

To the Editor.

Sir—Correspondence has recently appeared in The Register concerning music examinations conducted in Australia by certain "colleges." It will be in the public interest if some facts not generally known are brought before the notice of your readers.

1. The Australian Music Examinations Board consists of representatives of the Universities of Melbourne, Adelaide, Western Australia, Queensland, and Tasmania, and of the State Conservatorium of New South Wales. As to the prestige of this board there can be no question whatever. Not only does its personnel include some of the most distinguished musicians in Australia, but it enjoys the aegis of the universities of the Commonwealth. Its standards are the very highest, and its aim is to conduct musical examinations that shall be entirely worthy of university traditions.

2. The Associated Board of the Royal College of Music and the Royal Academy of Music, with regard to its examinations, stands high in Great Britain in the esteem of musicians, and its diplomas and certificates are valued accordingly.

3. Trinity College of Music, Incorporated, London, is an honourable body, doing useful work; both as a well-appointed scholastic institution, and as an examining corporation throughout the British dominions.

Apart from a few scholarships, both the Associated Board and Trinity College naturally apply the whole of their profits to the benefit of music in Great Britain. For similar reasons the A.M.E. Board, just as naturally, devotes its entire surplus to the furtherance of musical education within our Commonwealth. Surely, for the reasons stated, the A.M.E.B. examinations should, in Australia, enjoy preference before all others. Unfortunately for Australians, however, throughout the Commonwealth certain other examinations are held, which, in the writer's opinion, are of a very different character. Conducted by trading companies, as money-making propositions, the profits pass into the promoters' pockets. The object being essentially financial, presumably the easier the pass, the larger the number of entrants. There is simply no comparison between the standards of these other bodies and those of the recognised boards named above, and, consequently, unthinking members of the public, whom one set of letters will serve as well as another, are attracted, and choose the line of least resistance. In some parts of the Commonwealth the following of these "colleges" is unquestionably large, so that in the aggregate huge sums of money pass annually from Australia for the advantage of a few financial promoters. Incidentally, it may be noted that in 1925 probate was granted for over £42,000 in the estate of one examination promoter. The institutions to which I refer possess no charter, or other authority, yet upon their diplomas are conferred "caps," "hoods," and "gowns," priceless for photographic purposes! Surely this fact suffices to warrant grave criticism, especially as it is found that the recipients of these honours are often mere children, some of whom, it is claimed, gained 100 per cent. of marks! It is deplorable that so many young musical aspirants in Australia—possibly including a few who, if rightly guided, might attain high distinction—are being so grievously misled.

It may be asked, What is the status of these "colleges" in England? The answer is, They have none. They are ignored by the Teachers' Registration Council of Great Britain, and by the Board of Education, also their advertisements are not allowed to appear in leading musical journals. It is evidently high time that for the public safety a "Teachers' Registration Council" should be appointed in each of the Australian States. Such protection is already provided in the legal, medical, and dental professions; so also should it be in the musical. Serious injury is being done to the cause of education in music, and the sooner a remedy is devised to deal with the existing evils, the better will it be in Australia for the sake of that many of us so dearly love.—I am, Sir, &c.,

ERNEST E. MITCHELL,
Adelaide, July 30.

REG. 30.7.28

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION.

The Council of the University has adopted a constitution for the Students' Union. The constitution will be operative as from August 1, and steps will be taken immediately to form the general committee, so that the union can begin the work of organizing. The council has appointed as its representatives on the committee Dr. Helen Mayo and Professor J. McKellar Stewart. The other members of the committee will be appointed as soon as possible.

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GRADUATES' FREE PASSAGES.

To encourage university graduates to continue their studies abroad, the P. and O., Orient, Blue Funnel, and Aberdeen Lines annually grant 19 free first saloon return passages to the universities of Australia. Four each are granted to Sydney and Melbourne, three each to Brisbane, Adelaide, and Perth, and two to Tasmania. This generous grant of the shipping companies is greatly prized, and competition within the universities is keener each year. The selections are made by the university councils. The free passages for 1928 have been awarded to the following graduates of the University of Adelaide:—Dr. Ian A. Hamilton, M.B., B.S.; Mr. C. Grosvenor, B.D.S.; Mr. H. J. McIntosh, B.E. Dr. Ian Hamilton intends to continue post-graduate work in surgery at Edinburgh, London, and Continental centres. Mr. Grosvenor will carry on research work at Liverpool with a view to take the degree of M.D.S. Mr. McIntosh proceeds to London to join the staff of Metropolitan Vickers, Limited, with the view to gain knowledge of the latest developments and to conduct research in engineering.

Visit of Oversea Delegates.

The third of a series of Empire Forestry conferences will be held at Canberra during September. The first took place in London in 1920, and the second at Ottawa (Canada) in 1923. The delegates to the Canberra conference will be—Great Britain, Lord Clinton, Messrs. R. L. Robinson, H. A. Pritchard, Sir William Purse, Mr. F. M. Oliphant, Professor R. S. Troup, and Major Purse; India, Messrs. C. G. Trevor, R. R. Blanford, Jacob, W. A. Robertson, E. O. Sheebee; Federated Malay States, Mr. G. E. T. Cubitt; Tanganyika, Mr. D. K. S. Grant; Gold Coast, Mr. J. R. P. Gent; Nigeria and Sierra Leone, Mr. J. Bunny; Cyprus, and Palestine, Mr. A. H. Unwin; Kenya, Mr. R. Gardner; British North Borneo, Mr. D. D. Wood; Sir Peter Clutterbuck (ex-Inspector-General of Forests, India), Mr. C. E. Legat (Chief Conservator of Forests, South Africa), and officers of the various Forestry departments in Australia.

An Empire Stocktaking.

The conferences were held for the purpose of securing a stocktaking of the timber resources of the British Empire. The timber position was brought forcibly under the notice of the British Government during the Great War, when the German submarine warfare resulted in supplies from overseas being almost entirely cut off. It was found on investigation that Great Britain was purchasing £40,000,000 worth of timber from overseas, and that the United States was becoming a competitor in the purchase of softwoods. It was therefore decided to have an Empire stocktaking, and to tabulate the whole of the Empire's resources.

Mr. R. L. Robinson, O.B.E., B.A., B.Sc. (British Forestry Commissioner), who will be the advance agent of the overseas delegates, will arrive in Adelaide on August 2. Mr. Robinson is a South Australian, and was the second Rhodes scholar sent away from this State. Mr. A. Rule (Australian secretary of the conference) will arrive in Adelaide on Wednesday or Thursday week. The following Tuesday he and Mr. Robinson will leave for Perth, and will await the arrival of the delegates from South Africa on August 10, from Great Britain and India on August 21, and from Canada on August 22. The programme in Western Australia will extend over three days from August 22, and the delegates will arrive in Adelaide on August 28. The local Conservator of Forests (Mr. E. Julius) has arranged the following programme for the visitors while in this State:—Tuesday August 28, arrive in Adelaide by train from Western Australia. Wednesday, State reception and inspection of seasoning kilns, etc., Waite Institute, Botanic Garden, University. Exhibition of Forests products, and so on. Thursday, visit Kuitpo Forest and catch train for South East. Friday, arrive at Kalangadoo at 10 a.m., inspect Cowan and Penola Forest reserves by car, arrive at Millicent in the evening. Saturday, leave Millicent at 8.45 a.m., inspect Mount Burr and Blanche Forest Reserves. Drive to Mount Gambier and leave for Victoria, taking up with the Victorian train at Wolsley. This programme however, may be altered.

At the conclusion of the South Australian visit the delegates will go to Victoria, Tasmania, New South Wales, and Queensland. The conference will finish on October 1, when the delegates will leave for New Zealand, where they will remain until October 22, and then disperse for their various destinations.

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ADELAIDE CITY COUNCIL.

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Various Recommendations.

At the Adelaide City Council meeting on Monday there were present—The Lord Mayor (Mr. Lavington Bonython), Ald. Downs, Isaacs, McEwin, Sir Frank Moulden, Prosser, and Rees, Crs. Bardolph, Sir Wallace Bruce, Cain, Edwards, Glover, Jessop Jones, Lundie, and Gill-Williams.

Special Committee on Street Traffic.

Raised Safety Zones.—The Australian Tramway Employees' Association (S.A. branch) again wrote, asking that raised safety zones be installed opposite tramway stopping places in King William, Currie, Grenfell, and Pulteney streets. The committee received the letter, and recommended the council to adhere to its previous decision of August 1, 1927, when it was decided not to take any action in the matter at present.

The report was adopted.

Works and Highways Committee.

The committee recommended that the Government be approached with a suggestion that the fence around Parliament House Gardens, at the corner of King William road and North terrace, be removed. The committee also recommended that a subcommittee, consisting of Crs. Bardolph, Cain, Edwards, Jones, and Gill-Williams, be appointed to report on the relative wearing qualities of concrete, cement, and slate flags for street paving. The report was adopted.

STUDENTS' CONCERT.

There was a good attendance at the Elder Conservatorium on Monday night, when the eighth concert of the season was given by the students. The standard of the programme was consistently high, and the execution throughout a credit to both teachers and students. The programme opened with "Sonata in D major" (Mozart) for two pianos, by Misses Jean Norman and Jean Taylor, in which they played well together, with a good knowledge of technique and of light and shade. Other items for two pianos were "Allegro de Concert, op. 46" (Chopin-Nicodé), by Mrs. Jean Black, with Miss Adele Wiebusch at the second piano. This was a good performance and was played with ease and fluency, also "Concerto," first movement (Tschaiakowsky), by Miss Jean Findlay, supported by Miss Maude Pudly. This was the final number, and it brought to a close in an extremely brilliant manner a programme of merit. An item of outstanding interest was two pianoforte solos, "Nocturne for the Left Hand" (Scriabine) and "Prelude" (Debussy), by Miss Jean Barbour. The former, an old favorite, was given its full value of expression and was enthusiastically received, and the latter, full of spirit, formed a bright contrast. Miss Adele Wiebusch rendered an organ solo, "Serenade" (Widor), in a pleasing manner, with appropriate expression. A flute solo, "Idyll" by Master Jack Illingworth, was played with a clear tone and was well applauded. Miss Dulce Evens's sweet soprano voice was heard to advantage in "The Robin's Song" (Howard White). Mr. Gerald Healy sang the aria, "O Paradise" (L'Africaine) (Meyerbeer) in an artistic manner and with clarity of tone. Another tenor was Mr. Jack Williams, who rendered "Where'er You Walk" in good dramatic style. Miss Melba Stacey's rich contralto voice was given full scope in the recit, "What Means Iyan?" and the aria, "O My Heart is Weary," was well received. A violin solo, "Allegro Brillante" (Ten Have) was played with marked success by Master George Hooker. The selection was an ambitious one for so young a performer, but he mastered the technicalities in a manner worthy of an older student. Another youthful artist was Master Eldon Fox (aged 10), whose performance of Handel's "Largo in G" on the cello was a truly sympathetic interpretation, and he managed his instrument with surprising ease and skill. A "Sonata for violin and piano in G Major" (first movement) (Grieg), by Miss Esma Roach (violin) and Mrs. Jean Black (piano) was rendered with charm and finish, and the firm ringing tones of the violin were outstanding. Miss Helen Magarey in her usual graceful and musicianly manner played a violin solo, "Symphonie Espagnol" (first movement) (Lalo). The accompanists were Misses Alice Meegan and Joan Mellowship.

A concert by members of the staff will be given on Monday, August 13.

ADV. 31.7.28

GOVERNMENT HOUSE FENCE.

The report of the works and highways committee to the City Council yesterday recommended that the Government be approached with a suggestion that the fence round Government House gardens, at the corner of King William-road and North-terrace be removed. Councillor Edwards said he did not feel disposed to make such a suggestion to the Government while the council retained the hideous fence round Victoria-square. They should be consistent. The recommendation was adopted, after

Alderman McEwin had remarked that it was hoped soon to bring forward a scheme with regard to fences which would recommend itself to every member of the council.

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