

Register 7<sup>th</sup> July 07.

Advertiser 8<sup>th</sup> July 07

Register 11<sup>th</sup> July 07

### REFORM OF THE CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC.

To the Editor,

Sir—Referring to your article "Conservatorium and Music Teachers," whether our much criticised institution, called "Elder Conservatorium," deserves the latter name ("Elder Music School" would be more appropriate) can be easily seen by drawing a comparison with some of the old institutions of that kind on the Continent. As we were promised at the foundation of the Elder Conservatorium that it should be conducted on the same lines as the Continental conservatoriums are, I think we are justified in putting the following facts before a larger public and let them judge for themselves. The Royal Conservatorium of Music at Leipzig, where Sir Arthur Sullivan and Frederic Coven, and luckily also the writer of this received their final musical education, has a staff of over 40 teachers, including some of the most famous musicians of the present day. The same institutions of Dresden, Prague, Berlin, Munich, Vienna, Cologne, &c., have even much larger staffs, some of them having a dramatic school in connection with the musical departments. In all these institutions no beginners are admitted. The intending pupils have to pass a severe entrance examination, for a conservatorium of music must be the same for the divine art as the university is for science, a high school for professionals. In all these institutions an opera school and a complete orchestral school are included, where every instrument is taught by a reputed master, and the pupils cannot leave the institution without having concluded a complete course of musical theory, with piano compulsory, in addition to their principal subjects or instruments. Such a course must last at least three years as a rule; but it is optional for the pupil to stay longer if he likes.

I am, Sir, &c.,

LUDWIG HOPF.

To the Editor.

Sir—Will you kindly grant me space to refute the statement of "Not a Teacher" in the Register of Tuesday that Trinity College, London, is a shareholders' concern? This bogey is continually brought to life by opponents of the college, who strive hard to seek an argument against the existence of the college; and, in fact, forms one of the charges in a probable libel action in Melbourne in which several well-known musical men may be concerned. Trinity College is incorporated under the Companies Acts, which provide for the incorporation of associations formed for the purpose of arts. It is not, and never has been, a profit-sharing institution, as is proved by the fourth paragraph of its memorandum of association. In 1902 the college presented £5,000 to the University of London for the purpose of founding a Chair of Music, and the first professor appointed (Sir Frederick Bridge) is a Vice-President of Trinity College. The college occupies the same position as the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music in connection with the University of London. The college spends a large sum annually in scholarships, and no part whatever of its funds is distributed by way of profit. Our talented Adelaide singer, Miss Felstead, is at present the holder of a scholarship, together with a grant for maintenance, both with right of renewal. Surely if "Not a Teacher" wants to desire to support the claims of the Adelaide University he can do so without adverting to played-out fibs, and can fight with fair weapons.

I am, Sir, &c.,

H. E. FULLER.

### CONSERVATORIUM VERSUS TEACHERS.

The teachers of music who are showing fight against the Conservatorium of Music will hold another meeting on Saturday evening to discuss matters in which their interests are involved. The strong feeling against the Conservatorium has in no way abated, and unless some modification of the lines on which the institution is conducted is introduced the teachers will continue to entertain and exhibit an antagonistic spirit towards it. They allege that the Conservatorium is practically taking bread and butter out of their mouths by enticing students from them. The teachers resent the action of the University music school, and for the sake of both the Conservatorium and the outside teachers it is desirable that steps should be taken to arrange an amicable settlement of the difficulty. "We have been asked to separate the University from the Conservatorium, but we cannot," said Mr. C. J. Stevens, in an informal conversation on Thursday afternoon, "because the Conservatorium is financed by the University. It does not have to stand upon its own merits as private individuals and teachers have to do. If they cannot pay their way, they have to shut up shop, as ordinary traders have to do in such circumstances. If the Conservatorium cannot pay its way, the deficiency is made up by the University, which we think is unfair. What we want is that the University shall bring the Conservatorium up to the proper mark; that is, make its examination test as severe as are the tests for all other things taught in the University, and cease to continue it as a teaching school for beginners. The idea of the teachers is that they should be more fully represented at the head of affairs, but the crux of the whole thing is that the Conservatorium should not be the teaching, concert-giving institution it is."

Advertiser 9<sup>th</sup> July

Three free scholarships are advertised for competition at the Conservatorium.

Advertiser 9<sup>th</sup> July

We are requested to call attention to the fact that theses for the David Syme Research Prize must be forwarded to the Registrar of the Melbourne University by March 1. The prize is of the value of £100, and is awarded annually for the best thesis, based upon original work, in either biology, chemistry, geology, or natural philosophy, preference being given to original research connected with the material and industrial development of Australia. Any person, whether a member of a University or not, who has been resident in Australia for five out of the preceding seven years may compete.

Advertiser 9<sup>th</sup> July

Mr. Darnley Naylor, who is to succeed Mr. Bensly as Professor of Classics at Adelaide University, is a passenger by the German steamer Bremen, which will arrive in Adelaide at 9 a.m. to-morrow. Mr. Naylor will go on to Melbourne before beginning his duties in Adelaide. He is, like Professor Bragg, a graduate of Trinity College, Cambridge.

Mr. H. Darnley-Naylor, M.A., who has been appointed Professor of Classics in the University of Adelaide in succession to Mr. Bensly, was a passenger from Europe by the G.M.S. Bremen on Saturday. The appointment was made last year, but Mr. Naylor received leave of absence to enable him to take a short trip to England. He was formerly vice-master of Ormond College, Melbourne University. He proceeded in the Bremen to Victoria, and will return to Adelaide shortly to take up his duties.

Register 11<sup>th</sup> July 07.

### CONSERVATORIUM SCHOLARSHIPS.

Attention is directed to an advertisement appearing in another column, in which three free scholarships, tenable at the Elder Conservatorium, are offered for competition. Full particulars will be supplied on application to the Registrar of the University.

Advertiser 11<sup>th</sup> July 07

Mr. Darnley Naylor, M.A., who is to succeed Mr. Bensly as professor of classics at the Adelaide University, is returning to Melbourne after an absence of four months spent in a visit to the United Kingdom and Europe, by the steamer Bremen, which arrived at the Semaphore anchorage on Saturday morning.

Register 12<sup>th</sup> July 07

### THE CONSERVATORIUM AND MUSIC TEACHERS.

A largely attended meeting of the Music Teachers' Association was held on Saturday evening in the Victoria Hall. Mr. C. J. Stevens presided. Mr. E. E. Mitchell, the Chairman of the previous meeting, gave an account of the proceedings on that occasion, and restated the whole position from the music teachers' point of view. He said that the late Sir T. Elder's intentions must have differed greatly from the outcome of his generosity. Surely he meant to provide higher facilities for musical students than were otherwise possible; but, instead of this, private teachers had to suffer an endowed competition in even elementary subjects, which was a manifest injustice to many who with difficulty obtained a livelihood. They were obliged to stand or fall according to their earning capacities, but not so the Conservatorium. It was an obvious misapplication of a noble bequest. It had been said that the Conservatorium had turned out a number of gifted students. It had; but most of its more talented students would have come to the front just as surely if it had never been built; in fact, the majority of them had been well grounded and soundly taught before they went there. The staff of the Conservatorium had not created talent; they had only educated it, and many outside teachers were quite as busy and quite as competent at the same kind of delightful work, and would have probably achieved results equally satisfactory. And then, in spite of the Elder endowment, the Conservatorium did not pay its way. Nearly the whole of the bequest had been sunk in an expensive building and organ, and there was, year by year, a heavy deficit to be paid out of the University's general funds, with the result that the students of science and arts lost some advantages that were rightly theirs. In fact, a noble gift of a princely benefactor had, by misapplication, resulted chiefly in a petty competition with elementary teachers, to the deprivation of students in other branches of learning. Truly an achievement of which its organizers might well be proud.