

A PROMISING MUSICIAN.—A few weeks ago we recorded the pleasing fact that Miss Jessie M. D. Hillier, of North Adelaide, had shown evidence of considerable skill as a musical composer. The young lady, who has just completed her seventeenth year, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hillier, both old colonists. Her grandfather on the mother's side (the late Mr. Thomas Swift) was one of the earliest Adelaideans—a well-known solo player in his day and a member of the first Choral Society formed in South Australia. Miss Hillier has written to us stating that since our reference to her musical talent appeared she has been so inundated with kindly letters asking her how she manages to compose and play music impromptu that she would like her reply to be published. Her only explanation of her talent is that she has been fortunately endowed with the gift of composition and the organ of sound. She sometimes wonders how she plays the melodies, and can only attribute the power to an inspiration at the time—an inspiration that could never be acquired by learning. She began composing at the age of twelve an opera of four acts, which she completed two years afterwards. She hopes, when she has finished her Mus. Bac. course at the University, to write her compositions and have them printed for the public, and also to play them and sing her songs. The youthful composer is possessed of a very pleasing voice that will probably develop well.

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS.

On Friday morning a large and influential deputation waited on the Minister of Education to bring under his notice matters connected with the University scholarships.

T. G. CHAPPELLOR of the University (the Hon. S. J. Way), who introduced the deputation, said they were representing the council and senate of the University and the secondary and other schools interested in the matter. They were not inquiring the Government to any increased expenditure even to help on such a worthy cause as that of education. It would be within the knowledge of the Minister of Education that the governing body of the University was animated by the same feeling as animated every good citizen in these times of financial stress, and was willing to consent to a temporary reduction of the vote for the medical school, which the Minister was the means of first obtaining, and he mentioned the fact for the purpose of satisfying the Minister and the Government that they did not come to advocate expenditure for the sake of keeping up the rate of expenditure which had obtained in the past. The University scholarships had existed for the last 14 years, and had cost the country about £450 per year, and by means of them nearly 10 young men had passed through the University course. If the benefits of the scholarships had stopped there only he would be prepared to suppose it as the money had been well expended, but that represented only a fraction of the good that had been done by the scholarships, as an impulse to the advancement of learning had been felt throughout the land in every State school and in every advanced school in the colony. There was an impression abroad that the University received more assistance from the Government than universities elsewhere, but that was a mistake. They had only to compare the expenditure of the olden University with those of other colonies to see that the Government provided, roughly speaking, about a third of the income of the University by means of the Government supplement endowment, while a third was provided by private munificence, the other third being obtained from the fees charged by the University, in Germany 70 per cent. of the cost of university education was borne by the State, while in many of the states of America the whole cost of university education was provided out of the public vote. The University teaching in Adelaide was carried out more economically than in any of the other States in the world. The education given in South Australia was quite equal to that given in any other Australian university, but the salaries of the teaching staff were very much lower here. They had found to their alarm that late education regulations had made no provision for the continuance of the scholarships, but they understood from what appeared in "Hansard" that this provision was not omitted with any intention of discontinuing these scholarships altogether, but with the view of increasing their

general usefulness. The Council of the University had been in communication with the senate, and they had also the advantage of discussing the subject with the Inspector-General of Schools, with the result that they were prepared to lay before the Government a scheme which would not only maintain the present usefulness of the scholarships, but would double and triple their useful operation. They proposed the Government should still give scholarships to the extent of £150 per year, and that would amount with the whole scheme of scholarships now in operation to £450 per annum. At present three scholarships of £50 per year were given for three years after an entrance examination. It was proposed to give three scholarships, tenable by day students, of £50 per year, but they did not propose that these should be equal. They proposed that the scholar who passed the best examination should receive a scholarship of £50, the second best £35, and the third £25, and in order to give an incentive to industry on the part of students they proposed that an examination should be conducted every year and the best man in each year should have the scholarship of the largest amount. With the remainder of the grant they proposed to establish six scholarships of £10 per annum, to be held by young men whose means did not enable them to attend the day classes of the University, so that they might obtain the advantage of the University by means of evening instruction. At present, excepting the evening classes, which had been in existence for some years, the work was done generally during the day time. They had been in communication with the teaching staff of the University, and he gratefully acknowledged the spirit in which they had met the present exigencies of the institution. They had agreed to give evening instruction of precisely the same character as that given in the day time without the addition of a shilling to their salaries, for the benefit of those students who could attend only in the night. It was proposed to establish a series of evening classes for the benefit of young men in such a position, which during a term of four years would enable them to go through precisely the same work in the arts and science courses as was taken in two years by young men who were able to devote their whole time to their University duties. The only charge proposed to be made was the per term for instruction and £1 per term when laboratory work was to be done. In shadowing forth the scheme he was sure that he had satisfied the Minister that if effect were given to it it would make the University a university not only in the sense of general learning, but would make its school for all, as all classes of the community would have the advantage of the educational facilities afforded by the institution. It would be a calamity to the cause of education if these scholarships were to be discontinued, while it could triple the usefulness of the institution if the scheme be had shadowed were carried out.

Mr. F. CHAPPELL, B.A., B.Sc., had much pleasure in supporting the request as warden of the University senate, the general body of which strongly favored this system of university scholarships. Members of the University Graduates' Association naturally favored this method, for a number of them had attained their position through the means of similar scholarships at home. While the majority of the senate strongly supported these scholarships, a number were in favor of a system of evening classes which would be better than any which had been expected at first. He wished to bear his testimony to the cordial way in which all the professors had expressed their willingness to co-operate in this matter. These scholarships were of great value, inasmuch as they helped people in the poorer classes of the community to obtain the advantages of a university education. He knew that throughout the State schools there was a general feeling that it was possible for a boy to gain a university training. He wished to compliment as headmaster of Prince Alfred College, to apologise for the absence of Sir John Colton, the treasurer of that institution. Sir John had always taken a great interest in these scholarships, and was in the Ministry that first placed the amount for the scholarships on the Estimates. Parents had been willing to make sacrifices on account of their children, and no doubt would be prepared to do so in the future in order that their children might be educated at the University. He cordially supported the remarks made by his Honor the Chief Justice.

Archdeacon FAIR gave testimony to the fact that the scholarships did much real good to others than the boys who won them, because they were an incentive to all boys to study in the hope of gaining them. The system raised the whole standard of education. By means of the higher public examinations young men who attended the evening classes were able to take degrees if they felt disposed to study.

Canon FROES thought that on the ground of consistency the State might fairly be asked to make some provision for the higher education of the most brilliant students on the ground that the State had agreed to give education on the rudimentary branches of learning. The State had not taken up the secondary and higher education, but had left that to private enterprises, which should be encouraged. If the State deprived the