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CONSERVATORIUM TEACHERS AND THE MUSIC TRADE.

The paragraph which appeared in "The Advertiser" on July 27 relating to complaints by the music trade against teachers of the Conservatorium engaging in trade competition with them, so far as the sale of music and musical instruments is concerned, created a stir in musical circles. The shopkeepers interested communicated with the University last week, and were asked to supply more definite information before any investigation could be undertaken. All but one of the firms who had joined in the protest then sent in formal complaints, accompanied by details of certain transactions in which members of the teaching staff were alleged to be involved, and information has reached them that enquiries into the various cases cited are being made.

UNIVERSITY DINNER.

The annual dinner in connection with the University of Adelaide, which will be held at the South Australian Hotel this evening, is expected to be a success. The demand for tickets was greater than the supply, and sale of them had to be stopped several days ago. The Chancellor of the University (Right Hon. Sir Samuel Way) will preside. Among the guests who have accepted invitations are His Excellency the Governor (Sir George Le Hunte), the Premier (Hon. T. Price), the Hon. Hon. Theodore Fink, of Victoria, Mr. Justice Gordon, and the Mayor of Adelaide (Mr. Theodore Bruce). The Chancellor will propose "The King and the Governor." The principal toast of the evening, "The University of Adelaide," will be proposed by the Hon. Theodore Fink, and Professor Darnley Naylor will respond. The menu is printed wholly in Latin, and the toast list is interspersed with apt quotations from the classics. Translations are:—(1) "The King: No man is better, or a greater lover of right. (2) "The Governor, our visitor: For when your face, like spring, has beamed upon the people the day goes more pleasantly, and the sun shines with better light." (3) "The University: Learning moves onward; innate strength and right training strengthen the breast."

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CONSERVATORIUM AND MUSIC TRADE.

Music-sellers of Adelaide have for some time held the opinion that they were not being fairly treated by certain members of the Adelaide Conservatorium staff, who make private sales to students of musical instruments and music. Several of the leading firms recently communicated with the University authorities and stated their complaints in detail. In reply, the authorities pointed out that they could not take any action unless proof were given by actual witnesses that the matters complained of had occurred. The alleged unfair competition by members of the Conservatorium staff has been in the direction of sales of musical instruments to pupils by the staff as well as copies of music which have been exclusively imported. In other directions music-sellers have complained of the practice of certain members of the staff showing preference for particular musical firms or makes of instruments when recommending purchases to pupils. Another phase of the situation is that, from cases which have come under their notice, music-sellers are convinced that sales have been made to students by their teachers of instruments considerably above their ordinary sale price. In their formal protest the music-sellers have pointed out the unfairness of highly paid teachers trafficking as salesmen in opposition to the legitimate trade. The position now is that, although the complainants have not received any definite assurance that the alleged delinquents will mend their ways, yet they are to understand that investigations are being made and that reason for complaint will cease.

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THE WEAKNESS OF ENGLISH.

In his lecture at the Adelaide University on Tuesday evening Professor Naylor had a tilt at what he termed the "weakness" of the English language. He said:—"One value of Latin and Greek is that they expose the weaknesses of our own language. English, when spoken, is a well-nigh perfect vehicle of expression; that is, if you do not have to learn the language. But when written it often fails ignominiously, and why? Because we depend so largely on stress and intonation. Take, for example, the simple sentence, 'I cannot walk there.' What do these words mean? Four different things, depending upon which word the emphasis is placed. 1. 'I' cannot walk there, but you can. 2. I 'cannot' walk there, even if I wanted to. 3. I cannot 'walk' there, but I might ride; and 4. I cannot walk 'there,' but I might walk half the distance. 'These be thy gods, O Israel!' (Laughter.) Thus visually to the eye English does not make its meaning obvious. You might underline words, but Professor Henderson will tell you that this is a naughty practice, only followed by ladies in postscripts. Now, Latin by its order and Greek by particles can make the exact sense clear to the eye. Hence as written languages they have a certain superiority over our own. When you grasp the real force of these Greek particles you will see the shrug of the shoulders, the hand held out in deprecation, the eyebrows raised in astonishment. You will hear the sniff of contempt, the grunt of approval, the very tone of irony and satire. Greek is a miracle of pictorial expression."

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ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

The University Choral Class will give their annual concert on Monday evening, August 12, when Sullivan's musical drama "The Martyr of Antioch" will be performed for the first time in Adelaide. This work, which is written for solos for all four voices, with chorus and orchestral accompaniment, should be heard with interest. Tickets may be obtained at the office of the University.