

# THE CREAM OF ENGLISH.

## An All-Round Anthology.

By J. Penn.

"English Verse and Prose," an anthology edited by Professor Archibald T. Strong, M.A.D., Litt., and Professor R. S. Wallace, M.A. (Oxford University Press).

Daring is the man who essays to give the cream of English poetry in one small volume. What then shall be thought of those who include prose, as well, in their scheme? The work has here been done marvellously well in 400 pages of moderate size, with reasonable type. The whole thing is here, from "Summer is icumen in" to the work of Julian Grenfell and Rupert Brooke. It is a compliment to the History of Literature by the same authors, and has the same rather arbitrary limitations. For instance, no living writer is represented. Thus one has to be content to hear nothing of Hardy or Kipling, Chesterton or Newbolt. There is no drama. The work of America and the Dominions is not drawn upon. Copyright has curtailed the extracts from some of the great Victorians, and the editors hold that "the novel is a form which cannot be satisfactorily illustrated except by long excerpts." On the other hand, they do not hold that a long poem is mutilated by having extracts taken from it; thus they are not restricted, like other anthologists, to mere lyrics, and Pope, Dryden, Crabbe, and the other long-winded ones get fair representation at last. The same applies, in prose, to Carlyle and Landor. Dickens and Thackeray are seen—evidently for the reason above noted—in mere bits of description of scenery, Meredith appearing as poet and essayist only. One of the charms of any anthology is its reflection of the personal opinions of the compilers. Every intelligent reader can admire the unexpected, and cogitate over the absent. Here is Tennyson well represented, without anything from Idylls. There is nothing to show that Hood ever wrote a comic poem, or that Macaulay was a balladist. Swinburne has justice done to him, but in the less obvious directions. This is comment, not fault-finding. The two items not here that one really misses are the respective swan songs of Tennyson and Browning. In the dawn of the language, the editors have revelled in not only the classic writers (with old-fashioned spelling complete), but also such as Oecheve, Henryson, Latimer, and the ballads whose authorship cannot be traced. One may wonder why Greene and Campion have more space than Marlowe, and why Sir Philip Sidney has three times as much, yet there is nothing here that one would wish away. In prose, the Bible is drawn upon, from the song of Miriam to the raptures of St. John. One gets two glimpses of the Fire of London, from Pepys and Evelyn, and a more imaginative one of the plague, from Defoe. Burton and Walton, and Browne are here, so are Lamb and Hazlitt, Carlyle and Landor (as a detail, one could have spared some of Landor's echoes from the Greek, and taken instead a touch of the absent Andrew Lang). The printers have done their work well, though one cannot help wondering why the sonnets of Shakespeare and Wordsworth are set solid, those of Milton and Keats being displayed in the usual and proper way. A similarly tired typing may be noted in Spenser, though not in Wyatt and Surrey close by. But these are trifles. The marvel is that so large a task should have been done by the editors in so effectual a manner. Here is the whole cream of English literature in a volume that any reasonable pocket will contain. The book is a sheer delight. Every one will be proud that such a triumph stands to the credit of Australians.

Professor W. G. Duffield has been appointed director of the Commonwealth Solar Observatory to be established on Mount Strombo, near Canberra. Dr. Duffield, who is at present Professor of Physics at the University College, Reading, England, holds degrees from the Universities of Adelaide, Cambridge, and Manchester. He is an Australian by birth, was a captain in the war, and is highly recommended by leading British authorities. He was recently in Adelaide.

### ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY.

A meeting of the Adelaide University Law Students' Society was held at the University on Tuesday evening. Mr. E. J. C. Hogan adjudicated on the following question:—"A is a land agent, having full authority to sell land, and bind his principal). Y. Q signs a document in writing to purchase this land. The document, which is printed, contains a clause 'subject to confirmation by owner.' Q is not notified that the owner has confirmed the sale. Three days after signing the document, he refuses to complete, alleging no reason. Y sues Q for specific performance." Counsel were:—For Y—Mr. J. C. McCarthy, with Mr. D. Boucaut. For Q—Mr. Bednall, with him Mr. K. C. Duffield. Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Boucaut (for Y), cited Thompson v. Davenport, on the question of the agent's authority. It was claimed that as Q had a right to specific performance against Y, so, also, Y had a contra right against Q. He asked for payment of the sum agreed upon. Mr. Duffield (for Q)—There is no binding contract. Q has merely made an offer, which he revokes before Y accepts. Mr. Bednall dealt with the cases cited by the plaintiff's counsel. He argued that Q could have no claim for specific performance, so, conversely, Y had none. The following members also spoke:—Messrs. C. C. Crump, J. R. McCabe, and G. Harry. Counsel then replied. Mr. Hogan, in delivering judgment, referred to the praiseworthy quality of the argument submitted. He found that in this case A, the agent, and Q must have conducted negotiations. Q had signed a document offering to purchase, under certain conditions. He was not notified of the acceptance of the conditions before he withdrew. Mr. Hogan referred to the case of Dyas v. Stafford. He held, finally, that there was no acceptance before Q withdrew, and that the plaintiff's claim failed. Judgment was given for Q, with costs.



PROFESSOR COLEMAN PHILLIPSON, who in a lecture this week attacked the rigors of criminal law.

### CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION.

Interest in educational circles is at present centred upon the conference on "New ideals in education." The conference is under the presidency of Professor Darnley Naylor, and prominent Australian educationists are taking part. Papers will be read on "The teaching of modern languages," by Miss Gillham, of Woodlands, Glenelg; "The instincts and the school" and "Educational freedom in practice," by Mr. Felix Barton, of Turramurra, Sydney; "The problem of the impossible boy," by Mr. Lawton, of East Kew, Melbourne; "The Dalton plan," by Miss Berry, of St. Peter's Collegiate Girls' School; "The teaching of English," by Mr. Allen, of the Adelaide High School; and "On new methods of teaching musical appreciation," by Professor Davies. The conference will open at 4 p.m. on Thursday, September 13, at the University, Conservatorium of Music.

### 'ST. PAUL.'

#### FINE INTERPRETATION AT CONSERVATORIUM.

The presentation of "St. Paul" at the Elder Hall, Adelaide, on Monday evening under the conductorship of Mr. Frederick Bevan, by the University Choral Class and a full orchestra, was a notable event in the history of the Conservatorium. There was a large audience. Lady Bridges was present, accompanied by Miss Judge. Sir George Murray (Chancellor of the University), Professor Mitchell, and Professor E. Harold Davies, Mus. Doc. (Director of the Conservatorium) and many more of the faculty of the University were also present. Mendelssohn's great oratorio, which he conducted at the Birmingham Musical Festival, soon after his marriage—so soon, indeed, that he complained that it shortened his honeymoon—is a work that calls for a very high standard



MR. FREDERICK BEVAN.

of performance, so tremendous are the dramatic possibilities of the story, and so finely descriptive the music in which the composer embodied them. The theme is inspiring, the contrast between the opening part wherein Saul is among the persecutors of Stephen, and the second when he dares the same fate—stoning, for daring to decry the religion of the people—afforded the composer magnificent scope, and the study of such a work under so competent a conductor as Mr. Frederick Bevan must be of great value to the students. The Choral Class was accompanied by a full orchestra, led by Miss Sylvia Whittington.

The overture, which finely presages the stress and emotion of what is to come, was rendered in a way that brought out its impressive qualities. There was clean, crisp attack in the opening chorus of Christians in Jerusalem, who pray for power to resist the heathen. So also was there in the choral, "To God on high be thanks and praise." The soprano recitative, "And the many that believed," was sung by Miss Sylvia Thomas, A.M.U.A., who possesses a high, sweet voice. Mr. Arnold Matters and Mr. Ewart Lock (basses) followed with the cry of the false witnesses, "We verily have heard him blaspheme against these holy places." The clamour of the chorus of the people—intensely descriptive—was well interpreted. Mr. Walter Wood's voice was heard to advantage in the tenor part, his enunciation being specially noticeable in Stephen's address, "Men, brethren, and fathers, listen to me." Miss Jean Sinclair took the contralto, and was specially good in the arioso, "But the Lord is mindful of His own." Mr. Sydney Coombe found his opportunity in the aria, "I praise Thee, O Lord my God." Among the choruses, "Rise up" was a magnificent climax, as was the closing chorus of the first part. The soloists in the second part were Miss Eileen Hancock (soprano), Mr. John Ardill (tenor), and Mr. Sydney Coombe (bass). It is impossible to go into detail in so great a composition, but outstanding numbers were the chorus of the multitude, "This is He," Paul's recitative (bass), "O, wherefore do ye these things?" the aria, "For know ye not ye are His temple?" the soprano recitative, "Then the multitude," and the chorus of Jews and Gentiles, "This is Jehova's temple."

Mr. Bevan very rightly did his utmost to prevent applause during the performance of the oratorio, but some of the audience who did not understand could not refrain from marking their appreciation of special numbers. At the close the full tide of enthusiasm found vent. Altogether Mr. Bevan and the class are to be congratulated on their achievement. Mr. Harold Wyde acted as organist, and the king of instruments was made to tell impressively when the greatest volume of sound was required, deepening and enriching the effect of the orchestra and voices.

### WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

#### Lecture by Professor Kerr Grant.

Nearly 100 young men who are taking the wireless telegraphy course at the Adelaide University attended the first of a series of lectures by Professor Kerr Grant on Monday evening.

He said he was pleased to see that the response was beyond what the authorities had expected. There was a difficulty, however, as the demonstration room would accommodate only about 30, and the practical part of the work would have to be gone over two or three times. The lecture would be more in the nature of an introduction in the principles of wireless rather than on the practical side of it.

**Much to Learn.**  
Science and art were combined in wireless. On the principle of practice and understanding a combination of the two made the best practitioner. There has been a most extraordinary outpouring of books dealing with wireless telegraphy. It was hard for an author to make his book up to date, for, while he was writing it, some new discoveries were bound to be made. He (the lecturer) feared that most of the books which they required would have to be obtained from England. Once they were acquainted with the electrical theory there was a great deal to learn from even the most elementary books of the subject. Mechanical analogy was exceedingly helpful in working out problems of electrical currents. Each wireless installation had its receiving and transmitting stations. An electric circuit might be compared to a continuous pipe in which water was flowing. If that pipe were fitted with a centrifugal pump the same quantity of water would pass every section. Just as the water must flow through the centrifugal pump the current had to flow through the battery. As the current of water depended on the driving force and the frictional resistance of the pipe, so did the current depend on the battery for its electro-motive force, and the frictional resistance in this case was supplied by the wire.

**Force and Resistance.**  
Current could be measured by the quotient of the force and resistance which represented Ohm's law. Electro-motive force was measured in volts, current in amperes, and resistance in ohms. For measuring the first, volt-meters and ammeters were in use. An ammeter, which must be connected in the circuit, must have a low resistance, while a volt-meter which was placed across the generator had a high internal resistance. Everyone engaged in wireless must be able to measure his currents. Voltmeters were absolutely necessary. The same instrument, however, could be used for measuring volts and amperes if a little ingenuity were displayed. The milli-voltmeter was the best for the purpose. In using a valve in wireless the internal resistance was sometimes very high indeed. He explained how a shunt could be made. Currents could easily be altered by means of a shunt, which could be made with a little eureka wire. The Professor then dealt with combinations of resistances, showing the difference between those when the coils were placed end to end and when they were parallel. In alternating currents, he said, it was best to deal merely with conductances. Electric current was conducted to an ordinary lamp by means of a thick copper wire, and very little energy was lost until the junction was reached, with its fine wires. The