

A WONDERFUL COMPILA-
TION.

"The Illustrated Australian Encyclopaedia," the first volume of which has just reached us from Sydney, is a monument to the skill to which Australia has attained in the making of high-class books. The publishers are Messrs. Angus and Robertson, and they rightly take pride in issuing this excellent Encyclopaedia, which has been conceived, written, edited, printed, illustrated, and produced entirely within the Commonwealth. The book was first projected in 1912 as an historical and biographical record, under the editorship of Mr. Charles H. Bertie, Municipal Librarian at Sydney, and much material had been collected when the war broke out in 1914 and stopped the work. This was not altogether without its compensations, for when the work was resumed in 1917 a resolution was formed to include articles on scientific subjects also. This section is under the charge of Mr. Herbert J. Carter, president this year of the Linnæan Society of New South Wales, who is being helped by the leading scientists of Australia. Their articles are, in many instances, the first trustworthy summaries yet published of scientific knowledge concerning Australia, which was previously accessible only in the journals of learned societies. In 1920 Captain Arthur Jose, author of "History of Australasia," and formerly an officer of the intelligence branch of the Australian Naval Department, undertook the general editorship, which could not have been placed in better hands. In regard to historical and scientific facts the Encyclopaedia is right up to date, and all the events with which Australians were connected during the Great War are included. The utmost possible use has been made of original documents concerning early Australian history, and there is a wonderfully rich collection of facts on this and other subjects.

The present volume (A to LYS) contains many full page plates, of which 27 are colored, with 242 illustrations in the text. The book, which is uniform in size with Chambers's Encyclopaedia, now in process of publication, contains 770 pages, which comprise 2,000 articles, giving, among other things, the history of the discovery and settlement of Australia, and the development of the States, biographies of eminent men and women connected with all public activities, and descriptions of Australian birds, mammals, fishes, reptiles, insects, plants, grasses, timbers, minerals, metals, and precious stones. This last department is both fascinating and valuable, and it is illustrated by particularly beautiful and accurate pictures. Then there are articles on agriculture, banking, geography, geology, irrigation, music, manufactures, and mining. Aviation receives due prominence, and so do exploration, industrial affairs, literature, and other subjects. There are learned articles on aboriginals, with their religions and customs. The Bushrangers are not forgotten, while spots of all kinds receive attention. There are particularly full descriptions of the growth of the game of Australian cricket from the first interstate match, between Victoria and Tasmania, in February, 1851, to the latest tests, with valuable statistics concerning them. A chronological list of great events in respect to Australia from 1606, when Torres sailed through the straits named after him, until the establishment of the Adelaide to Sydney aerial mail service, forms a particularly notable feature of the book, which everywhere may be consulted with pleasure and profit. The ground covered is extraordinarily wide, and all the articles are written in a concise, clear, and attractive way. When the work is complete there will be a most comprehensive story available concerning almost everything an Australian needs to know about his country, its history or its achievements.

The list of contributors is very formidable. The South Australians among them are Mr. Arthur Mills Lea, Entomologist, to the Adelaide Museum; Sir Archibald Strong, Professor of English in the University of Adelaide; Mr. Frederick Morley Cutlack, Official War Correspondent with the A.I.F. in France; Dr. Heaton, now Professor of Economics in Queen's University, Canada, and formerly Lecturer in Economics at Adelaide University; Mr. Oliver Holmes Woodward, assistant manager of the Associated Smelters at Port Pirie; Mr. Thomas Gill, author of the Bibliography of South Australia, and a biography of Colonel Light; and Dr. W. Ramsay Smith, president of the Central Board of Health. The greatest experts on each of the subjects treated in the Encyclopaedia have been engaged, and the articles they have written may be identified by their initials. In addition to the shorter articles on biographical and other subjects there are what amount to a series of text books of a most useful kind scattered through the volume, while the maps, charts, plates, and other illustrations give material help to the comprehension of the different

Continued
things described. There are beautiful pictures in color of beetles, butterflies, birds, eggs, fishes, seaweeds, insects, lizards, snakes, and frogs. An especially interesting plate is that which shows the tracks of the battle cruiser Australia in the North Sea during 1918, in which the period she steamed 36,908 miles. Other attractive plates are those illustrating aboriginal habits and customs, weapons, and utensils. The task essayed by the publishers, editors, and compilers was a colossal one, and they have carried it out with an enthusiastic zeal and an abounding ability which are worthy of unstinted praise.

REG. 15. 8. 25.
ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

Ladies' Part Singing Class.

Great interest was manifested in the tenth concert of the Elder Conservatorium's 1925 session. On Monday night in the Elder Hall in which the Ladies' Part Singing Class pupils of Mr. Winsloe Hall and Madame Delmar Hall took place, Mr. Winsloe Hall conducted the massed numbers with great insight, so that the three diverse works were each given in the spirit of their themes. Mr. Harold Wylde, F.R.C.O., lent valuable support at the organ, and the pianoforte accompaniments were shared by Muriel Prince, A.M.U.A., and Mr. Herbert Edwards, A.M.U.A. Owing to indisposition, two vocal soloists were unable to perform—Miss Enid Bensanko and Miss Jean Berry, who were set down for important items.

The opening part songs comprised two Eastern Pictures by Von Holst (a student of Sybellius Stanford)—and showing the influence of the Stanfordian style in those modern and colourful romances with their quaint harmonies. "Spring" was sung with requisite balance. The humming chorus in "Summer" illustrated the command attained in soft effects. The next collaborated work, a Saint-Saens solo and chorus, "Night," created a great impression. To facilitate matters, Madame Delmar Hall had translated the text from the original French; and Mr. Harold Wylde not only arranged the piano and violin parts, but also adapted the orchestral section to the organ, which effectively fulfilled that diverse task. Miss Valda Harvey was entrusted with the big solo part; and the quality and bird-like freshness of her soprano voice were eminently suited to the exactions of this difficult composition. Although the instrumental accompaniment is so delightful, it really affords very little support to the vocalist. But Miss Harvey ably rendered her beautiful solo in that notably fine writing, full of ever-changing expressions and of delicate light and shadow. Mrs. C. W. Chinner sympathetically played the violin obligato. The members of the chorus are to be congratulated upon their share of the success achieved, and a rich volume of tone was attained throughout. The concluding massed item was Stanford's solo and chorus, "Fairy Day," presented for the first time in Australia. Miss Jessie Anderson was selected as soloist, and her clear soprano was skilfully employed in the descriptive passages of that triple group:—"Fairy Dawn," "Fairy Noon," and "Fairy Night." The entire score was charmingly illustrative of the delightful and scintillating tone pictures of the fairies and elves at play in the forest. Special reference is due to the crescendos and diminuendos, and to the sustained pianissimo portions of a good all-round production.

Among the offerings by the soloists, Mr. Reginald Thrush's Handelian aria, "Where'er You Walk," was not eclipsed by any other singer. Mr. Thrush has a tenor voice of limpid sweetness, yet not lacking in power; and sympathy and dignity added still further charm to a cultured rendition. Later in the evening, Mr. Thrush made a second appearance in company with Miss Valda Harvey, and a thoroughly enjoyable interpretation of "Speak to Me, my Mother," from "Carmen" was given. In the roles of Don Jose and Micaela, both artists distinguished themselves, and their voices blended well. Miss Edna Lawrence's contralto solos revealed rich quality, temperament, and commendable diction. This young singer selected Lehmann's "Thoughts have Wings" and "Oh, that it were So" (Frank Bridge) in both indicating great promise. Miss Violet Berriman was heard in a Carmen excerpt, "Micaela's Song," and this youthful student presented the difficult item with dramatic intensity. "The Wanderer's Song" (Schumann) brought out Mr. Harold Campbell to reveal the promise in his fine baritone range. Miss Hilda Barnes's contribution was the aria, "Una Voce," from "The Barber of Seville," and the soloist was indicated as a high coloratura soprano, able to take the top D with ease. The rich nuances of Miss Alma Cook's contralto voice were eminently suited to McFadyen's tragic "Inter-Nos," which was earnestly given.

NEWS 12. 8. 25.
Dr. H. Heaton, recent Director of Tutorial Classes and Lecturer in Economics at the Adelaide University, will leave for Melbourne by the express this evening on his way to Kingston (Canada), where he has been appointed to the Macdonald Chair of Economics and Political Science at the Queen's University.

"Voices Being Ruined"
CRITICAL ADJUDICATOR

It has perhaps come as a surprise to the Adelaide public that Mr. Arthur Chanter, Mus. Bac., of Victoria (musical adjudicator of the Adelaide musical and elocutionary competitions) is not impressed with the singing of the children of this State.

"There is no basic tuition in learning to produce the voices of South Australian children," he said today. "This is my complaint against their singing. Their voices are being ruined through lack of learning to breathe correctly and to produce tone in the proper way."

"Singing in most of the South Australian and Victorian State Schools is mainly taught on the system of reading music, instead of producing tone. To start tuition from the theoretical standpoint is useless without the practical side."

"Nothing can be done," went on Mr. Chanter, "in teaching pianoforte or singing until good tone has been established. In State schools generally the primary element of tone is neglected for the practice of learning to read music. The teaching of singing in State schools in class is the same as teaching an individual."

Mr. Chanter called on the Director of Education, and during the conversation he learned that Mr. W. T. McCoy considers that the idea of teaching any voice production is too advanced for the State school scholar.

"I contend that this is utterly wrong," Mr. Chanter told the interviewer. "Without primary voice production an artistic reading of even the simplest song cannot be given. The production of tone is the basis of all music. Tuition should be directed toward this end."

Treated Like Arithmetic
Mr. Chanter explained that the teachers in State schools treated singing in the same way as they would arithmetic, as something to be learned.

"The reading of music will be acquired easily at a later stage when children have learned to produce their voices properly," he averred emphatically.

Mr. Chanter said that he was told by Mr. McCoy that voice training was given teachers at the Training College, and that the teachers were left to give it to the children. He pointed out that direct tuition to the children even by a single teacher who would move from one school to another throughout the State would be a much better plan. The primary teaching was simple voice production, and the teacher would learn as the child was being taught and could continue the teaching on the lines laid down by the visiting supervisor.

"Another point I wish to stress is in regard to the school choir," said Mr. Chanter. "The scheme I have in my mind would consist of a body of 40 to 50 voices picked from the whole school. This school choir would receive extra lessons a week. The combined choirs of the various schools could give two or three concerts a year, and thus raise funds to continue the work of teaching singing. This method should not be confined to town schools, but country ones also."

Scholarships for Children

"As a third proposition I suggest that a limited number of the best voices in these choirs should be awarded scholarships covering a three years' course in the Conservatorium. This would undoubtedly mean that many fine voices would be found that would otherwise have been neglected. In teaching songs to children after they can produce tone each one would have a leaflet of the song and copy each phrase after the teacher had sung the piece."

"When they had committed a song to memory they would associate the written notes with what they had gathered by ear. In this way they would learn to sing expressively. The imitative instinct is strong in children, and in all things they learn more by imitation than by precept. The aim of teaching is to produce a musical atmosphere that will give enjoyment to the child and to those who listen."

The use of a piano is also desirable in the opinion of Mr. Chanter, as the harmony creates an atmosphere that adds to the beauty of the melody and thus makes a greater appeal to the feelings of the child.

"In fact," Mr. Chanter continued, "a revolution in teaching singing in State schools is needed if children are to gain and real knowledge of music. I am aware that it is difficult for some minds to absorb new ideas, but thought must convince anybody that the only way is the plan I have laid down if children are to arrive at a definite artistic result in their singing."

"Folk songs contain the simplest emotions expressed in the simplest way, and thus they appeal to the feelings of a child in the most direct manner," he concluded.

NEWS 13. 8. 25.
Dr. H. Heaton, formerly Lecturer in Economics at the Adelaide University and Director of the Tutorial Classes at the Workers' Educational Association, has been given an honorary commission by the State Government to enquire into and report upon matters relating to the primary, secondary, and University educational systems of Canada.

LECTURE BY WIRELESS
Mr. E. V. Clark on Electricity
USE FOR BROWN COAL

Wireless is being employed in a variety of ways—to broadcast entertainments, speeches, lectures, and church services. One of these lectures was delivered by Mr. E. V. Clark (lecturer on electric engineering at the University of Adelaide), and the transmission by 5DonN was perfect.

The title of Mr. Clark's lecture was "Transport of Power." The history of electricity, he said, dated from the beginning of the last century. About the middle of the century the electric telegraph came into use. Electric lighting of houses became possible in the early eighties. It was shortly after this that the manifold advantages of electricity as a means of transporting mechanical power began to be realised.

The growth of the use of electricity in the last 20 years had been in part due to developments in the methods of transmission, such as the use of high pressures, but the lessening costs of transmission when large quantities of power were dealt with was an important factor.

The cost of the transport of coal was almost proportionate to the quantity transported, provided a reasonable amount was wanted. But the cost of the transport of electricity was far from being proportionate to the quantity.

In Adelaide for many years coal was transported from Port Adelaide to the power station in Grenfell street. Conditions, however, had changed greatly, and with the ever-increasing demand for electricity all large cities had found it economical to close their early electric stations and take power transmitted from stations situated where coal required little transport. Adelaide now obtained its electricity from Osborne on the Port Creek.

FUTURE FOR BROWN COAL

"In South Australia," Mr. Clark continued, "we have large deposits of brown coal, which have not been exploited. Whether the demand for electricity round Adelaide is yet great enough to warrant a generating station near Moorlands on the River Murray, assuming that the Moorlands brown coal is suitable for boiler use, is a question that no engineer could answer without elaborate estimates and careful calculations. But with the ever-increasing use of electricity the time will certainly come—though whether 10 or 50 years hence I will not attempt to predict—when transport of electricity from a station erected near one of the South Australian brown coal deposits will be more economical than transporting coal by water from Newcastle to Port Adelaide."

It was this ready transportability of electrical energy, coupled with the simplicity of its reconversion into mechanical power that had stimulated the use of electricity for all uses and purposes. The electric motor, complicated as it might be in design, was the simplest piece of moving machinery that they had. The supervision it required was almost negligible.

LITTLE MAN BENEFITS

One direction in which electricity played an important part in moulding the economic life of the community was found in the facilities it offered to the small factories of obtaining power cheaply. In the competition that went on in any line of business activity between the small individual manufacturer and large company, the latter had the advantage that with a large turnover it could afford to invest capital in the most effective type of plant, and the most up-to-date methods of operation, while the individual scored in that he could give close personal attention to all sides of his business. If it were not for the importance of that personal element they should find in all kinds of enterprise, from the farming industry to the most specialised manufacture, that the small man could not compete, and that every business became more and more controlled by a few giant concerns.

In conclusion, Mr. Clark touched on the electrification of railways. This he said, hinged largely on the question whether it was cheaper for each train to carry with it the fuel it needed, and to include among its vehicles the portable power station they called the locomotive engine, or to draw power as it proceeded from wires fed with electricity by a station many miles away.

The nineteenth century, the era of industrial expansion, saw a wonderful development in the means of transport of material. Roads were made, railways built, and shipping transformed out of recognition. But with only a quarter of the twentieth century gone, the electrical transport of power had already developed in a manner scarcely foreseen when the century opened and dreamed of 50 years ago.