

A VISIT TO THE WEST.

Interesting Notes by Mr. J. F. Bailey.

The Director of the Adelaide Botanic Garden (Mr. J. F. Bailey) paid a visit to Western Australia towards the end of last month in connection with the meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, and the following are some impressions gained during his sojourn in that interesting State:—

On arrival at Perth, the Director was met by Mr. A. Haselgrove, a well-known local horticulturist, who, during the two days prior to the opening of the meetings afforded opportunities, per motor, for the visitor to see what was being done in the various phases of gardening in and about the city. It was found that the wet weather of recent months had militated against the proper control of cultivation of flowers generally. Visitors from the eastern States miss the presence of roses in the gardens, which, however, do not thrive in the sandy soil. In nearly every garden the Geraldton waxflower grows to perfection, and some of the more highly coloured forms are very beautiful, and in the local nurseries many thousands of plants are propagated to supply the demand.

The local authorities, both Government and municipal, have made good provision for park areas, some of which are established, while the majority are in the making. The care of the city plantations has been placed in the hands of the City Gardener (Mr. Braithwaite), who has under great difficulties produced some fine effects. These are more noticeable in Hyde Park and the Queen's Garden. In the former there are some fine palms and flowering trees, which have been judiciously spaced to show off their individual beauty. In the Queen's Park water lilies are a feature during the summer months. One of the very few European ashes seen about the city has formed a nice specimen in this reserve. The selection of suitable trees for street planting, which is also under the direction of Mr. Braithwaite, is limited owing to the sandy nature of the soil. The South Australian sugar gum was evidently a favourite with those responsible for the earlier planting for many streets in the city are planted with them. In many instances, however, the continual lopping to which they have been subject, has neither improved their health nor appearance. The West India coral tree has been extensively used in the streets, parks, and the foreshore of the Swan River, and presented a gay appearance with their numerous scarlet blooms. When in foliage they must be a great boon during the hot weather.

Gardens and Park. It was gratifying to notice that the Queensland box had received attention, and on St. George's terrace, and other city thoroughfares as well as in the parks and suburban streets, good use had been made of this ornamental tree. The Kurrajong has been used extensively, and has proved itself, as it has done in other States, one of the best of Australian trees, either for street or park use. Both the Moreton Bay fig and its small-leaved ally are represented by noble specimens in some of the parks, and in places have been planted in the streets. The white cedar has been used for planting in many streets, and has proved itself most suitable for the purpose. One wonders why the red-flowering gum has not been used more for street planting, but Mr. Braithwaite stated that it forms a straggling growth when used in such positions. The Remarkable pine is quite at home in the parks about Perth, the sandy soil seemingly being just the thing for its welfare, and specimens equal to any seen in the Adelaide Hills are quite common. The Maritime pine thrives equally well. During recent years a considerable area has been added to the foreshore of the Swan River, and Mr. Campbell, the Government Gardener, who has charge of the planting, is carrying out a scheme which ultimately will give the place an attractive appearance.

King's Park, of which Mr. Heath is in charge, is situated at an elevation sufficient to command a glorious view of the beautiful Swan River. Its great attraction, however, to Nature lovers are the many gems of the State's rich flora found within its boundaries, and it would be a pity if ever this area, which is unique in Australia, so far as city reserves are concerned, becomes spoiled by the invasion of exotic species. Besides accommodating a splendid collection of animals, the Perth Zoo has a fine lot of well-grown palms, as well as other ornamental plants, and Lieut.-Col. Le Souef, the Director, is to be congratulated on the encouragement given to Mr. Steedman, the head gardener, to make a feature of the State's flora, especially with respect to the eucalypts and acacias, with the result that a fine collection of these plants is being brought together, and in other reserves, the red-flowering gum and its numerous varieties have been used to great advantage, and it is a matter for regret that none of the cultivated forms can be relied upon to come true from seed.

Instructive Excursions. The Perth Government treated the members of the association in a very liberal manner, and gave every facility so that they could see first-hand the wonderful resources of the country. One of the most enjoyable and instructive excursions was that to the south-west, which occupied five days, a special train having been placed at the service of the members. In connection with this event, Mr. S. L. Kessell, B.Sc., the State's Conservator of Forests, arranged a special trip for a party interested in forestry, to visit the localities where Jarrah, Karri, Tuart, and Yate could be seen at their best. The party was conducted over the areas by Messrs. Steate and Shedley, the district foresters in their respective districts. The visitors were amazed at the fine appearance and abundance of these noble trees, and were greatly interested in the successful efforts being carried out for the regeneration of the trees. A visit was made to the Forestry School at Leedlow, where fine work is being performed under the supervision of Mr. Rule. In this district the Tuart which is limited to a comparatively small area, formed very large trees, and it was found that they were growing in sand overlying limestone at a depth of about 2 ft. Forestry provides a considerable amount of revenue to the State, and the department, under the direction of Mr. Kessell, is splendidly organized, and Mr. Kessell is fortunate in having as his principal assistant, a young man, who has heart and soul in the work that he has selected for a profession. Like their chief, the majority passed through the forestry course at the

Adelaide University. previously there has been difficulty in obtaining seeds of Western Australian plants, but Mr. Kessell has overcome this to a great extent by the establishment of a seed store in connection with his department, where samples may be obtained at a reasonable cost.

Plant Growths. In spite of the fact that the visit did not synchronize with the blooming of the majority of the State's many treasures, there were many beautiful subjects. Everlastings, in some localities formed a gayly coloured carpet, while Grevilleas, Hakeas, and Banksias, and other plants of this family, as well as the lovely blue Leschenaultias, kangaroo paws, pink and white myrtle, dwarf acacias, smoke bush furnished a galaxy of colour, which was a source of delight to the visitors, who, through the good offices of the Perth residents, were able to make many excursions. On one of the train excursions through the courtyard of the officer in charge, stops were made at points of interest, one of which was particularly appreciated by the visitors, as they were enabled to see the highly perfumed boronia, growing in its native home. An afternoon was spent at the Mundaring Weir Reserve, where floral treasures abound, and where also the Forestry Department has some fine plantations, which those interested, were able to see under the guidance of Mr. Sharp, the District Forester, under arrangement with Mr. Kessell.

In going through the south-west, it was noticed that the common "Arum lily" had run wild, and was very abundant along some of the water courses. Mr. Brockman, a well-known grazier, of the Busselton district, stated that the rhizomes provided excellent food for pigs, the animals not seeming to mind the hot, acrid taste, and the disagreeable effects produced from eating them. With regard to the congress, it will long be remembered as one of the best held by the association, and the committee, headed by the joint secretaries, Professor Williams and Mr. Gibb Maitland, displayed great organizing ability, the visitors greatly appreciating the many kind favours received, and the provision made for their welfare. Papers were read on a great variety of subjects, quite a number of contributors being from South Australia.

REG. 15.9.26

IMPECUNIOUS UNIVERSITY.

Government Aid Sought.

MELBOURNE, Tuesday. The serious financial position of the Melbourne University was explained to the State Treasurer (Sir Alexander Peacock) to-day. A deputation said that without immediate help from the Government the authorities would either have to close a number of departments or to raise students' fees. They asked the Government to endow the University with £10,000 in perpetuity, and make an additional grant of £10,000 to balance accounts next year. Although this would meet immediate necessities it would not enable the institution to make any progress. Sir Alexander Peacock promised to submit the request to Cabinet, and suggested that increased taxation would be needed if that and other requests for assistance were to be met.

REG. 15.9.26

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

This Week's Activities.

PROFESSOR W. Keith Hancock, speaking before the League of Nations Union, at the weekly luncheon on Tuesday, on "What has been done at the Assembly this week," said that quite a lot of things had been begun, which would assume greater significance within the next few weeks. There was, for instance, the economic conference, the further progress of disarmament, and the codification of international law. There was another matter, however, which was more than a beginning, and that was the entry of Germany into the league. The circumstance had been received with a welcome that to some might have appeared almost hysterical, but it brought with it a hope that was lacking—and would have been lacking until her entry—of pulling up the runaway train of civilization. The subject presented two views which he might call the horizon view, and the local view. In the latter it signified that the war between France and Germany was finished. That, although not a certainty, was a prophecy which had a reasonable chance of fulfilment. That local effect merged into a universal effect because of the common needs of the nations to join in universal partnership. The event had come none too soon, as was seen by the fact that this week a cloud "no bigger than a man's hand," had arisen in China, which might yet prove a challenge to the interdependence of the nations of the world. Germany had come in, and Spain and Brazil had gone out. It was to be hoped that Spain might return before her two years had expired, but even if she did not there was solace in the view that the old sore between France and Germany had to be cut out, no matter at what sacrifice. The question had been raised, would Germany help, would this "specially wicked" nation cast away its "wickedness" and enter sincerely among the "daughters of light"? That idea still persisted of Germany. It was to be found

especially among travellers returning from Germany after three days' intensive study in the cafes—(laughter)—but it was entirely unfounded. Militarism was really but a short episode in the history of Germany. It had emanated from the "prestige" politics of Bismarck, in 1870. Bismarck was the most unpopular person in Germany, but he succeeded, and there followed the worship of success. In the main Germany had returned to her own history, and a big power, representing one of the pillars of European civilization, had come to help prop up the league, and had made it possible for the league to hope to keep on with its building. Germany's entry would inevitably have an immediate effect on the proposals for disarmament. She had a special interest in seeing that other countries besides herself should disarm, and they might hope, therefore, to see some definite progress in that respect within the next year. Germany's entry would also have an immediate effect on the question of minorities. She was especially interested in the minorities on all her territories, including that of the Tyrol, and she was now in a position to bring pressure to bear on countries which refused justice to minorities, and by doing so would help to remove one of the most insistent and irritating causes of war. Another question that would arise would be the union between Germany and Austria, and yet another would be that of mandates. Germany demanded to take her share in the administration of those sacred trusts, and the speaker suggested that Australia might allow Germany to administer the trust it held in New Guinea. He made the suggestion ironically, however, because it would never be considered. Few nations had the vision to make a small surrender for the sake of greater gains. Australia, however, would ratify the Locarno Pact, and it would be decided at the Imperial Conference whether the Empire would act as a whole in this matter, or the countries would act separately. For six years Great Britain had played the part of Atlas, carrying on her shoulders the responsibility of the peace of the world, and it was felt that Australia for one could not allow such an anomaly to continue. (Applause.)

ADV. 15.9.26

CONSERVATORIUM STRING QUARTET.

SUCCESSFUL SEASON CONCLUDED.

The final concert of the 1926 season was given by the Elder Conservatorium String Quartet in the Public Library Lecture Room last evening in the presence of a large gathering, which included Lady Bridges. The programmes submitted during the season have been remarkable for the high-class character of the compositions, and the faithful manner in which the various numbers have been interpreted. Those who have been in the habit of attending the concerts regularly consider that a great deal has been done towards encouraging an appreciation of the beauties of string music in quartet form. Besides giving enjoyable concerts in Adelaide, the instrumentalists played with signal success in Melbourne. It is hoped to continue the concerts next year when, with increased popularity, a larger hall will be required. The performers last night were:—Violins, Mr. Charles Schilsky and Miss Kathleen Meegan; viola, Miss Sylvia Whittington; 'cello, Mr. Harold Parsons.

The opening number was Schubert's string quartet in D minor in four movements—allegro, andante con moto, allegro molto, and presto. The quartet is of a brilliant and sparkling character, full of melodious and harmonious passages, which were skilfully played. Excellent precision was shown, and it was evident that the performers had given a good deal of time and attention to rehearsing. The composition is one with which the average lover of Schubert is not so familiar, but it served to display the genius of the great song writer as an illustrator of the work of which the strings are capable. The allegro movement gave scope for some exquisite playing by the leading violinist. A phrase of a hymnal nature was most enjoyable. Orchestral like effects were produced in the opening phrases of the andante con moto movement, the 'cello and the viola being prominent later. A solo by the first violin was a feature of this movement, the three other instruments providing a tuneful accompaniment, in which organ-like effects were heard. A delicate finale was touching in its appeal. A pretty song-like solo for the viola distinguished the allegro molto movement, which has a vigorous and abrupt finish. The presto movement was brightly played, and formed a fitting conclusion to a composition of great beauty, which was brilliantly interpreted. Glazounow's "Interludium in modo antico," which opens with a violin solo, with the other instruments in accompaniment form, followed by full-toned phrases from the cello, was another highly agreeable item in which the instrumentalists all excelled. The programme concluded with Arensky's piano trio—Allegro moderato, allegro molto, adagio, and allegro non troppo. Miss Alice Meegan was the pianist, with Mr. Schilsky violin, and Mr. Parsons 'cello. The four movements were delightfully played, and the work of the piano was particularly admired.

CONSERVATORIUM STRING QUARTET.

The last of the series of Elder Conservatorium concerts at the Public Library Lecture Room on Tuesday evening, proved to be a fitting climax to a really fine series of concerts. There was a good attendance, the audience was sympathetically appreciative. Lady Bridges was present, accompanied by Miss Avilde Bridges. The whole programme was well chosen and Mr. Charles Schilsky, Miss Kathleen Meegan, Miss Sylvia Whittington, and Mr. Harold Parsons gave a performance of especial distinction. The Schubert String Quartet in D minor, with its arresting opening, was notable. The finish of the presentation was striking. Each musician was imbued with the feeling of the opening of movement of the composition with its curious alternations of feeling. The quality and purity of tone and the artistic restraint, and spontaneity of treatment made the interpretation remarkable even in a series of concerts so distinguished as that which has just come to a close. The second movement "Andante con moto" was even more beautiful. The impression was strengthened in the allegretto molto, and the concluding presto, with its delightful lilting measure. Different and arresting was Glazounow's String Quartet. The one movement, "Interludium in modo antico" affording ample scope for descriptive and expressive interpretation. The programme closed with an admirable rendering of Arensky's piano trio, in which Miss Alice Meegan was pianist, and won hearty and well-deserved applause.

NEWS. 15.9.26

FINAL CONCERT

Conservatorium Quartet

The final of the series of chamber music recitals instituted by the Conservatorium String Quartet was given last night in the Institute Lecture Hall.

A particularly melodious programme was submitted, which opened with Schubert's string quartet in D minor. The allegro opened in a mood of deep thoughtfulness and passed to an andante of melodious grace, which was in turn followed by a sprightly allegro and closed with a presto treatment of the theme.

The work offered some telling opportunities for the 'cello, and Mr. Parsons has surely never been in better form. His work stood out as that of a fine artist and marked him as the finest 'cellist in South Australia, if not in Australia. Great breadth of treatment was displayed in this number, and the andante, surely built upon the theme of some fine old chorale, was most effective in its fine dignity.

A short number by the Russian composer Glazounow was written in an old style. "Interludium in Modo Antico," and was in marked contrast to modern Russian music. The four players, Misses Kathleen Meegan and Sylvia Whittington and Messrs. Schilsky and Parsons, contributed a fine ensemble. Mr. Schilsky's leadership being always sure, although his tone was sometimes a little hard.

Arensky's piano trio, in which Miss Alice Meegan was the pianist, has always been a favorite. Its four movements gave scope for much technical facility on the part of the performers. Of the movements the piquant allegro molto secured the greatest mood of appreciation, to which the players bowed their thanks. For real beauty of tone the adagio, opening with 'cello solo and cast in tender and prayerful mood, was easily the best.

A final return to the opening theme brought the number to a brilliant conclusion. Miss Meegan showed her technical resources throughout, although some of her work was a little cloudy, particularly in the first movement of the Arensky. This was, however, amply atoned for in later movements, when she had warmed to her task. She was the recipient of many floral offerings.

The National Anthem, played by Mr. Parsons, concluded the concert, and the audience dispersed with many expressions of appreciation regarding the series of recitals, which it is hoped will continue to be a feature of winter musical fixtures.

ADV. 16.9.26

PAN-PACIFIC SCIENCE CONGRESS.

Representatives from 18 countries will be present at the third Pan-Pacific Science Congress, which will be held in Tokyo, Japan, next month. The congress, which will begin on October 30, and finish on November 11, will be preceded and followed by a number of excursions arranged by the Japanese Government. Australia will send seven official representatives, four representing the Commonwealth Government, and three the National Research Council. The last mentioned will be Professors G. T. Osborn, of Adelaide; G. E. Nichol, of Perth; and Woodruff, of Melbourne. A number of unofficial delegates will make the trip. English will be the official language, and many important questions, of interest to the scientific world, will be discussed.