ADV. 24-5-24

MUSICAL ABORIGINALS.

ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR DAVIES.

A large number of present and past students of the Elder Conservatorium attended the Prince of Wales Theatre, University, on Monday evening, on the occasion of an illustrated lecture by Professor E. Harold Davies, Mus. Doc., entitled "With the Aboriginals in Central Australia."

Dr. Davies outlined the itinerary of the expedition of which he was a member, which visited Central Australia recently, and made investigations regarding the anthropology of the Australian aboriginals. He stressed the necessity of making a systematic study of the aboriginals before they died out, and whom he had heard described by scientists as the blood brothers of white man, and the purest white man on earth. During the trip he had had an opportunity of seeing a young aboriginal initiated into the tribal mysteries, when all the ceremonial dances were carried out, and he was enabled to gather information regarding aboriginal songs.

Although it was difficult to introduce the natives to sing in the first place, to their songs had been recorded and they had heard them repeated by the gramophone, they were only too anxious to perform. He did not think it was quite possible to obtain the correct expression regarding aboriginal songs unless he had the right perspective. It must be realised that the aboriginal of to-day was a Stone Age man, and for untold years had been isolated from the rest of the human race. He had very utterly primitive ideas about the only thing he had learned was to make fire. He made the ground his bed, used a nomadic hunter, and had learned to plant seed and grow crops. In spite of these facts he had a wide spread in his knowledge, and the songs were of extraordinary interest. The aboriginal was the child of the human race, and his knowledge of music was a most strange problem. It also threw a wonderful light on the origin of music, which had been the subject of speculation. The native songs put music in its right place as a great instinctive, natural thing. It was rather astonishing that the aboriginal had developed such a wide scope of songs without the aid of any instrument, and had arrived at a definite knowledge of the principal scales in their own initiative. Nearly all his songs showed a compass of an octave. From that the speaker deduced the fact that the aboriginal had first sensed the octave, after which he had learned the value of the fifth and the fourth, and finally had found a middle note. From combinations of the notes used by the aboriginal could be found the principal scales in the use in the civilised world. The speaking voice of the aboriginal was fascinatingly musical, and the singing before the gramophone he seemed to consider it necessary to make a terrible noise.

Professor Davies played a number of records of aboriginal songs, and displayed many interesting lantern slides depicting scenes on his northern trip.

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also REG

THE OPTOMETRICAL CONFERENCE.

UNIFICATION OF ASSOCIATION.

The Optometrical conference was resumed at the Institute, North-terrace, on Tuesday, when the president (Mr. I. H. Quirke) occupied the chair. More attention was devoted to an educational session when clinics, and instruments and method demonstrations were given. In the afternoon the business of the conference was continued.

Mr. G. Kette, president of the New South Wales association, moved that steps be taken to establish an international optometrical association. He said he had as federal president, communicated with the optometrical associations of the various countries of the world. The leaders in optometry in America were who-be-heartedly in support of the movement, which was intended to bring the associations of the world into closer relation.

Mr. W. Hall (New South Wales) seconded the motion, which was carried. The secretary (Mr. H. S. Bell, Victoria) was instructed to write to the associations of other countries regarding the proposal.

In a paper on the incorporation of State associations and institutes, Mr. A. Knapp (Western Australia) stated that the benefits to be derived from unification of the bodies concerned would include, among other things, the establishing and maintenance of a minimum standard of education for optometrical students, the prescribing of a definite syllabus of technical education for optometrists in Australia, the control of examinations and the issue of examination papers with view to establishing uniform standards throughout Australasia, the issuing of uniform certificates which would secure recognition throughout the Commonwealth, both by optometrists and the general public, and the establishment of mutual status or reciprocity. Such an association should provide that the degree of fellowship should be granted to those members who had been in practice for a number of years, and had succeeded in passing the examination for the degree. The examination could be conducted as far as possible under University auspices. The association should also seek to prohibit the practice of unprofessional advertisements, the practising or employment of unqualified assistants, and the display of other than optometrical appliances in shop windows owned or occupied by optometrists. It could not do better than model itself upon the line of the British Medical Association, with a view to promoting and protecting the welfare and interests of the public, the discouragement of attempts by members of the profession to subordinate the purely optometrical business, the suppression of all advertising matter which reflected upon fellow practitioners, and eventually, the restriction of advertising matter to a plain statement of name, qualification, address, and hours of attendance. The idea of a sound technical education seemed somewhat nearer in those States where the universities had become interested in the practice of optometry, and the training of optometrists. It was thought it would be the ambition of the profession of Australia to send their students only, and that was by no means unattainable ideal, but they must first be successful in practice and thereby secure a dignified and desirable profession. Neither profession nor students of universities should be allowed to practise optometry as at present practised in Australia. It lacked dignity in its outward appearance, and the public would never be convinced any measure of self-respect until it prohibited vulgar and ostentatious practices of unqualified practitioners. (Applause.)

INTER-ALIA

Mr. M. Isaacs proposed "The Medical Profession and the Adelaide University." He said optometrists had the co-operation of the medical profession and the Adelaide University, which the Chancellor (Sir J. Barrett-Lennard) had kindly. He made reference to the part Professor Kerr Grant had played in having the optometrical degree established, and the appointment of a course at the Adelaide University.

Dr. J. B. Dawson replied on behalf of the medical profession. He said to-day the medical and the optometrical professions had a mutual appreciation of each other's good cash. States not in possession of legislation affecting optometrists would, he felt sure, welcome the assistance the medical profession would be considerably improved if they prevailed upon their Governments to give them legal status. (Applause.)

Mr. R. S. Burden replied on behalf of the University. He said its association with the optometrists had ever been amicable.

REG. 26-5-27 ALSO ADV.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORCHESTRA.

Additional Funds Needed.

To the Editor.

Sir—The following letter, which has been circulated among the founders and guarantors of the orchestra, will, I hope, speak for itself. The executive is now desirous of making a general appeal, and to this end the generous co-operation of the press is sought. Contributions of whatever amount will be welcomed; and a wide publicity of the orchestra's objects, value, as well as its need of enthusiastic public support will only serve to strengthen the hands of the executive.—Yours, &c.,

E. HAROLD DAVIES,
Chairman of the Executive.

To the present fund in "aid." Mr. C. H. Angas has generously given £500, and subsequently £300 more has been subscribed by the following:—Sir George Murray, Miss Murray, Mr. O. von Riesen, Mrs. Barry Allman, Miss Lennon Reynell, Mrs. John Gordon and Misses Gordon, Mr. Gordon Sunter, "Anonymous," Mrs. Hamilton, the Misses Waterhouse, Mr. Harold Fisher, Mr. Dudley C. Turner, Mrs. J. W. McGregor, Mrs. Allnutt, Mrs. Hayward, Mr. Alfred Haslam, Mrs. Harold McGregor, Mrs. Shorney, Mrs. Cave, Mr. W. J. Isbister, Mr. F. A. Bagster, Mr. Hugh Hill, and Mrs. Horn.

Further contributions will be duly acknowledged in this press.

(1) At the end of this year we shall have given over 30 concerts, in which somewhere between 200 and 300 great musical works have been performed.

(b) Six years ago Mr. W. H. Foote was practically engaged by the London symphony orchestra, and his undoubted abilities and enthusiastic devotion have undoubtedly been of considerable benefit to the cause of music in South Australia.

(c) Through his work not only has the standard of orchestral playing been raised from E. to E.E., but there has been a large number of young students has also been actually built up from the professional ranks.

(d) Our general musical education has greatly progressed by the performances of the orchestra, whose reputation now extends far beyond the limits of our own State.

The executive is satisfied that the cultural achievements thus recorded has not only been substantial, but of great permanent value, and its funds expended. It remains, therefore, to consider without delay what shall be done for the future.

The New South Wales an annual grant of £2,000 is made by the Government for the maintenance of the orchestra attached to the Sydney Conservatorium, a subsidy to which Australia, though much to be desired, is not likely to receive. The executive is of opinion that an more than one occasion representations have been made to Ministers. It, however, the continuance of our own orchestra can be secured for a further period of four or five years, it is to be hoped that such an educational agency would not be allowed to lapse for want of Government assistance.

To continue operations for such a term definite guarantees of support are necessary. To our founders, therefore, we would first appeal, that they may express their desire as to the further maintenance of that which they have brought into being by their generous aid. To such of our guarantors as may desire the orchestra to continue we would suggest this opportunity of forfeiting their guarantee, that while those of them were not among those who signed the original establishment, they would nevertheless wish to participate in its future.

E. Harold Davies (Chairman), Emily Dutton, Mary Colton, Ethel Hall, Gertrude Prescott, J. G. Dunn, Hughes, Gordon Sunter, Hon. Secretaries, Bank of Adelaide.

REG. 26-5-27
ALSO ADV.

VALUE OF ASTRONOMY.

Lecture by Mr. Dodwell.

Under the auspices of the Astronomical Society, the Government Astronomer (Mr. G. F. Dodwell, B.A.) delivered an illustrated lecture in the Institute Lecture Theatre, on Wednesday evening. His subject was, "The contribution of astronomy to knowledge." Dealing with its contribution to knowledge, Mr. Dodwell imparted a fascinating study to the audience. Professor R. W. Chapman was in the chair.

The lecturer traced the history of the ancient science brought to light by astronomers from earliest times. He first referred to the work done by lantern slides of many of the old masters, and views of Florence, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, and Greenwich, and of Christopher Columbus, by breaking away from the prevailing idea that the earth was flat, discovered the new world. Views were also illustrated the earth, and that Halley, who was connected with Sir Isaac Newton's discoveries, became famous through his prophecy regarding the comet which was named after him and reappeared in 1910. His method of calculating the path of transit of Venus resulted in Sir Joseph Banks making the expedition to Tahiti with Capt. Cook, in which witness this event. The advance in navigation was made possible through astronomy, and the superstitions of the people were dispelled when strange events in the heavens were looked upon with fear as ill omens, were superseded by a scientific knowledge with nothing as useful as the modern eyeglass, formed theories which eventually led to the discoveries of Kepler and Tycho Brahe, and Galileo. Flamsteed, the first Astronomer Royal, appointed by Charles II., was responsible for the formation of the Greenwich Observatory. Mr. Dodwell mentioned the work at Adelaide Observatory on the lines of terrestrial observations on his expedition to Tahiti, trip to Wardang Island, where several wrecks had occurred. The navigator's chart of to-day was about two and a half degrees in error.

Professor Chapman, in thanking Mr. Dodwell, for the lecture, said astronomy enabled man to climb to the top of the universe and obtain a better perspective of life. Every achievement of science of man had been assisted by the study of astronomy. Navigation, and the mapping and charting of the world would be impossible without that science. The making of the new instruments which the search for astronomical knowledge required, which led to many discoveries in chemical and physical science.

ADV. 26-5-27

WOMEN STUDENTS.

POSITION AT OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE.

LONDON, May 25.

The position of women at Oxford and Cambridge has been strengthened. Students are now eligible for university scholarships, and women in the future will be admitted to all professorships, readerships and university teacherships at Oxford.

REG. 26-5-27

POLARIZED LIGHT.

Lecture by Mr. R. S. Burden.

There was a large attendance of delegates to the annual conference of optometrists at the physics lecture room at the Adelaide University, on Wednesday evening, when Mr. R. S. Burden (lecturer of Physics) gave a lecture on polarised light. Mr. I. H. Quirke (President of the conference) was in the chair, and briefly introduced the lecturer and Mr. Oliphant, who had assisted in preparing for the lecture.

Mr. Burden said that, on behalf of the University and the staff of the physics department, he had much pleasure in welcoming the visitors. In endeavouring to provide an evening of interest to the conference he was but carrying out the wishes of the head of the department and following the precedent of universities in cities in which conferences had been held previously. Mr. Oliphant and he had prepared the lecture and demonstration in partnership, and, as was sometimes the partnerships, one member had done most of the work and the other would do most of the talking after all. He had chosen for a subject of considerable interest, which did, to some small extent bear directly on their profession, but which had not been considered very much, for, if he might be permitted to express an opinion on the educational value of the lecture, they were so largely concerned at the conference he would say that it was well that they should not be too exclusive in any profession not to insist that the subjects should be too closely restricted to the special requirements of the profession. The best members of any profession were generally those who knew things in addition to the actual requirements of knowledge. In optometry one was mainly concerned with the properties of light in their relation to the eye, but a little acquaintance with the properties of light generally would, however, probably add more interest to the work. He felt sure, also, he felt that the audience was a difficult one to prepare for, as some would know all about the subject and others would start with, while others might be less fully acquainted with it. Still, those who knew most would not mind going over the ground again.

Mr. Burden proceeded to deal with the phenomena of interference, illustrating by all forms of wave motion, illustrating wave action with diagrams and explanations, and showing the effect of interference by disturbances, and the effect on these of interference from another set of waves out of step. He then dealt with the question of sound waves followed, in which two tuning forks which gave out vibrations at very slightly different rates were used. When interference occurred the sound lessened. Even more striking was the interference of light waves. A ray was vibrated by a tuning fork, in which, when interference was set up by added wealth, the effect was shown. Another very fascinating experiment was that with the "rainbow cup," in which the effect of colour in thin films of soap bubbles was demonstrated and explained. So far, all had been carried out in ordinary light. The nature of polarised light and how it was then outlined, and the effect of the double image prism and the action of the Nicol prism with regard to the polarisation of light by reflection from transparent surfaces, such as glass or water, was dealt with in particular detail in a very clear way, and the effects of mist and the glare from wet sand touched upon. Mr. Burden also explained a most remarkable series of pictures executed in mica on glass lent by the Adelaide High School—perfectly clear under ordinary light, but showing beautiful colourings under polarised light. Even more interesting were the demonstrations of the selective way in which glass is polarised light. Under polarised light they displayed by their colouring exactly where the strain was set up by the gift of bending or compression. Some examples of cooled glass, affording similar effects were also shown. Finally, Mr. Burden dealt with the opportunity of using the spectroscope was afforded to those present.

Mr. Bell, in giving a lecture (Mr. W. Kett (N.S.W.), in moving a vote of thanks to the lecturer, said that South Australia was fortunate in having the sound of city and its professors. He quite envied the optometrists of this State and the opportunity for the opportunity for making under Mr. Burden. The demonstration of polarization and train testing had been most interesting. Many of them had used these methods, and for that reason the illustrations had been especially interesting.

Mr. H. Bell (Vic.) congratulated South Australian optometrists on being in touch with a University which had done so much for the profession.

Mr. Padman (Tas.) said that he felt that the Adelaide University was fortunate in having his own State, but congratulated them on the result. Mr. Knapp (W.A.) also spoke enthusiastically of the treatment of the subject by the lecturer, and regretted that it was not possible to ask him questions for a considered time.

Mr. Quirke asked Mr. Burden and Mr. Oliphant to accept their thanks for the exceptionally fine lecture and demonstration.

Mr. Burden briefly responded.