

Mr. Bevan enjoyed the Covent Garden opera season, but was of the opinion that there was no such singing as in his time. "There are no great singers to-day," he said; "no new Clara Butts coming on. I went to hear Ben Davis, one of the veterans, and even to-day, he stands alone."

While in London Mr. Bevan spent some time with Madame Ada Crossley, and her husband, Mr. Frank Muecke, in their home. He was pleased to see two former Conservatorium pupils, Miss Charlotte Trivell and Mr. John Bishop, both of whom are Elder scholars, studying at the Royal College of Music. "Sir Hugh Allen told me," he said, "that he was very pleased indeed with Miss Trivell's work, and John Bishop is also doing very well. Speaking of scholars, I was very pleased to meet in New York two old pupils of mine, Miss Clytie Hine and Mr. O. P. Heggie. Both are at the top of the tree in their own particular line. Miss Hine is a great woman in Mozart opera, and Heggie is a theatrical star in Broadway."

On the day before he left London, Mr. Bevan had the honour of being presented to the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace, and had a conversation with them both. As a gentleman of the royal chapel, he had formerly been a member of the royal household, and was able to remind the Queen that he had sung at Their Majesties' wedding. On hearing that he was to leave England so soon, the King said, heartily, "Well, I'm jolly glad you could come here to-day, anyway."

On a visit to Toronto, Mr. Bevan made the acquaintance of many relatives who were in the musical world, and was amazed to find a family of four of his grand nephews engaged in jazz orchestras. "They are letting lights in their profession," he said, "and I was delighted to find them doing so well. They earn anything from 100 to 150 dollars a week each."

**PLANT PESTS AND DISEASES.**

One of the matters to which special attention is being given by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research is the investigation of plant pests and diseases, in regard to which a considerable amount of work is already being carried out by the State Departments of Agriculture. Though reliable figures are not available, £5,000,000 is a conservative estimate of the loss suffered each year in Australia through plant diseases alone. The council is continuing certain investigations initiated by the former Institute of Science and Industry, but before it adopts any definite policy as to the future development of this branch of its work, it has taken steps to secure an authoritative report on the whole position of the investigations now in progress and the facilities available in the different institutions throughout the Commonwealth. With this end in view the council has appointed Professor T. G. B. Osborn, Department of Botany, Adelaide University, to make a thorough enquiry in each State. He will be assisted by the State committees of the council, which are preparing information as to the institutions which are conducting research on plant problems, the matters on which work is already in progress, their economic importance, and urgency of the different problems, &c. In commenting on the matter the Vice-President of the Executive Council (Senator Pearce) said:—"The importance of agricultural research in a country like Australia, where the primary industries are responsible for the production of so large a part of the wealth, can hardly be over-stated. The dairy farmer, the pastoralist, the wheat-grower, and other primary producers are continually finding themselves faced with some problem which can be solved only by investigations of trained men." Professor Osborn will include in his report to the council suggestions as to those problems which can be taken up in existing institutions where scientific direction and equipment is already available, and as to those which will require the development of special facilities. When his report is received the council will consult various institutions concerned, and will then make recommendations to the Commonwealth Government with a view to laying the foundation for a systematic scheme of research which will be of lasting benefit to the agricultural industries of Australia.

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORCHESTRA.**

**THE ROSE GRAINGER FUND.**

To the Editor.

Sir—The executive of the South Australian Orchestra desires publicly to express through your columns its sincere gratitude to Mr. Percy Grainger, first for his enthusiastic praise of the work which has been done, and secondly for his great generosity in inaugurating (by the gift of £500) a special fund in further aid of that work. It is not generally known that the name of Grainger has already figured prominently in the annals of music in this State. Mr. John H. Grainger (Percy's father) was, in 1880, an active organiser and first secretary of the Adelaide String Quartet Club, which for several years did a work of the greatest value in the cause of musical education. There is, therefore, a special fitness, as well as an historical continuity, in the creation of the present Rose Grainger fund for the assistance of the South Australian Orchestra.

Furthermore, such a bequest as this, while perpetuating an honored name, will, it is hoped, also serve to stimulate the generosity of others, and thus materially aid the executive to meet its future responsibilities. It is now seven years since the orchestra was founded. The funds which made its inception possible were subscribed by a number of public-spirited music-lovers in this State, who fully realised—as Mr. Grainger points out—that a symphony orchestra can never be made a "paying concern." Thus, in spite of a careful husbanding by the executive, the sum originally subscribed is now considerably diminished, and its replenishment, as well as the future of the orchestra, constantly exercises the thoughts of many of our friends and supporters. More than one plan is already under consideration, and it is also earnestly hoped that the Government, from which as yet we have received no direct assistance, will realise and respond to the claims of music in our midst.

The present fine and unexpected gift by Mr. Grainger gives additional support to the orchestra. It is on the lines of similar endowments for musical purposes made in other parts of the world, and particularly in America, where generous encouragement is constantly extended to the art. The executive believes that there are probably many people in this State who will be glad to add, in whatever degree, to Mr. Grainger's gift, which, it is hoped, may be the forerunner of other like funds in support of the orchestra. In the present case the amounts contributed will be vested in trustees to be appointed, and all capital subscribed to this fund will be held intact, the interest only being devoted to the purposes set out by Mr. Grainger. There is need of continuous help. The scope of our work may shortly be greatly enlarged, so as to include a regular series of children's concerts, as well as a large number of free scholarships for the study of orchestral instruments. We fully realise as an executive that if Adelaide is to be a great centre of musical culture and influence it will only be by the vision and enthusiasm, as well as by the practical generosity, of those who are resolved that it shall be so renowned.—I am, &c.

E. HAROLD DAVIES, Chairman.  
September 24, 1926.

**SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH.**

By the Science and Industry Endowment Act, passed last session, a capital sum of £100,000 was made available from which the income is to be applied to provide assistance to persons engaged in scientific research, and in the training of students therein. The fund is vested in trustees, who are the members of the executive committee of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (Messrs. G. A. Julius, W. J. Newbigin, and Professor



MR. F. G. HOLDAWAY, M.Sc.

A. C. D. Rivett). Meetings of the trustees have been held and provision made for the anticipation that an annual income of about £5,250 will be obtained. Arrangements have already been made to send six specially qualified research students abroad for training. Two of them will specialise in fuel research, two in general forest products work, one in economic entomology, and one in forest entomology. Three of the students are from Sydney University (Messrs. J. R. Duggan, B.Sc., B.E., S. Garthside, B.Sc. Agr., and H. E. Dadswell, B.Sc.), two from the University of Western Australia (Messrs. L. J. Rogers, B.E., and J. E. Cummins, B.Sc.), and one from Adelaide University (Mr. F. G. Holdaway, M.Sc.). In addition, grants have been made to Messrs. H. W. Strong, M.Sc., and J. R. Vickery, M.Sc., both of Melbourne University, who have gone to England to carry out the work in fuel research and cold storage research respectively. The council will have an option on the services of all these students on their return to Australia. No funds are yet available for grants to persons engaged in scientific research (as distinguished from research students). The council is preparing rules laying down the principles on which applications for such grants will be considered.

**PLANT PESTS AND DISEASES.**

A subject to which special attention is being given by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research is the investigation of plant pests and diseases, in regard to which a considerable amount of work is already being carried out by the State Departments of Agriculture. Though reliable figures are not available, £5,000,000 is a conservative estimate of the loss suffered each year in Australia through plant diseases alone. The council is continuing certain investigations initiated by the former institute of Science and Industry, but before it adopts any definite policy as to the future development of this branch of its work it has taken steps to secure an authoritative report on the whole position of the investigations now in progress and the facilities available in the different institutions throughout the Commonwealth. With this end in view the council has appointed Professor T. G. B. Osborn, Department of Botany, Adelaide University, to make a thorough enquiry in each State. He will be assisted by the State committees of the council, which are preparing information as to the institutions which are conducting research on plant problems, the matters on which work is already in progress, their economic importance and urgency of the different problems, &c. Professor Osborn will include in his report to the council suggestions as to those problems which can be taken up in existing institutions where scientific direction and equipment is already available, and as to those which will require the development of special facilities. When his report is received the council will consult various institutions concerned, and will then make recommendations to the Commonwealth Government with a view to laying the foundation for a systematic scheme of research which will be of lasting benefit to the agricultural industries of Australia.

**MR. F. BEVAN RETURNS.**

**ENGLISH MUNICIPAL BANDS.**

Mr. Frederick Bevan, of the Elder Conservatorium, returned on Thursday by the Orana after an extended tour abroad. He stated that his trip had been taken partly for health reasons, and he had paid little attention to musical matters abroad except for purposes of relaxation. He had heard several of Sir Henry Wood's concerts, and also a good deal of the orchestral and operatic work of the Royal College and Royal Academy of Music. Apart from that he had been particularly impressed with the brass bands which played twice daily in all of the London parks, and in most of the municipalities throughout England.

"We have a lot to learn about bands in this country," he said. "In the London parks the people pay for chairs and programmes, and the bands provide selections of good sound music, which I could, and often did, sit and thoroughly enjoy. Thousands of people attend."

Mr. Bevan commented on the growth of road transport in England. There were no bad roads, even in the wilds of Yorkshire, and some of the great arterial roads were often as wide as King William-street for miles. Many bus systems provided wonderful facilities for getting about.

**RESEARCH ENDOWMENT FUND.**

By the Science and Industry Endowment Act, passed last session, a capital sum of £100,000 was made available from which the income is to be applied to provide assistance (a) to persons engaged in scientific research, and (b) in the training of students in scientific research. The fund is vested in trustees, who are the members of the executive committee of the Council for Scientific Research and Industrial Research (Messrs. G. A. Julius, W. J. Newbigin, and Professor A. C. D. Rivett). Meetings of the trustees have been held, and arrangements have been made for the investment of the fund in Commonwealth securities. It is anticipated that an annual income of about £5,250 will be obtained. The Vice-President of the Executive Council (Senator Pearce) states that arrangements have already been made to send six specially qualified research students abroad for training. Two of them will specialise in fuel research, two in general forest products work, one in economic entomology, and one in forest entomology. Three of the students are from Sydney University (Messrs. J. R. Duggan, B.Sc., B.E., S. Garthside, B.Sc. Agr., and H. E. Dadswell, B.Sc.), two from the University of Western Australia (Messrs. L. J. Rogers, B.E., and J. E. Cummins, B.Sc.), and one from Adelaide University (Mr. G. F. Holdaway, M.Sc.). In addition, grants have been made to Messrs. H. W. Strong, M.Sc., and J. R. Vickery, M.Sc., both of Melbourne University, who have gone to England to carry out work in fuel research and cold storage research respectively. The council will have an option on the services of all those students on their return to Australia.

**TOMATO WILT.**

Tomato wilt is an obscure disease which has spread from Victoria through New South Wales to Queensland, and also west to South Australia, and has so far baffled all attempts to discover the cause or prescribe an efficient remedy. A concerted attack on it is now to be made by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research working in co-operation with the Waite Agricultural Institute. One of the most remarkable characteristics of the disease is its rapidity. Plants may be perfectly healthy in appearance in the morning and sometimes within 24 hours they are dead. Once the disease appears, the case is hopeless. There is some evidence for believing that it is of the nature of a virus disease transmitted by insects. The Vice-President of the Executive Council (Senator Pearce) states that in order to carry out investigations on this and other similar plant diseases, a special insect-proof glasshouse is to be erected at the Waite Institute. The cost will be borne by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, which will also contribute funds for the employment of a suitably qualified officer and for certain other purposes. The investigations will be under the supervision of the Director of the Institute (Dr. A. E. V. Richardson), and his assistant (Professor J. A. Prescott), and the institute will provide all facilities for laboratory work, experimental plots, &c. At the same time the investigation of other plant problems will be in progress at the Waite Institute, and later on efforts will be concentrated on some other disease as soon as the intensive work on tomato wilt reaches such a stage as to justify transfer of concentration.

**UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY.**

The last of the 1926 series of debates conducted under the auspices of the Adelaide University Law Students' Society was held at the University on Tuesday night. Mr. F. G. Hickey, who acted as adjudicator, set the following question:—A is driving a motor car along Cross Roads, Clarence Park, and B is driving a horse and buggy along Goodwood-road, both approaching the intersection. A is travelling at 15 miles per hour, and B at 9. When A is 30 yards back and B is 15, A sounds his horn loudly. He says to the witness box that he was doubtful from B's demeanor, &c., whether B heard the horn or not, or whether B saw him coming or not, but thought B did not. As a fact B did not hear the horn or see A coming, though if he had been paying attention he could have heard and seen. Both vehicles continue straight on, and a collision takes place near the centre of the intersection. Both vehicles have the usual brakes. A sues B for damages and B counter-claims. Counsel for A, Mr. G. V. Calshaw, with him Mr. J. A. L. Mangau; counsel for B, Mr. Leaver, with him Mr. B. H. Teusner. After listening to argument the adjudicator awarded a verdict to B both in respect of the claim and the counter-claim, on the ground that A's contributory negligence was the proximate cause of the damage sustained. Other speakers were Messrs. J. Brazel, C. R. Colquhoun, M. Young, and Harry

**MELBOURNE OBSERVATORY.**

MELBOURNE, Sunday. There has been an impression in Melbourne for some time that the State Government proposed to close the Melbourne Observatory, and at its last meeting the University Council, after expressing vigorously its opposition to such a course, decided that, rather than allow the institution to go out of existence, it would be prepared to take it over from the Government. The Chief Secretary (Dr. Argyle) on Saturday denied that the Government, which has the fate of the Observatory under consideration, had decided that it should be closed. He said he was impressed with the proposal that it should be handed over to the University.

**MELBOURNE, Sunday.**

A meeting at which Drs. A. Campbell Corbin, Ellison, Way, Magarey, M. W. Campbell, Peel, and Curtis, were present was held on Friday, September 22, at the office of Mr. J. T. Turnbull, to consider the question of the establishment of a children's hospital.

From The Register, Saturday, September 23, 1926.