

seven or eight beautiful stained-glass windows in memory of departed benefactors of the church. The centre of the eastern wall is occupied by medallions of the Rev. James Lyall, and his gifted partner in life, and altogether the aspect is much more ornate than formerly, besides showing something of the mellowing effects of time. One honors the aims and motives of one's Puritan ancestors, which undoubtedly were most praiseworthy, but their methods were most trying. A beautifully stained-glass window to one of these was as a red rag to a bull. A church with a beautiful interior helps the devotional part of one's nature rather than hinders it.

A Test of Merit.

One interesting fact calling for comment has some significance in estimating the value of Rev. James Lyall's ministry of forty years. Not only were the church ordinances well maintained during his ministry, but a large number of those who had grown up as boys in the Sabbath School devoted their lives to the service of the church, both at home and abroad. The first foreign missionary of the Presbyterian Church of South Australia was the Rev. W. Gray, who had been trained up under Mr. Lyall's ministry. Mr. Gray went to Tanna, in the New Hebrides group during the early eighties, and for ten years did splendid pioneer work. He was a devoted and conscientious missionary, besides being a careful and methodical student of nature, and his meteorological notes were much appreciated by the Sydney Observatory authorities, to whom he sent them.

The following old Flinders-street boys also went to the mission field, the Revs. F. J. Paton (Malekula, N.H.); F. H. L. Paton (Tanna, N.H.); and D. M. Lyall (Corea). These have all done, and some are still doing splendid service. The church also furnished quite a number of candidates for the ministry, for example the Rev. J. Hall Angas, and the Rev. R. Mitchell (both retired), the Revs. John McEwin, N. Patterson, P. McLeod (deceased), the Revs. W. Tassie, W. R. Milne, and J. A. Miller are still doing good work in other States. This church was indeed the centre of Christian activity in South Australia, and many a suburban church got their best foundation members from this service, deeming themselves doubly fortunate in obtaining not only good Presbyterians, but members who had graduated in such an admirable school and last, but by no means least, the Flinders-street Presbyterian Church furnished from the ranks of its young lady members many a fitting helpmate to a young minister just beginning his life's work.

REGISTER 20.5.35

THE RESIGNATION OF PROFESSOR PHILLIPSON.

When, at the end of last week, the surprising announcement was made that Professor Coleman Phillipson had resigned from the position of Professor of Law at the Adelaide University, no explanatory statement was forthcoming from the University Council; but, in refusing to comment upon what appeared to be a highly important, if not sensational, development, the Vice-Chancellor said enough to suggest that the silence of the authorities was dictated by a desire to make Professor Phillipson himself the judge of the degree of publicity expedient in a matter of internal administration in which he was principally concerned. The way was left open to the Professor to be no more communicative than the council, or to close the incident by saying, merely, that, on the expiry of the term covered by his agreement, he had resigned in order to be free to resume his interrupted legal researches in England. His statements go much further than this. Disdaining any possible inducements to reticence or secrecy, he has made it abundantly plain that the severance of his association with the University is the outcome of a sequence of most unpleasant happenings. What is to be inferred from the fact that he is as ready to secure publicity as the Council of the University was willing to avoid it? The events somewhat dramatically revealed by the Professor as having led up to his resignation, suggest a condition of affairs in which the studied silence of the University authorities is open to two constructions. If Professor Phillipson is right, and it is true that he is the victim of "drastic and unparalleled treatment," the unavoidable assumption must be that the University Council withholds a full statement of the facts from considerations of policy which should have no weight with so scrupulously fair and honest a body

as the community has long believed the Council to be. On the other hand, if the Council was justified, or even, after a searching investigation, thought itself justified, in taking so extreme a step as to require the Professor's resignation, it is but reasonable to suppose that its reticence proceeds from a studious regard for the feelings of a distinguished scholar placed in a singularly embarrassing situation. In all the circumstances, therefore, it would be precipitate to regard the reserve of the University authorities as in itself confirmatory of the charge that they have not treated Professor Phillipson with the justice demanded of themselves, or the consideration due to an eminent member of the professorial staff.

At present, the public knows no more of the circumstances than is to be gathered from Professor Phillipson's statements; but enough has been revealed to show that the University Council was confronted by a difficult and delicate question. In Chapter IV. of the Statutes of the University it is laid down that

No Professor shall . . . (without the sanction of the Council) give private instruction or deliver lectures to persons not being students of the University.

Apparently, it was alleged against Professor Phillipson, not that he had infringed the letter of this rule, but that he had evinced a willingness to do something which would be contrary to its intention. A fundamental principle of University administration was clearly at stake, and, whatever the Council has since done, or failed to do, its initial determination, to institute a full enquiry into the case in all its aspects, was abundantly justified, in fairness to the Professor as much as in the interests of the University itself. Nor is the personnel of the board of enquiry whose appointment followed a fit subject for criticism. An impartial, but relentlessly keen, investigation of all the relevant facts may be confidently assumed from the circumstance that the witnesses were examined by the Acting Chief Justice (Mr. Justice Poole), Mr. Justice Angas Parsons, and Mr. W. J. Isbister, K.C. For the prosecution, so to speak, it was alleged that Professor Phillipson had approached Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Rymill, and had offered, in consideration of a fee of 200 guineas, to give private tuition to their son, one of his law students. The Professor's answer was that the negotiations were initiated by Mr. and Mrs. Rymill; and, although he admitted having named the fee of which they spoke, he averred that his consent to undertake the work of coaching their son was expressly limited by the proviso that the consent of the University authorities must first be obtained. The requirement that official sanction should precede the determination of such an arrangement as was contemplated in this instance, is obviously essential. The Council, before assenting to an agreement for the giving of special tuition to an individual student, would rightly demand to be satisfied, in a case in which the tutor was also the chief examiner, that the strict impartiality of the examinations would be in no danger, and under no suspicion.

Professor Phillipson declared at the enquiry that he contemplated no evasion of this necessary rule, however the words of the Statute may be interpreted; although, as he now points out, it is possible to read Clause 6 of Chapter IV. as meaning that a professor is "only debarred from instructing or coaching non-University students." On the other hand, the gravamen of the accusation against the Professor seems to have been that his offer was unconditional, a charge having most serious implications. As to what conclusion the board of enquiry arrived, on the evidence, is not known. Its report was submitted to the Council, and Professor Phillipson was asked to resign. Whether this grave decision was dictated by the nature of the report, has not been announced. The Professor, however, himself discloses at least one circumstance suggestive of a develop-

ment which the Council could not but have viewed with alarm, even there had been no enquiry and no report. He tells the public that, in a scurrilous paper affixed to his door at the University, he was described as "Coleman Phillipson, blackmailer." The Council, and indeed, the Professor thus cruelly slandered, might well propound the question whether such an occurrence as this, and other possible outrages proceeding from the same spirit of prejudice or suspicion could possibly be compatible with the maintenance of that respect for the impartiality and integrity of all the members of the professorial staff which is essential to the conduct of a University. Professor Phillipson confesses that he committed something approaching "indiscretion." Whatever it was, it appears to have been sufficient to shake that unbounded confidence in his disinterestedness without the full continuance of which his work would be seriously hampered. At the moment, I do not see it in that light, and declare that the University has "wielded a sledgehammer against him in the dark." The complaint is so serious that the darkness should immediately be lessened by the publication of the report of the recent enquiry. The Professor's statements are a direct challenge to the University; at this challenge it must answer, in fairness to him, and in justice, also, to Mr. and Mrs. Rymill, who, in the performance of what they evidently believe to have been a public duty, have incurred an accusation of disingenuousness which their third-party position in the case makes it difficult for them to meet. Mr. Rymill himself very properly demands the publication of the report of the board of enquiry, and South Australia's reputation for fair play will be but differently sustained until this report is disclosed.

REGISTER 20.5.35

AUSTRALIAN MUSIC EXAMINATIONS.

It is a matter for congratulation that Australia, through its universities, has evolved such a fine scheme of musical examinations within its own borders, and the history of its development makes interesting reading. Sir William Robinson, a former Governor of South Australia, was an ardent patron of the arts, especially of music, which subject at that time had not found a place in the work of the seat of higher learning. It was, however, the dream of His Excellency to see a Chair of Music established, and for that purpose he raised the sum of £5,000 for its tentative existence, and Mr. Joshua Ives became its first Professor in the University of Adelaide, as well as occupying the position of City Organist. At the end of two or three years, with the depletion of the money in hand, there seemed little hope of the Chair of Music becoming a permanent institution unless further endowments were to hand, or some scheme were evolved to make the Chair self-supporting. Professor Ives, therefore, with the consent of the council inaugurated a scheme of public examinations in music for two grades, junior and senior, the fees from which were paid in for the maintenance of the Chair. This plan came into force about 1891. The examinations became very popular and contributed largely to the improvement of the standard of music teaching besides making the Chair of Music self-supporting. At no other period in the history of the University has a Chair so maintained itself.

That public-spirited citizen, Sir Thomas Elder, who died in 1897, bequeathed the sum of £20,000 to permanently endow the Chair of Music, but as the examination scheme was providing adequately for that purpose, it was decided, on the advice of Professor Ives, to build and establish a Conservatorium of Music. As a nucleus of the institu-

tion, the College of Music under Mr. L. G. Reimann, was taken over with an augmented staff, and the work was carried on in the old College in Wakefield street until the completion of the present building. Unwarranted fears were expressed in some quarters that, with the entry of the University "into competition" with private teachers, its examination scheme might suffer, but such fears were groundless, and the prestige attaching to the highest cultural authority in South Australia continued to grow steadily in importance. With the establishment of the Conservatorium in 1898, it was thought wise to enlarge the scope and responsibility of the examinations scheme, and for this purpose a partnership was entered into between the University and the Associated Board of the Royal College and Royal Academy of Music in London. At that time the Associated Board had only just begun its operations in Australia, and the prestige of the University and its already existing scheme contributed largely to the success of the Associated Board Examinations. The partnership continued for about 10 years, by which time the possibility of establishing an all-Australian scheme came under consideration. The University of Adelaide took the first step in this direction by declining to renew the partnership and seeking to form one with Melbourne. In this it was successful, and so began the first chapter in the history of the Australian Music Examinations Board, known familiarly as the "A. M. E. B.," which now embraces the Universities of Adelaide, Melbourne, Tasmania, Queensland, Western Australia, and the State Conservatorium of New South Wales.

Such a momentous step necessitated a fresh beginning, but the wisdom of the policy which dictated it was amply justified, and last year some 15,000 candidates entered under the all-Australian scheme. The scope of the examinations provided is extremely comprehensive, and now includes the granting of a Licentiate'ship for either teacher or performer, with the right to use the designation of "L. Mus. A." Further developments in the near future are predicted, and will include a syllabus for musical perception, the development of which now forms a vital part of present-day musical teaching. There is also a probability that a syllabus for authoritative elocution examinations will be adopted, and all examinations will be conducted by experts in the particular examination taken. In the early days of the Australian scheme one of the greatest difficulties to be overcome was the hesitation to believe that anything essentially Australian could possibly be as good, or bear the same hallmark, as something that came from overseas; but consideration of the advantages to be gained by standing by what is made in Australia for the benefit of Australians must be apparent to all. Our standards of teaching and examining are unquestionably high, and the status of our universities is as good as in any part of the world, their degrees and diplomas with regard to medicine, law and engineering being everywhere recognised. Australia has ceased to be looked upon as a group of colonies, and has taken her place among the nations of the world. Another vital argument in favour of the all-Australian scheme is the fact that all fees paid to it remain in the Commonwealth, and go to build up music, which is not the case with examining bodies from overseas. Valuable scholarships and bursaries are offered. In South Australia, two scholarships and three bursaries are awarded annually, and with the further growth of the scheme these advantages may be much further extended. The whole purpose of the examinations is to guide and help teachers and students to aim at the highest standard of proficiency. A sound technical foundation is insisted on, and the cultivation of the aesthetic side of music is encouraged, and all the profits are devoted to the furtherance of musical education in the State in which it is operative.