

Req. 15-6-20.

Req. 19-6-20.

MR. SILVER, PIANIST.

RECITAL AT CONSERVATORIUM.

Mr. William Silver, whose relatively recent addition to the teaching staff of the Elder Conservatorium was such an excellent thing for that institution, and for music generally in South Australia, is a pianist who is none the less appreciated because so seldom heard on the concert platform. He is not prodigal of recitals; indeed, his teaching must occupy such a great deal of his time that it is a testimony to his artistic enthusiasm that he is able to keep up his own practice to such a remarkable degree that whenever he does play in public one may confidently expect a finished and brilliant performance. In this expectation a crowded audience assembled at the Elder Hall on Monday night to hear Mr. Silver's recital, the sixth concert of the admirable and educative series arranged in connection with the Conservatorium for the 1920 season. That the audience was not disappointed almost goes without saying; in fact, Mr. Silver has probably never played better. The audience was not only large, but enthusiastic to an unreasonable degree, and demanded encores with never a thought for the over-worked recitalist, which is the way of audiences all over the world, and few concert artists, probably, would have it otherwise.

The most notable item on an excellently arranged, representative, and well-contrasted programme was Saint-Saens's magnificent concerto in C minor. In this number Mr. Silver was associated with Miss Maude Puddy, Muc. Bac., who played the orchestral part on a second piano. There was perfect understanding between the two performers, and both played faultlessly. Mr. Silver achieved a triumph, which was contributed to not a little by Miss Puddy's sympathetic treatment of the second part, always subordinated to the requirements of the soloist, but affording splendid support. The two pianos were as one instrument. The second movement especially was superb, and Mr. Silver's splendid singing tone in the grand melody was beyond praise. The number ended in a storm of applause. Mr. Silver opened the recital with Mendelssohn's Prelude and Fugue in E minor. This was both brilliant and scholarly, and the treatment of the choral at the conclusion of the fugue was particularly fine. There followed Schubert's Sonata in A major, abounding in those brilliant finger passages for which Mr. Silver is famed. The tuneful nature of the writing took the audience by storm, and an encore was imperatively demanded. The pianist therefore added the "Moment musical," a melody with which Miss Daisy Kennedy recently made Adelaide audiences more than ever familiar. A Chopin group came next—first the wild, sad notes and despairing crescendo of the Nocturne in C sharp minor; then the quiet joy of the prelude in A flat, developing into a note of triumph; and finally the Scherzo in B minor. This last was positively the most exacting number on a programme which severely taxed the recitalist, but he rose superior to its difficulties and interpreted its contrasting moods in a thoroughly masterly fashion. Again there was an outburst of enthusiasm on the part of the audience, and Mr. Silver lulled the storm by adding Chopin's familiar "Prelude in C minor." The concluding bracket was made up of Rachmaninoff's fine "Prelude in G flat major," and Palmgren's folk song "The sea," a wonderfully descriptive composition admirably presented. The audience was still unsatisfied, but the Director of the Conservatorium (Professor Harold Davies) conveyed to the crowded hall a very broad hint: when he escorted Mr. Silver from the platform, and presented him to His Excellency the Governor (Sir Archibald Weigall) before the departure of the viceregal party to the strains of the National Anthem, played on the grand organ by Mr. Harold Parsons, Mus. Bac.

Ad. 22-6-20.

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY.

TEN VACANT CHAIRS.
Sydney, June 21.
No fewer than ten professional chairs have to be filled at the Sydney University. Six are new chairs to be created by means of money left the institution by the late Sir Samuel McCaughey. The subjects concerned are English literature, English and French languages, surgery, electrical engineering, and dentistry. Another new chair, viz., international law, has also been decided upon. The remaining chairs are anatomy, physiology, and Latin, all of which are vacant owing to the deaths of the former holders.

A correspondent writes:—I have received a copy of The Scotsman from Edinburgh, I forward an extract which might interest old South Australian friends of the professor:—"The following commission has been signed by the Lord-Lieutenant of the City and County of the City of Edinburgh:—Professor Thomas Hudson Beare, B.A., B.Sc., of No. 10, Regent terrace, Edinburgh, to be a Deputy-Lieutenant of the City and County of the City of Edinburgh, and liberties thereof." The professor received his early education at Prince Alfred College and the University of Adelaide. Since 1901 he has been Regius Professor of Engineering at the Edinburgh University, and Dean of the Faculty of Science since 1914. Professor Beare was born in South Australia on June 30, 1859, and is the youngest son of the late Mr. T. H. Beare, a pioneer of the State. The professor won the South Australian scholarship in 1880, and went to University College, London. He was appointed a Professor of Engineering in Heriot Watt College, in 1887, and was a professor in University College, London, from 1889 until 1901. Professor Beare's father came to South Australia in 1836 in the Duke of York, the first ship to disembark passengers in the province.

Adv. 26-6-20

A MODEST REQUEST.

It is not unusual for singular communications to be received by public institutions, but the following, addressed to the Adelaide University, will take a lot of beating:—"I beg of you to send me your complete catalogue of your libraries and publications and the guides or calendars, magazines, reviews, reports, diaries of the University. Kindly invite the attention of or circulate this letter among the Australian and Tasmanian and New Zealand Universities—Adelaide, Sydney, Brisbane, Perth, Melbourne, Victoria, Hobart, Wellington, &c. Please name all the Bibliographical publishers and invite their attention to write direct to me and send me their catalogue, who are the catalogue and directory publishers of all the three islands? Please name all the directors of libraries, academies, societies, clubs, unions, congresses, associations, museums, booksellers, publishers, periodicals, institutes, educational, and newsgroups of all countries of the world. Who is qualified to give me all the above information, please? Name all the largest booksellers, publishers, libraries, academies, societies, and also please circulate this letter among them for attention. What book will furnish me with information of everything of every country of the three islands of Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, and of all the other islands close to Australia? Please send me all the old directories, catalogues, reviews, and various publications for distribution among my colleges."

Adv. 26-6-20

A VISITOR FROM CANADA.

PROFESSOR BICKERSTETH INTERVIEWED.

EDUCATION IN THE DOMINION.

Professor J. B. Bickersteth, who is spending his vacation with his brother, the headmaster of St. Peter's College, on Friday submitted to an interview, though it seemed at first distasteful to him. He is Professor of Modern Languages at the University of Alberta, Canada, and his objection to publicity broke down when the question of education was broached. He had been in Adelaide only a couple of days, and in Australia not much longer than that, and he made it clear that anything he would say about this country would be simply based on first impressions. Professor Bickersteth seems a very young man to hold a professorship in a big university, but the more one speaks with him the more one recognises that he has learned a good deal from practical experience as well as in his academic studies. He served in the British Army throughout the war, joining up with the 1st Royal Dragoons in August, 1914, and continuing until the end of the war. He was a commissioned officer and won the Military Cross and bar, but of his war work or his decorations he could not be persuaded to speak. He has great faith in the cavalry arm and has written a book, entitled "The History of the 6th Cavalry Brigade," which sets out his belief that cavalry has by no means outlived its usefulness with warfare. A foreword to the book was written by Lord Haig. Professor Bickersteth has achieved great success as an author. This is shown by the fact that his Canadian book, "The Land of Open Doors," is now in its fourth edition. It is an account of that part of Western Canada traversed by the Grand Trunk Pacific and Canadian Northern Railways.

Professor Bickersteth is full of enthusiasm about education. The University of Alberta is only 19 years old, but it has grown wonderfully. The great thing about university life in Canada, and particularly in the west, is that practically every student pays for his own education, earning the money during the vacation to pay for his studies during the rest of the year. For this reason the universities have only two terms instead of three. These extend over about seven months, and during the remainder of the time the students go away to various kinds of employment, some as teachers in the country schools. For this reason most of the country schools are open only during the vacation of the universities. Other students go out prospecting and surveying, and during the present vacation, which has given Professor Bickersteth an opportunity to visit Australia, a large number are prospecting for oil in the Peace River district, about 400 miles north-west of Edmonton, the university city of Alberta. The students as a rule earn about £100 during the vacation, and it costs them roughly £80 for their university fees and board during the two terms.

"It is a very fine trait," commented the professor. "Even the sons of the rich do the same thing, and in that way gain a spirit of independence, which is an excellent thing."

The University of Alberta had 400 students when the war broke out, and after 1916 there were very few of the male students and staff who had not enlisted. At the beginning of the first term in September, 1919, the students totalled 1,300.

The visitor spoke about the great expansion and success of the Canadian Government's shipping fleet. When questioned about the attitude of the United States towards the Peace Treaty, he was disinclined to touch on such a delicate matter, but it was apparent that the people of Canada do not now look upon the United States with the same cordiality as they did before the war.

"Is the University of Adelaide a residential institution?" the professor asked.

The reporter replied in the negative, and Professor Bickersteth remarked that it was a great thing to have the students in residence. Alberta was as big as France, but had a population only about half as numerous as that of South Australia, but between 400 and 500 students had rooms at the University of Alberta. "We are spending 750,000 dollars this summer in putting up a medical school," he went on. "Mr. Rockefeller recently donated about five million dollars to Canada for medical research, and all the universities will get some of that." The University of Alberta is State controlled and financed. "We are in the hands of the politicians," said the professor, "but they understand the value of education and are generous and very good." Speaking of conditions generally in Canada he said the country had recently emerged from an unusual experience, as there had been a severe drought followed by a long winter. Living there was very much dearer than in Australia, judging by his experiences so far. One thing that had struck him about Adelaide was the splendid St. Peter's College.

"We have no schools like that," he said frankly, "at all events, in the enormous area of the West. In the East there is the famous Upper Canada College, at Toronto, which seems very much like St. Peter's College." There was a tremendous dearth of teachers in Canada, and the United States, he added, and the people were coming to recognise the importance of the teaching profession. Big private universities, like Harvard and Yale, had had tremendous "drives" for money and now paid their full professors £2,000 a year. The average salary for a professor in Canada was £1,000.

Speaking of labor conditions, he said there was great bitterness as a result of the Winnipeg strike. The trade unions were not Canadian, but international, nearly all of them being controlled from the United States. Labor was well organized, but had only one representative in the provincial Legislature in Alberta and, he thought, only one in the Federal House at Ottawa. Labor was now preparing for a big effort to secure more Parliamentary representation.

Professor Bickersteth's last remark was an appeal for a closer relationship between Australia and Canada. "I fear," he said, "that the Australians do not know a great deal about Canada, and the ignorance over there about the Commonwealth is abysmal. We are comparatively close, but our people look upon going to Australia or New Zealand as a journey to the other end of the earth."

to do great things in the future. Embassies would be sent to various countries, and they hoped soon to link up more securely with India.

Herald 14-6-20

DEGREES FOR WOMEN

EQUALITY OF SEXES.

"The advocates of equality of the sexes at the older Universities have gained a signal victory by the rejection of two amendments aiming at restricting the customary privileges accompanying the Oxford degree if its recipient should be a woman," says the "Woman's Leader." "The amendments were rejected by large majorities in congregation, and there is every reason to count on the admission of women as full members of the University within the year."

"The victory at Oxford should have the happiest influence upon the decision now pending at Cambridge, where women have been for half a century, on sufferance, admitted like their Oxford sisters, to examinations, but denied any visible sign of the success they have so brilliantly earned. The matter is not yet finally settled, but two out of the three stages have been accomplished. The preamble of the statute admitting women to degrees at Oxford having been passed on February 17 without a division, Congregation proceeded on March 10 to determine limitations, if any, of the privileges usually accompanying a degree which might be appropriate in the case of women so admitted. Two amendments were proposed to the statute itself.

"The object of the first was to disqualify women graduates from membership of University delegacies and of certain other University bodies. This indicated a very reactionary attitude, for it has hitherto been required by statute that women should be members of the Delegation for Women Students and the Delegation for the Training of Teachers, and one of the University Committee for Fine Arts is a woman. The second amendment proposed to omit the provision that women shall be qualified on the same conditions as men to be appointed as public examiners, moderators, and masters of the schools, and as examiners in any other examinations conducted by, or on behalf of, the University. No amendment was before Congregation with the object of excluding women from membership of Convocation.

"If the statute just passed by Congregation is approved next term by Convocation it is proposed to promulgate three further statutes dealing with the eligibility of women for membership of the Hebdomadal Council, of Congregation, of Faculties, and Boards of Studies. These later statutes would all have to be subject to the approval of his Majesty in Council. These high matters are for the future; in the meantime, the undergraduates of both Oxford and Cambridge have returned from the war quite prepared to accept women students on equal terms.

The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh has resolved to admit women as Fellows under the same conditions as men. Women have been eligible for the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons (London) since 1910, and three medical women can now write F.R.C.S. after their names. The idea that women are physically unequal to the demands of operative surgery is quite untenable after the experience of their work in the war."

Req. 15-6-20

WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL LECTURES.

From "CHRISTIANUS":—On Wednesday evening I attended an instructive lecture in connection with the W.E.A. Archeological Study Circle. With regret however, I listened to Mr. Cromer make various statements which marred his otherwise enjoyable effort. In referring to the wisdom and writings of a certain learned ancient Egyptian, he said that many of the wise sayings and proverbs of Solomon were a direct crib from the wisdom of this ancient Egyptian. No one will deprecate a study of ancient wisdom and comparative religion; but, to those who feel they can accept the Scriptures from a Christian standpoint and as an inspired work, such assertions appear to be often the effusions of students whose incomplete study and too enthusiastic theorizing have outrun the serious thought and study such subjects demand.