register July 16th 05.

CONSERVATORIUM STUDENTS' CONCERT.

The attendance at the Elder Conservatorium on Monday night was large and enthusiastic, when a number of students, including several of the Elder scholars, gave a concert, and were assisted by Mr. Harold Parsons. With rare breaks the unusually varied programme was pleasing, and carried out with distinct success. Several of the soloists attained a standard on which they and the staff may be congratulated. The season's list of promising pupils is choice, and by no means limited. Miss Ethel Doenau opened the programme with a brilliant rendering of the first movement of Beethoven's "Piano concerto in C major." Mr. Bryceson Treharne played the orchestral part upon a second instrument. Miss Florence Harris gave a pleasing interpretation of Hatton's well-known "The enchantress," in which her middle register overshadowed the deeper range in attractively. Miss Hansie Homburg played from Bach's "Suite in D," the air on the G string. Her work and style were happily individualistic, and she persuaded a fine resonance from her violin. Miss Eleanor Greenway would have impressed more had she chosen a better medium for the display of her range than Gluck's "Orpheo" (the recit. and air "Sposa Eoridice!" and "Che faro senza"). Miss Gladys Taylor has improved as a pianiste. Her numbers, of the familiar Rubinstein Romance" (No. 1 of op. 44) and Liszt's beautiful "Liebestraume," were particularly good. Miss Ella Jurs recited "Bergliot" (Grieg) to the musical accompaniment of Miss Carlien Jurs. This tragically sombre piece of elocution were better heard in more homely environments, for the lofty building (not to mention the piano accompaniment) swallowed the intent of the story before it reached the ears of half the audience. A pleasing departure, and one therefore which secured much favour, was a trio of sea songs by the favourite writer Stanford. Messrs. Hector Mellish, Stanley May, and Frederick Hyett exercised their mellow baritone ranges respectively in "Devon! O Devon!" "Homeward bound," and "The old Superb," while the choruses were taken up with appropriate gusto by Messrs. Sloman, Reid, Dummett, R. Mellish, Cresdee, Hack, Venn, Jones, Bullock, H. Mellish, Hyett, Palmer, May, and Cowan. Miss Vera Goss was not entirely successful in her interpretations upon the piano of Schubert's "Minuet in B minor" and Chopin's "F sharp impromptu." Further study will develop Miss Goss as a solo performer. Miss Sylvia Whittington chose as her violin selection one of Saint-Saens's weird conglomerates—"Introduction and rondo capriccioso." Whether the clever young violiniste gave as understandingly sympathetic rendering would be harder to say than that she gamely over-rode the "moderns" glorified pyrotechnics. Miss Muriel Cheek secured repeated recalls for her sweet singing of Tosti's "Mattinata" and sweeter rendering of the old English song "The lass with the delicate air" (Arne). In Rubinstein's exquisite trio for piano, violin, and cello (the first movement in G minor) Mr. Gordon Short, Miss Daisy Kennedy, and Mr. Harold Parsons achieved success. Accompaniments were played by Miss Hack and Messrs. Bevan and Heinicke.

ELECTRICITY IN AGRICULTURE.

PROLIFIC CROPS.

LONDON, July 16. Sir Oliver Lodge, of Birmingham University, states that the use of electricity in agriculture has shown that the crops treated yield 40 per cent. better than those under ordinary cultivation. The crops experimented with included wheat, mangolds, tomatoes, and raspberry canes.

OPINION OF PROFESSOR ANGUS.

When interviewed on the subject by a representative of "The Advertiser," Professor Angus, Director of Agriculture, said—"Experiments of the kind have been carried on for about four years in various parts of England, Germany, and America, with a view to ascertaining the effect of electricity on the growth of plant life, but the results hitherto obtained have been somewhat vague and uncertain, and nothing like the startling figures contained in the cablegram has so far come under my notice. I believe in South Australia some attempts have been made by private individuals to carry out similar experiments."

Do you think it practicable to apply electricity to crops on farms? Professor Angus was asked.

"I think that is out of the question so far. There is nothing yet to show that the application of electricity to agricultural areas on a large scale is in any way practicable or feasible on account of the cost of the production of the energy. The electricity is applied by two methods, by currents in the ground and by light."

PLANT-GROWING UNDER ELECTRIC LIGHT.

In an interesting article on the above subject in the April number of "The World's Work," Messrs. S. L. Bastin and G. C. Nuttall, B.Sc., state that "electricity has been applied to plant life in two different ways. Many years ago the late Sir William Siemens made experiments which proved up to the hilt that the electric light had a decided influence in accelerating the growth of plants. Again, in more recent years, Professor Lemstrom carried out a number of most conclusive tests, showing the stimulating power which the electric current had upon the roots of plants. Few experimenters have made any very definite effort to demonstrate the commercial possibilities of the scheme." The writers add—"The conclusion of the whole matter as far as it is possible to arrive at conclusions at so early a stage is, broadly speaking, that the electric light is proved to be a valuable aid in forming both market garden produce and flowers in many cases. For the encouragement of those who are compelled to make their plantgrowing 'pay' it may be mentioned that various American gardeners have already found the introduction of the electric light distinctly profitable to their trade."

EDUCATIONAL DANGERS.

COMPETITION BY STATE HIGH SCHOOLS.

THE COLLEGE STANDPOINT.

At the St. Peter's Old Scholars' dinner on Wednesday evening the Rev. Henry Girdlestone (head master of St. Peter's College), in replying to the toast of the school and staff, made a stirring speech on the subject of education from the college standpoint and its relation to the higher State education. He said:—"The last time I addressed you a few months ago, when you spent your evening not so much in the culinary as the financial part of the association, I incautiously made a few remarks about the progress of education in this State—incantiously, because I was called up by telephone that night when in my beauty sleep by the editor of one of the dailies to state exactly what I meant by speaking about educational dangers. (Laughter.) By that time I said I did not mean anything at all—(laughter)—but I saw in the paper for several days letters from Mary Smith and Jeremiah Jones—(laughter)—all most excellent educational authorities—(laughter)—indignant with me because I had ventured to raise my protest against a possible dissolution of your school. I am here to-night with the one hope and determination—to say nothing that any one will remember after he has gone away—(laughter)—or anything any one of you can possibly understand. (Laughter.) You may have noticed that there is a proposal that State education should take a development upward, and that it should intrude into the province which we have hitherto considered somewhat our own. I think it is a workable and desirable project. I feel there are many excellent points, and that from the general point of view of the State it is a reasonable move, but I want to look simply from the school point of view at the proposal to establish what are called high schools where the education such as we give at St. Peter's will be given perhaps not free of cost, but at a much lower rate than we can afford to give it. How far this will affect our school will be a matter of interest to all present. It is to a certain extent—and one can make no bones about it—a competition. As far as