

But God has a few of us whom He whispers in the ear; The rest may reason and welcome: 'tis we musicians know.

To summarize Prof. Pigou's view of the functions of poetry in relation to philosophy: they are ornamental and consolatory. "The philosopher seats truth upon her throne: the poet crowns her with beauty." (So that, if philosophy offers us a skull as the end-all of life, poetry may deck it with a garland!)

The professor sums up in the case Poetry v. Philosophy, in a passage singular felicity:—

In the court of truth, before judgment is pronounced, the spirit of poetry stands in a subordinate place. But, when judgment is pronounced, when what we have most desired is finally denied to us, and the hopes we have cherished have become fallen leaves, then she moves forward. She carries in her hand sympathy and understanding, and she shows us, in things evil, a soul, not indeed of goodness, but at least of beauty.

Whether the poet will be content with the offices thus assigned to him is another matter. Poets, as already indicated, are obstinate and impracticable fellows. They may even, when accused of being visionaries, carry the war into the professorial camp, as Wordsworth does in "The Excursion"—

Why should not grave Philosophy be styled, herself, a dreamer of a kindred stock, A dreamer yet more spiritless and dull?

They may, indeed, occasionally call in a professor to witness to their claims. In his recent lecture on Personality at the Adelaide University, Prof. J. McKellar Stewart pointed out that where science examined Nature by processes of external observation, the poet saw Nature from within, fusing his spirit with hers, and interpreting her beauty and truth to the world. "To get the full truth of Nature the external standpoint of science needed to be supplemented by the internal experience of the poet." That, probably, is the heart of the matter. The conflict between poetry and philosophy, when properly viewed, is no conflict at all. They are necessary one to the other. Each perceives a part of the truth; each may record experience from different angles. The field is large, and there is room in it for all workers, whether they bring to the task of interpreting the universe the coldly analytical methods of the philosopher or the white-hot vision of the poet.

Register 2 AUG 1924

ALLEVIATION OF HUMAN SUFFERING.

"It is gratifying to know," writes Sir George Knibbs (Director of the Institute of Science and Industry), "that as the result of a recent bequest the University of Cambridge will be able to uphold its reputation as a centre for chemical research. This has been made possible by the decision of the trustees of the will of Sir William Dunn, a city merchant, who died in 1908, to devote to biochemistry the residue of the estate which was left, with instructions that it was to be used for the 'alleviation of human suffering.' A sum of £210,000 was allocated for this purpose. The university has just taken charge of a new three-story building, costing £96,000, and designed for biochemical research work. There is a large general laboratory and 20 separate rooms fully equipped on most modern lines for research work. There is a large library, for the endowment of which Sir J. Colman, Chairman of the trustees, presented £2,000. At present there are 36 people engaged on research, including six professors of the university, 11 women, three Australians, a Canadian, and a New Zealander. The work in progress covers biochemical research on animal and plant life—oxidation processes, bacterial metabolism, utilization of carbohydrates, and the formation of sulphur compounds in the animal body. Some hitherto neglected aspects of the vitamin question are being dealt with, and a start is being made on cancer research.

Advt. 2 AUG 1924

THE SCIENCE CONGRESS.

The title of the inaugural address by the incoming president, Lieutenant-General Sir John Monash, at the Adelaide Science Congress on August 25, will be "Power Development." An address on this all-important subject, by such an acknowledged authority in the engineering world as Sir John Monash, will be awaited eagerly by the scientists of Australia and New Zealand.

TROPICAL AGRICULTURE.

The forcible appeal which Viscount Milner recently made for the equipment of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture needs no emphasis out of which comes inevitable from a consideration of the fabric of modern life. Every household in England (says the London Telegraph) is dependent upon tropical products for the maintenance of its existing standard of health and comfort. Its diet, its clothes, the humblest conveniences of existence, derive essential elements from the tropical zone. Many great industries could not have been established and cannot now be maintained without an ample supply of raw materials, which can only be produced under a tropical sun. It may suffice for illustration to mention only cotton, vegetable oils, rubber. There is no possibility of the prosperity of British industry unless such substances can be provided in ample quantities. The great manufacturing countries of the temperate zone continually demand more and more. Already, and with reason, Lancashire has become anxious about the supply of cotton. If the British islands are to support an increasing population on the standard of life which has been attained, they must be assured of increasing supplies of tropical products. England is fortunate in possessing within the Empire large tracts of fertile country in the zone of the Tropics. With full development of these great natural resources the future is not to be feared. But development depends upon scientific agriculture. To make this possible the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture has been established in Trinidad. The advantages of that happy island for the purpose may be judged by anyone who cares to turn to Charles Kingsley's glowing picture of its gardens.

The Diseases of Plants.

The Imperial College is designed to be a place of research and of training. The problems of agriculture in the Tropics will be there investigated, and men will receive a thorough and scientific education in the various branches of the subject qualifying them to become planters. The college is, indeed, already at work, thanks to funds provided by the British Government and the Governments of the colonies; and some of its students are now employed in the cotton fields of Central Africa. But this is only a beginning. Its governing body has representatives of the universities and great industrial interests, and in the future the association of science and industry, we cannot doubt, will be much closer and more effective. In the Exhibition at Wembley two striking tableaux show the difference which scientific work has made in the conditions of tropical life, the miserable existence of the white man when malaria was still a mysterious plague, and his health and comfort now that the maleficence of the mosquito has been discovered. But, as Lord Milner well says, for the progress of the tropical colonies investigation of the diseases of plants is no less important than the investigation of human disease. We need a school of tropical agriculture as well as schools of tropical medicine. And it is a safe prediction that the work of one will bring knowledge not less important, not less fruitful, than the work of the other. It is difficult to imagine any investment which will bring a richer return in national and Imperial prosperity than the modest sum of £100,000 which is required for the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture.

Advertiser 2 AUG 1924

"What is the Good of Greek?" By Dr. J. W. MacKail, Professor of Poetry in the University of Oxford. Oxford: The Clarendon Press.

This pamphlet contains the text of a public lecture delivered by invitation of the University of Melbourne, on June 22, 1923. There is a special interest in the fact that on the title page the Professor acknowledges the degree which he received from the Adelaide University during his visit to this city. Dr. MacKail has no doubts concerning the value of Greek, which he declares, "gives in a way that nothing else does the highest kind of joy." Vital force, he says, comes from Greek, from which are gained experience, ideals, power of expression, sense of the dignity of human nature. Translations from the Greek, he adds, have their use and their value, but they can in no sense replace the originals. Education without Greek may be, and often is, very good; but with Greek it is better, he asserts, and the Australian Commonwealth should not be content with anything short of the best. In other places he says—"It was through the Greek genius that man became fully human, and without Greek the humanistic mastery of life remains incomplete. There is no ethical or political or social problem of our own day which the Greek mind did not raise, and of which, whether with success or failure, it did not attempt a logical solution. One may say with con-

viction that the Greek mind is as imperfectly equipped for citizenship as it is for appreciation of literary and artistic excellence. Greek is at the foundation not only of literature and art and thought, not only of the physical and social sciences, but of the Christian religion. A White Australia worthy of the name must be white not only racially but culturally; it must preserve and heighten its standards. The ideal hinges on truth, beauty, freedom that make life beautiful; it only truth and freedom that make truth live. Greek is an invaluable element in civilized life. If that be established it follows without argument that it is an irreplaceable element of the education of a cultured State. In the great Greek writers there is an excellence never reached before or since. They supply us, and this is as true now as it ever was, not only with an unending source of the highest human pleasure, but with a permanent model and standard for our own utmost effort."

Advt. 2 AUG 1924 THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORCHESTRA.

ANOTHER SUCCESS.

Appreciation was emphatically expressed of the efforts of the South Australian Orchestra on the occasion of their fourth concert of the present season at the Town Hall on Saturday evening. Notwithstanding the many counter-attractions there was a large audience, and Mr. W. H. Foote, A.R.C.M., the conductor, had every reason to feel gratified at the artistic success achieved as well as with the reception accorded each item of the varied programme. In the introductory number, Brahms' Symphony No. 2, in D major (Opus 73), the combination displayed alertness in catching and interpreting the various phases of the majestic composition. The work represents one of the finest of the great writer's inspirations. Each of the four movements—Allegro non Troppo, Adagio non Troppo, Allegretto Grazioso, and Finale, Allegro con Spirito—has its individual message and charm. In the first movement admirable use was made of the wood wind instruments. Throughout the work tonal values were carefully considered, and the fine harmonies were well pronounced. In the final section the bassoon and other wood wind instruments vied with the strings in a majestic climax, which won unstinted applause. The number, which took three-quarters of an hour, was succeeded by the ballet music, "The good-humored ladies" (Scarlatti-Tommasini), a beautiful work in light vein, and full of poetic suggestion and nice tonal qualities. The third movement, a subdued melodious piece of writing, was tastefully played by the string section, and was followed by a sparkling writing, which led to the concluding item, into which several dainty color effects are introduced. The interpretation was sympathetic and decidedly pleasing. "Valse Triste" (Sibelius), which was described as "one of the most popular of the Finnish master's lesser compositions," gave a weird representation of the approach of Death to a chamber when the watcher by the bedside of the person had fallen asleep. Incidents immediately prior to the appearance of Death are described, and, as the dying woman is indicated, the dying woman is seen in a face with the shadowy, ghostly figure. The whole of the incidents were related by the orchestra in restrained but realistic music, and the audience was so deeply impressed that a repetition of the item was demanded. A suggestive sketch for strings, with a clarinet obbligato, played by Mr. R. S. Kitson, was much enjoyed. The work, "By the tarn," is from the pen of Eugene Goossens, and it made a distinctly valuable contribution to the programme. Saint-Saens' "Dance of the Priestesses of Dagon" was given with becoming stateliness. The vigorous writing of Coleridge Taylor in the rhapsodic dance, "The Bamboula," gave the orchestra an opportunity for good effects in contrasts, which was fully availed of. Spirit and rhythm together with the tonal values of the different sections of the combination, and the production one to be remembered. An appropriate concluding number was Brahms' fine descriptive work in the Academic Festival Overture, Opus 80, into which are introduced several widely-diverse themes, woven into the whole in a masterly manner, which produces a pleasing sense of unity. The programme reminded the audience that the work was written "in recognition of the honors bestowed on Brahms by the University of Breslau, which made him an honorary Doctor of Philosophy." In a measure the work is based on students' songs. It concludes in majestic style, and throughout the hand of the master is apparent. The presentation was amongst the best work of the evening. That the orchestra is making creditable progress was apparent from first to last, and Mr. Foote's energy and enthusiasm have been well devoted to a movement which has given to Adelaide such a fine vehicle for the interpretation of great orchestral pieces. Miss Sylvia Whittington made a capable leader.

Brilliant Scholar

Less than 25 years ago a 13-year-old boy, fresh from school, walked into a newspaper office in a small Victorian town and asked for a job. The editor looked the lad over and next day signed him up as an apprentice compositor. Devoting his spare time to study, the boy stuck to the trade for four and a half years, and then abandoned the case to join the Education Department. He was sent out to a small school in the bush, and although no facilities offered for learning, he sought the best means at his disposal to improve his knowledge. An elderly clergyman taught him Latin, and in return for that service the young scholar was required to attend his tutor's church regularly. Marriage and then a family followed, but domestic responsibilities did not prevent the young school teacher pursuing his studies. He entered on the University course, studying after school hours. Scholarships assisted to pay his fees, until finally he graduated, taking his science degree and gaining the Diploma of Education.



Dr. C. Fenner

Briefly, that relates the story of the early career of Dr. Charles Fenner (superintendent of Technical Education in South Australia). His scholastic record is an achievement that has been equalled by few men in Australia. What Dr. Fenner has done for technical education in this State since his appointment as superintendent in 1916 is too well known to need retelling.

Before coming to South Australia he was principal of the Ballarat School of Mines. While taking his University course he won many scholarships, including the Keroat Research and the Final Honor. He is an accepted authority on biology and geology, has assisted in the production of standard geography books, is the author of countless scientific papers, and president of the South Australian Field Naturalists Association.

News 1 AUG 1924

Dr. C. T. Streich, who graduated in medicine at the Adelaide University in 1919, has been successful in the examination for membership of the Royal College of Physicians held in London recently.