

GIFT TO THE STATE.

ARE EXAMINATIONS FAIR?

Sir Josiah Symon's Library.

"Indefensible," Says Harrow Master

Eldon Fox thoroughly deserved the applause he received for his playing of "Cantelline, from Sonata in A Minor," by Goltermann. Miss Katie Yoerger was especially happy in her rendering of two numbers, "Nocturne in E Flat" (Chopin Sarasate), and "Capriccio Valse" (Wieniawski). Misses Alice Meegan, Joan Mellowship, and Gweneth Thompson acted as accompanists. The violin ensemble, "Largo in E Major" (Handel) was a good illustration of the value of such training, not only as a preparation for orchestral playing, but to give steadiness and a sense of rhythm. The evenness and quality of tone was admirable. This was played by Misses Imelda Smith, Phyllis Chappel, Julia Cockburn, Elma Cosh, Edyth Newman, Lila Finlay, Jean Hack, Pauline Hyde, Ida Allison, Ella Solomon, Mollie Scollin, Gladys Topperwein, Flora Windle, Mary Slattery, Winnie Tassie, Mavis Watson, Messrs. Fred Groth, James Bell, and George Hooker.

At the last meeting of the Public Library Board a letter was received from Sir Josiah Symon, making known his intention to bequeath to the national collections his private library at Manoah, Upper Sturt. This bequest, to take effect when that distinguished career which has made such a mark on Australian life has come to a close, and subject to the wishes of Lady Symon during her lifetime, is unique in local history. Sir Josiah is a book lover who has known, as he says, for many years the solace and refreshment of being surrounded by many hundreds of dear friends, his books, accompanied by historic and other portraits and ornaments appropriate to a well-furnished library. He does not wish his gift to be merely a donation of books, to be dispersed among the rich mass of such material already in the Public Library and its archives. His desire is to present the library in its entirety, "with all that has given it the atmosphere and made it the live and attractive corner" that it has been to him for so many years. He proposes, therefore, to give not only the books (which number about 8,000) but also the shelving, cupboards, furniture, and ornaments; also his accumulation of signed photographs, letters and manuscripts, historically and otherwise interesting, so that the library may be transferred from his home to the Public Library for the use of book lovers for all time, as nearly as possible in the form in which he used it. Included among the ornaments is a beautiful copy in Carrara marble of "The Faun of Praxiteles," one of the famous masterpieces of Greek sculpture.

DIRECTOR OUTLINES AMERICAN SYSTEM

(By Adelaide Hope)

Is the present system of examination a fair test of capacity? There are many who declare it is not. Notable among these is Dr. Cyril Norwood, head master of Harrow, who says that it is "indefensible." He suggests that every school which has been properly inspected and reported as efficient should issue its own certificates, declaring that the pupils have attended for so many years and reached a satisfactory level of performance.

He is not alone in this suggested reform to puzzle the child, who is already at a disadvantage in the situation itself. Mr. W. T. McCoy, B.A. (Director of Education in South Australia), while refusing to be interviewed upon this vexed question, referred me to the published report of his official visit to Europe and America in 1927.

"ALWAYS BE NECESSARY"

In this he states that "the high schools of America are not harassed by external examinations such as our Intermediate, Leaving, and Leaving Honors examinations. Children who satisfactorily complete a full course at a public high school 'graduate,' provided they fulfil certain conditions. Graduation marks an epoch in the career of a boy or girl and commands the attention of parents and public alike. Moreover, the children who take commercial, industrial, agricultural, and home economics courses can graduate on equal terms with their fellows, who take the secondary course. All the examinations connected with graduation are conducted by the school authorities. Admission to a university is gained through the recommendation of the principal of an 'accredited' school. The accrediting of secondary schools is regulated by the university. A school is judged not only by the scholastic performances of the freshmen it sends to the university, but also by the qualification of the teachers, the school equipment, and the laboratories.

ADMISSION TO UNIVERSITY

The applicant for admission to the university must be duly certified as having graduated from a four-year course aggregating at least 15 standard units (the unit being the measure of any particular subject studied throughout the year), and he must also be certified as fitted, in the judgment of the principal, to undertake college work with a reasonable prospect of success. "It is held to be the duty of the school master to see that a student takes those subjects which will best prepare him for his work at the university."

The Director appears to have some sympathy with this scheme, which may therefore be adopted here. If so, much heart burning and despondency may be saved on the part of the nervous, the sick, or others who never show the best of themselves in contact with questions set by outsiders, which are sometimes exceedingly difficult to comprehend, to say nothing of answering. It appears that nobody is really satisfied with things as they are; yet nobody intimately concerned cares to pass an opinion on the matter. The head master of one of our colleges declared that he had long ago given up discussing examinations and refused to comment upon them. He thought probably everybody was to blame for the present dissatisfaction—the public most of all.

A suburban head master interested in reform read a paper at the Head Masters' Association meeting recently, but when asked for points said that since the reading of the paper much disputation concerning the qualifying certificate examination had occurred, and as he had had no intention of criticising that examination in particular, he preferred to say nothing. From another source, however, I learned that one suggestion had been the shortening of the comprehensive questions, making 10 or 20 out of what is now one, and which involves itself almost more into an effort of composition, than a revelation of actual knowledge of a subject. Too much seems to be expected on the part of some examiners regarding what is called "English." It is felt that when a child is preoccupied in endeavoring to remember and set down actual facts, or using his reason over some, to him, difficult problem—and all this against time!—some latitude should be allowed him in the matter of expression, no matter how important that may be later on. "The idea nowadays seems often to be

REG. 6. 12. 28

At the annual meeting of the Adelaide Children's Hospital on Wednesday, Sir Henry Newland and Mrs. M. A. Fotheringham were made life governors of the institution. Mr. C. R. J. Glover, in submitting the proposal, said Sir Henry had been associated with the hospital in an honorary capacity for some 25 years, and the board could do no less for him than to confer that honour for his splendid



SIR HENRY NEWLAND.

services. Mrs. Fotheringham was following in the footsteps of her father and mother in the keen interest she took in the welfare of the institution. Their generosity had enabled one part of the hospital to be materially benefited, and the scope of that particular work would be considerably enlarged.

REG. 6. 12. 28

UNIVERSITY COMMEMORATION.

The annual commemoration of the University of Adelaide will be held at Elder Hall on December 21.

REG. 7. 12. 28

The University Council.

A remarkably fine body of all-round experts is that controlling the fortunes of the University of Adelaide. This council is elected by the Senate, a name often given at other universities to the governing body itself; but here the Senate is just the whole body of graduates, and at its one big November meeting it reviews, and usually accepts, any new rules passed by the council during the year, and at the same time submits a certain number of the council to the ordeal of re-election. This year, all the retiring members were re-elected, excepting Sir Joseph Verco, who is seeking a rest after long and valuable service, and the vacancy is filled by Mr. Harry Thomson. A lawyer thus replaces a doctor, but on the other hand quite a number of medical men have been elected lately. The council is a remarkably well-balanced body of men, for the graduates, in electing, have no hesitation in going outside their own number to get experts, in, for example, finance. The control of the University affairs is now business in itself.



THE CHANCELLOR (Chief Justice Murray)

In the physics lecture room Professor Kerr Grant conducted experiments in electricity, and the visitors were shown the liquid air machine. They inspected the engineering department, Darling Building, the library, the Lady Simon

REG. 7. 12. 28

Not Too Many Parsons.

The personnel of the University Council is:—Lawyers, Chief Justice Murray (Chancellor), Mr. Justice Parsons, Messrs. Isbister, K.C., and Thomson. Doctors: Cudmore, Hobe, Ray, and Helen Mayo (the only woman on the council). From the staff: Professors Chapman (Acting Vice-Chancellor), Brailsford Robertson, and McKellar Stewart. Other education experts: Sir William Mitchell (Vice-Chancellor, and for many years a professor), Messrs. Bayly, Bickersteth, McCoy, and Grenfell Price. Finance and commerce: Sir Langdon Bonython, Messrs. Goodman, Holden, Barr Smith, and W. J. Young. One odd point may be noted. The University Act, evidently fearing a parsonical influence, enacted that not more than four ministers of religion shall be on the council at once. The full number used to be elected, but for some years there has been only the Rev. K. J. F. Bickersteth, and he is present rather as head master than as clergyman. The Government, giving a fairly generous subsidy, claims the right of nominating five extra council members. These are, at present, the Hons. W. H. Harvey and G. Ritchie, and Messrs. Anthony, Shepherd, and Vardon. A remarkably strong 26, all these; and all attending not only council meetings, but also continual committees, and "boards," and "faculties," without the slightest remuneration.

OFFICERS AT THE UNIVERSITY.

Commander Manuel de Mendivil, of the Spanish training ship Juan Sebastian de Elcano, with officers and 20 cadets, visited the Adelaide University on Friday. They were accompanied by the honorary Vice-Consul for Spain in Adelaide (Mr. E. P. Dancker) and the District Naval Officer (Commander A. J. Loudoun Shand), and were conducted over the University by the Acting Vice-Chancellor (Professor R. H. Chapman) and the Registrar (Mr. F. W. Eardley). In the physics lecture room Professor Kerr Grant conducted experiments in electricity, and the visitors were shown the liquid air machine. They inspected the engineering department, Darling Building, the library, the Lady Simon

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EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH.

Pleasure was expressed in educational circles on Saturday at the announcement that the Carnegie Corporation was prepared to give £5,000 a year for 10 years, and, in addition, to find the salary of an executive officer, as well as the expenses of the administration of a trust, in order to stimulate educational research in Australia. Officials of the Education Department, when questioned, said no details of the offer had been received, and no indication had been given of the manner in which the offer would be distributed among the various States; but it was regarded as certain that the offer was intended to cover the whole of Australia, and that vocational training in South Australia would come under its terms. South Australia, it was pointed out, had already received a donation from the Carnegie Corporation of £300 to further agricultural education in the State schools, and the grant had enabled the department to send Mr. A. R. Hilton, B.A. (head master of the Murray Bridge High School) to America to study the details of agricultural education in the high schools there. These offers had apparently been made following the visit of Professor J. R. Russell, of the Columbia University (New York) to Australia in April and May. He represented the Carnegie Corporation, which had from time to time co-operated with the various dominions in furthering agricultural education. During his visit to Adelaide, Professor Russell had discussed a proposed grant with the Director of Education (Mr. W. T. McCoy), and the visit of Mr. Hilton to America was the result of the information about the offer made through Mr. F. Tate, the former Director of Education in Victoria, said he would await further details before commenting on it.