A DISTINGUISHED MUSICIAN.

MR. GERALD WALEN in Adelaide.

Adelaide has gained an enthusiasm in music in Mr. Gerald Harnom Waleen, and students of the violin in particular should benefit greatly by the association of this cultured artist with the work of the Elder Conservatorium. Mr. Waleen, who recently severed his appointment as teacher of the violin at the Conservatorium, arrived by the express from Melbourne on Tuesday. He was accompanied by Mrs. Waleen. A long journey from London in which the voyage was begun on April 5 was thus necessitated.

A conversation on the subject of his art revealed Mr. Waleen as a great lover of music, and one who is earnest in the desire to impart his knowledge to those who are willing to work hard in the development of any talent they may possess. He is one of the most musical families. He was born in London in 1871, a son of the late Mr. W. S. Waleen, a scientist, who interested himself in electrical engineering, and who was for many years engaged. At an early age Mr. Waleen became interested in music, but did not adopt the art professionally until he was 18 years old. Mr. H. Waleen—a brother of the musician—made the famous Waleen family. By his fine performances of Gilbert and Sullivan comedy roles, the famous Savoy operas, under the direction of Mr. G. B. Shaw, and in the famous Waleen family, Mr. H. Waleen is a distinguished member of the staff of the Royal Academy of Music. His playing of the violin is masterly, and his work on the violoncello is well known. Two other brothers, Mr. and Mrs. Waleen, are now in the Paganini Corps, and the other is a member of the St. John's Wood Arts School.

The thought of Mr. Waleen, when he first arrived, was, 'I had a practical quartet was formed in the family, and much attention was devoted to the perfect performance of chamber music. When eight years old, Mr. Waleen took up the violin, and studied under Miss Kate Oachs. Four years later he met Mr. John Waleen of Turin, and under his instruction Mr. Waleen became one of the highest violinists. Mr. Rushton helped many young artists to come in contact with musical education, and Mr. Waleen became one of his protégés. 'I am extremely grateful to the gentleman,' the musician remarked to an interviewer, 'for giving me the opportunity to study music. Mr. Waleen became the leader of the Waleen Quartet, a famous violinist who led a fine concert at Covent Garden for many years. Upon the death of his distinguished master, Mr. Waleen studied under M. Emil V. Bayard, and during periods of this teacher in Paris and London, where he made a great reputation. From 1889, the violinist has done much teaching in a precise manner. In London, Mr. Waleen has gained fame as a concert platform. He made his first appearance at the Moskow Ballade on a three-stringed violin, at the Sign St. James Hall, and was to appear before Queen Victoria.'
DROWNING ECHOES

PROFESSOR COMPLAINS ABOUT OUR PUBLIC HALLS

AN EXPERIMENT WITH WHEAT BAGS.

Much concern has been caused to archi-
tects by the faulty acoustics of our concert 
halls, opera-houses, and church-salons. The 
importance of the question is not to be 
underestimated, for the value of a concert 
hall to performers and audience alike, is 
dependent on the nature of the acoustics. 

Professor Kerr Grant has made a special 
study of this subject, and in an interview 
with a "Mail" reporter pointed out the 
need for better treatment of public halls, 
whitening the condition that results from 
these re-echoes.

"The properties of the Elder Hall," said 
the professor, "are very bad. I have never 
seen anything to equal it in the whole 
field of public halls. It is a matter of 
concern to all who value the art of music. 

"The Elder Hall, for instance, is a case 
in point. It has a wonderful acoustical 
structure, but the acoustics are quite 
the opposite. It is a matter of great 
disappointment to all who value the art 
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ORIENTAL LANGUAGES.

An indirect result of the war, which has already become apparent, is the increasing study of oriental languages. Generally speaking the Australian has inherited the proverbial British indifference to any tongue except his own, but he is now beginning to realize that the German and the Japanese could open up a niche for themselves in commerce and diplomacy, and it may be that the present war will stimulate this trend. There was no real necessity for the German to learn English, but the Japanese are making a concerted effort to do so that they may be enabled to understand European civilization. And the Germans are making a similar effort to learn Japanese, and it is to be hoped that when the war is over they will be able to appreciate the true nature of the Japanese language and culture.

It is understood that the University of Sydney proposes to establish a new lectureship in the two last mentioned languages, and what, perhaps, is most significant of all, is that there is evidence of a serious political interest in the question of oriental languages, particularly the Japanese. The plan is that the Royal Military College, Duntroon, which has been so fortunate in the recent appointments of some of its fellows in oriental languages, Professor Murdoch will fill the chair, while the University is believed to be considering a scheme which will enable students to include Japanese and Chinese in their course. Of course, such an arrangement is essential. It is not suggested that these studies can or should form any part of a school curriculum, but the proposal is that they should be conducted in a special school that will provide the necessary facilities, and it is possible to find a teacher. But with oriental languages the case is different. How many eager aspirants seek in vain for a teacher who can understand their peculiarities, and there is no one qualified to give it. It has been authoritatively stated that in the whole of Australia there are not a dozen teachers who have a knowledge of Japanese scripts and forms. But the estimate is not exaggerated, it shows the facilities for learning the language for practical purposes non-existent. We have a paradoxical situation. Japan and Australia are the two nations whose interests are most immediately connected by the Pacific. They are bound by an ocean, and by sections which will increase in the future.
and while the individual Japanese is careful to secure for himself the advantages in personal and social intercourse that a knowledge of English gives, the Australian neither speaks Japanese nor has the opportunity to receive any practical benefit from it.

The benefits to be derived from a language may be classified, broadly, as cultural and utilitarian. In Italian and Spanish both of these elements are present in the literature awaiting translation. In the case of the former, material inducement, the prospects of trade, which, especially in the case of South America, is capable of enormous development, lends its support to the claim of the cultural aspect of the language; the latter aspect is perhaps even more abroad than in Italy. Those who know declare that their tastes will never become "popular" in the ordinary sense, that is to say, will never appeal to the intelligent man in the street. What is more, there is in the spirit of the two languages the cultural aspect of the language as a whole, and in the same way that Occidental literature has appeal, the conventions of literary art are so different that the Oriental classicism strikes the average person as curiously exotic, and thus forms an easy, progressive, yet at the same time a refined, style of the savant. But after all, the cultural benefit of a language does not depend simply on the capacity to enjoy its literature; that would be to construe the term too narrowly. Anything that promotes sympathy and understanding is an aspect of culture. If a traveler, even the commonest of us, can be at once in a position to form a more truthful idea of that country than one who surveys it as a virtual deaf-mute, and apart from the general comments that he acquires, the practical value of a knowledge of the language is so vital to Australians that it is extraordinary that we have had to wait so long for any direct recognition of this fact. When Mr. Currie Ellis, the syndic of Sydney, in the course of a speech delivered to the University of Adelaide, spoke of the importance of systematic commercial education, including foreign languages, and laid particular emphasis on the importance of the social factor, he prophesied, would bring us into the closest trade relations with Japan. Soon, perhaps, before then, his words have been justified by the fact that the European markets have been closed to us by the allures of the Allies. Many of our former customers have turned their hands too full for trade with Australia, and Japan has filled the breach.