MAIL 8·10·27

Conservatorium Changes

One of the chief responsibilities of Dr. Davies' visit to London will be the choice of a successor to Mr. Clive Carey on the staff of the Conservatorium. As soon as the Conservatorium closes Mr. Carey is going to Auckland, India, for a year, and will then return and go to New Zealand, where he may stay for some time, visiting other stations. He intends to sing songs as he moves around, and will probably return to London via America.

Special facilities for the study of that king of instruments, the organ, will be available at the Conservatorium next year, with the addition from London of Mr. John Horner to fill the place vacated by Mr. Herold Wylde. The three-year scholarships offered include one each for organ, piano, and 'cello, and should encourage young male students to compete. Young organists are always in demand, and there are not too many Jean Gerardys or Harold Parsons.

This is the first year in which musical perception and aural culture have found places on the syllabus of the Australian Examinations Board, and the result has proved gratifying. Keen interest was taken in the subject, and the examiners state that the intelligence shown by the candidates, and the work compassed, reflected great credit upon themselves and upon the teachers who had prepared them. The results were 100 per cent. passes and 70 per cent. credits, which is a highly satisfactory average.

REG. 13·10·27

Dr. F. L. Thyer, who was selected as the Rhodes scholar to be sent from South Australia to Oxford for the year 1924, is about to return to this State. He has obtained the degree of B.A., LL.B., and B.Sc. Dr. Thyer is coming as ship's surgeon on the Commonwealth liner Largs Bay, which left London on September 13. He is the second son of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Thyer, of Wilsden street, Walkerville.

NEWS 12·10·27

Research Laboratories

The successful tenderer for the construction of research laboratories at Glen Osmond for the Waite Agricultural Research Institute (University of Adelaide) is Mr. H. S. D. Jarvis, of Croydon. The contract price is £13,000. The architects are Messrs. Wood, Bagot, Jory, and Laybourne Smith, of Currie street.

THE NEWS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1927

CHRONICLE OF TRAGEDY

(By Prof. W. K. Hancock)

Murders, divorces, rumors of wars, earthquakes, floods, pronouncements of statesmen, gossip about notabilities—all is of these (with snappy narratives of sporting contests) that we expect to read on the prominent pages of our newspapers. Sometimes, indeed, we become irritated and blame modern newspapers for pandering to the mob's craving after the sensational. Surely there are more important things happening than the catastrophes, tragedies, feuds, frenzies, and orations which are served up to us!

We cannot be too hard on newspapers. Men are naturally lovers of the sensational and the dramatic, and the newspaper today gives to the masses the same fare which three centuries ago the newsletter gave to the favored few.

Anyone who looks through the Fugger Newsletters (1568-1605) will recognise that this statement is true. The Fuggers were wealthy German bankers; and one of them, with a passionate love for news, collected from his agents and professional correspondents full reports of what was happening in the world.

These reports or newsletters have all the faults of modern journalism. False rumors are circumstantially repeated; improbabilities are greedily accepted. And even for these reasons they are valuable, for they bear witness "to the wild emotions of the period."

Not Modern Invention

Let those who imagine that the chronicle of tragedy is a modern invention of the press read this typical report of a sorry week in Antwerp:

"The week just passed has been an unhappy one, for on Monday a carman hanged himself, kneeling. On Tuesday a goldsmith of the name of Otswald sprang into the Lech . . . wishing to drown himself on account of his debts. But his neighbors saved him. On the night of Thursday a clothshearer of the name of Auber was drunk, fell into the water, and was drowned. On the same day a peasant woman of Pfersen killed a young male child—her own flesh and blood. On Friday a fishermen found at his house a corpse carried to the Pfuhlen House, where she lies in a hopeless state. Last night, also, a weaver of the town was stabbed to death; also a miller in the upper town threw his wife into the river and tried to drown her. But people came to her assistance"—and so spoilt a fitting climax to a ghastly intelligence week. Could even Chicago beat this record?

Juicy News Items

In those days there were juicy news items of a flavor that now we may never taste. Superstitions change. Nowaday we have no witches or astrologers, but must perforce be content with the psycho-analysts, whose records are hidden behind a complicated and unpleasing jargon.

We can never read anything so exciting as the "confessions of Walpurgis Hannmann, executed for witchcraft at Dillingen, who for almost 30 years practised witchcraft and was in league with the Evil One." Nor, outside of physiological and psychological journals, may we inform ourselves of the existence and qualities of monsters like the child of Bohemia. "The child is reported to be covered with cat's hair and to be a dreadful sight." Today anything so extraordinary would be put in a glass case in a medical museum. But in those days men were ready to suspect it as anti-Christ, or they consoled themselves that "It soon died, but not before being baptised."

Of even more value to the world are news of "awesome and unusual visions." At Vienna "the firmament was rent asunder, and through this gap one could distinguish hosts and armies, riders with yellow, white, red, and black standards." Moreover, there appeared in the western sky at 2 o'clock in the morning a comet whose tail pointed to the east. "Rumor has it that this generally means the death of a great personage." "At noon it rained blood." A miracle was performed at Weimar. At Bourges crosses appeared on the cloths and coverings of the Cathedral altar. At Lisbon Maria delin Visitacion had received the holy stigmata. Moreover, she would consent to bless the banners of the Invincible Armada.

Supernatural Portents

It was the daily occurrence and imminence of great events which made men so eager to receive and believe news of supernatural portents. After all, there had been angels of Mons. Is it difficult for humanity to admit that the eternal powers are indifferent to its petty struggles.

The world of Count Philip Eduard Fugger was furnished with struggle. Philip II. was fighting for his religion and faith against infidel Turks and heretic Hollanders. French Catholics and Huguenots were methodically slaughtering one another. And in the New World those outrageous English pirates were working havoc with the trade and riches of the Spanish Empire. "Everywhere there is heresy!" exclaimed when came in 1569 that Drake and Hawkins were out again on another voyage. "The most annoying part of it all is that Hawkins could not have fitted out so many of a fleet without the aid and secret consent of the Queen." Of course the Queen denied it, and it would be hard to bring her to proof. One heard such extraordinary tales about her! At last she seemed to have married that same French prince Alencon. No; it was only another rumor. Really one did not know what to believe. But it was only too true that Drake was at sea again. "In India, which belongs to the King of Spain, he has stolen two millions of gold. Yet it is reported that the treasure that is safe in port, "God grant this may be true."

News of the great war at sea shadows all other items. There have been burnings of heretics at Seville, a riot of students in Paris, a plague in Venice, a strike among the miners at Schwaz. How small these happenings are. The Invincible Armada has sailed, has been beaten; and heretic seamen are eating away the power of Spain. A new report of 1600 confesses that England and Holland are conquering the trade of the world.

MAIL 15·10·27

Sir Langdon Bonython

SIR LANGDON BONYTHON

Today is the seventy-sixth anniversary of the birth of Sir Langdon Bonython, proprietor of "The Advertiser" and its associated journals. Sir Langdon, who was born in London on October 15, 1851, is pardonably proud of his descent from one of the oldest families in Cornwall, and he maintains more than a sentimental connection with the county of his forefathers in the names of two of his residences, Carclew at North Adelaide and Carminowe at Mount Lofty.

There are few, if any, other Australian newspaper proprietors and editors still active as strongly as the Knight of Weymouth street, who is at his office every day and night directing affairs.

It is nearly 50 years since Sir Langdon was admitted to the company of Knights. In 1886 he was created Knight Bachelor for his services in connection with public education. Ten years later he was made a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. Eight years ago he was created K.C.M.G. for services rendered to the Commonwealth of Australia.

His journalistic and public careers have been remarkable. Entering the office of "The Advertiser" as a lad, he did his share as a reporter and leader writer, and at the age of 30 or thereabouts acquired a proprietary interest in the big daily. Subsequently he became editor and sole proprietor.

For 38 years he has been president of the South Australian School of Mines and Industries, one of the most notable institutions of its kind in Australia. He is also closely identified with the University and other important institutions of the State.

Elected in 1901 to the first Commonwealth Parliament Sir Langdon was a member of the House of Representatives for six years when he retired. Subsequently he was one of the trustees appointed by the Federal Parliament to administer the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Fund, and later one of the seven Commissioners under the Repatriation Act of 1917.

In January, 1921, he announced his gift of £40,000 to the University of Adelaide for the erection of a Great Hall. Last year he presented the university with another £20,000 for the purpose of endowing the Chair of Law. To the School of Mines Sir Langdon has made many gifts of great value. Neither has he been unmindful of the claims of religion, for recently he made a magnificent gift to St. Peter's Cathedral.

ADV. 14·10·27

Professor J. B. Cleland was appointed president of the Royal Society at its annual meeting on Thursday night.

MAIL 15·10·27

Adelaide Graduate

A South Australian native born and a graduate in science in the University of Adelaide is Mr. Stanley S. Addison, Assistant Registrar of the University of Melbourne, and managing director of the Melbourne University Press. Son of Charles Addison, he was born at Aldinga on December 14, 1890 (47 years ago yesterday) and graduated B.Sc. at Adelaide in 1911. For about 18 years he was general secretary of the Australasian Student Christian movement, and during that time he visited many of the universities of the world.

For upward of four years Mr. Addison saw service in the great war with the Australian Red Cross, the Imperial Navy (anti-submarine division), and the Australian Arsenal branch. He was mentioned in despatches and awarded the M.B.E.

REG. 14·10·27

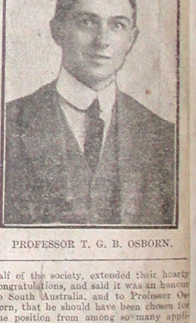
PROFESSOR OSBORN.

Leaving the State.

Appointed to Sydney University.

Professor T. G. B. Osborn, of the Adelaide University, has been appointed Professor of Botany at the Sydney University. The professor will leave for Sydney to-day to finalise arrangements in connection with the appointment.

Reference was made to the appointment at the annual meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, of which Professor Osborn is the retiring President, on Thursday evening. Sir Joseph Verco, on be-



PROFESSOR T. G. B. OSBORN.

half of the society, extended their hearty congratulations, and said it was an honour to South Australia, and to Professor Osborn, that he should have been chosen for the position from among so many applicants. He congratulated the Sydney University on securing the services of so capable a professor. Professor Osborn had done valuable work while he had been in South Australia, and they were sorry that he was going, as it would be a distinct loss to the University and to botanists in South Australia. During his 15 years in Adelaide, Professor Osborn had not "eaten out" his welcome. The regret would be the greater because, with the professor, they would lose Mrs. Osborn, who had been of great assistance to him and to students of botany in South Australia. His position at the University would be hard to fill. The professor had taken a prominent part in the jubilee of the University, and in connection with the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York and other functions. He thanked the professor for the help he had rendered to the society, and it would be some solace to them to know that, if he filled the presidential chair, and that his name would grace the list of past Presidents.

Professor Osborn thanked Sir Joseph and members for their kind feelings concerning himself and Mrs. Osborn, whose assistance he acknowledged.

Professor Osborn's Career.

Professor Osborn is at present lecturer on economic botany, vegetable pathology, and parasitology at the University. Professor Osborn was born on October 6, 1882. At the age of 21 years he gained