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What was now required was the recasting of the whole scheme, as far as that was possible. So soon as existing engagements with the staff permitted, all elementary work should be eliminated from the curriculum; in fact, the Conservatorium teaching should be on a very high level only, with a stiff entrance examination. One or two teachers of the highest order that the University funds permitted would suffice for this work, toward which end the proceeds of the University examinations in music might well be devoted. Such a plan would win the approval and support of the entire musical profession, and as well as advanced students many teachers would gladly avail themselves of such a high order of tuition, to the ultimate gain of musical art throughout the State. Then as regards the new scheme of examinations in music, let the profession be convinced that their support would not mean the bolstering up of the Conservatorium—for that they were not willing to do—and they would be glad to help the University. If the suggested reforms were effected, all existing opposition would speedily be converted into support.

The meeting then considered the election of a President; but it was determined to postpone the matter. Mr. Stevens was appointed Chairman pro tem.

The sum of 5/ per annum was fixed as the subscription, and Mr. Mitchell was elected to the offices of secretary and treasurer. On the motion of Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. L. W. Yemm, the following was carried unanimously:—"Having the best interests of the University at heart we earnestly ask the council to devise some scheme whereby the surplus funds arising from the University public examinations in music may be kept intact, and devoted to the general advancement and culture of the art of music in this State in the widest manner. By this means we believe that whatever exists of antagonism to the examinations referred to will be promptly converted into hearty support that will ultimately make them a pronounced success. We also respectfully recommend the wisdom of appointing as members of the faculty of music at least two additional members of the outside musical profession, that they may contribute a wider council upon the questions which come before the faculty."

It was decided that the next meeting be held at the same place on Saturday, February 23.

THE CONSERVATORIUM.

A MEETING OF MUSIC TEACHERS.

A gathering of 70 or 80 teachers of music met in the Victoria Hall on Saturday evening in connection with the Music Teachers' Association, Mr. C. J. Stevens being in the chair.

Mr. E. E. Mitchell gave an account of what had been done at the preliminary meeting on January 29, and outlined the position of affairs as it concerned the University, the Conservatorium, and the musical profession. He stated that the establishment of an endowed school of music, which provided but few advantages that did not previously exist, must have been far indeed from the intention of the generous donor. Undoubtedly the outcome of Sir Thomas Elder's munificence should have been the provision for musical students of facilities that were otherwise impossible; but instead of this private teachers had to suffer an endowed competition in some of the most elementary of their work, which was a manifest injustice to many who with difficulty obtained a livelihood, and also an obvious misapplication of the bequest. And what was the result of it all? Most of the talented students who had studied at the Conservatorium would have come to the front just as conspicuously had it never been built; in fact, most of the successful Conservatorium pupils were well on the way to success (having been soundly grounded by their former teachers) before they went there. The Conservatorium staff could not create talent; they could only educate it; and there were outside teachers who were fully as busy and as competent at the same kind of delightful work, and under whose care probably something similar in the way of results would have been achieved. And after all, in spite of the Elder endowment, the Conservatorium did not pay its way, for nearly the whole of the bequest had been sunk in a costly building and organ, and a considerable deficit on the working of the institution had to be met year by year out of the general funds of the University, to the loss, therefore, of the students of science, arts, &c., so that a noble bequest resulted chiefly in a petty competition with elementary teachers, and in a lessening of the advantages of students in other branches of learning. Truly, an achievement of which its organisers might well be proud. What was required was the re-modelling of the scheme so far as such was now practicable. Elementary work, as soon as consistent with existing engagements, should be eliminated from the curriculum, and the work of the Conservatorium should be limited to the training of professional students only—or rather, students of that grade—and one or two teachers of the highest order that the funds of the University would provide for should be engaged to carry on the work, towards which end the proceeds of the University examinations in music might well be devoted. In addition to advanced students many teachers would unquestionably avail themselves of such a high order of tuition to the manifest advantage of themselves and the subsequent gain of musical art throughout the State. As regards the new scheme of examinations in music it was essential that the profession should be convinced that the examination fees therefor were not to be utilised to bolster up the Conservatorium, for in that they were not inclined to acquiesce; in fact, as things were at present the majority of teachers would certainly hold aloof, but if the suggested reforms were effected, or were definitely promised to be carried out within a reasonable time, all existing opposition would be converted into support, and that very promptly.

Some discussion took place regarding the election of a president, but it was decided to hold the matter in abeyance, Mr. C. J. Stevens to be chairman of the association meanwhile.

The annual subscription was fixed, and Mr. Mitchell was elected secretary and treasurer. The secretary moved, and Mr. Yemm seconded—"That the following resolution be forwarded to the council of the University:—"Having the best interests of the University at heart, we earnestly ask its council to devise some scheme whereby the surplus funds accruing from the University public examinations in music in South Australia may be kept intact, and devoted to the general advancement and culture of the art of music in this State in the widest manner. By this means we believe that whatever exists of antagonism to the examinations referred to will be promptly converted into hearty support that will ultimately make them a pronounced success. We also respectfully recommend the wisdom of appointing as members of the Faculty of Music at least two additional members of the outside musical profession, that they may contribute a wider council upon the questions which come before the faculty." Carried.

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To the Editor.

Sir—Since the inauguration of the Conservatorium music has considerably advanced in Adelaide. A musical friend, who attends concerts at the Royal College of Music, London, when comparing Adelaide Conservatorium students with those of the Royal College of Music, has written to me saying that not one heard in the pianoforte division was equal in ability to two students of the Elder Conservatorium. That is a great tribute of praise. Why, then, should a few leading musicians here seek to destroy an institution that is advancing the divine art? A complaint is made that elementary teaching is given at the Conservatorium. This is a matter that will right itself, but if parents are willing to pay a high fee for the best musical tuition for their children why should they not be allowed to do so?—I am, &c.,
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Mr. Arthur Henry Clarke, B.A., of Hobart University, was to-day selected as the Tasmanian Rhodes Scholar for 1907.

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Mr. Arthur Clerke, aged 24, son of Mr. Alex. Clerke, of Launceston, has won the Rhodes scholarship in Tasmania for 1907. Another Launceston boy, Loftus Hills, was placed second by the selectors. Mr. Clerke was educated at the Church Grammar School, Launceston, and is a fine all-round athlete and a brilliant scholar.

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Mr. A. P. Turnbull, 18 years of age, of the High School, Perth, has been selected as this year's Rhodes scholar from Western Australia. This is the second occasion on which the honor has fallen to that school. There were three candidates, the others being from the Scotch College and the Christian Brothers College respectively. Mr. Turnbull is a grandson of the late Sir James Lee Steere, formerly Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

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Intending Conservatorium students have to attend for examination on March 4, as the new term begins on the next day.

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REFORM OF THE CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC.

"Outsider" observes:—"From recent articles it would seem that the Adelaide University was responsible for the losses made by the Conservatorium, but that all fees for musical examinations under the new scheme were to go to the University, not to the Conservatorium. To an outsider this seems a distinction without a difference. Further, it is presumed that the professors of the Conservatoriums of Melbourne and Adelaide who act as examiners will be paid for this work in addition to their annual salaries. Hence, it looks as if the music teachers were being invited to render considerable financial assistance to endowed musical institutions."