

Adv. 14-6-32

## Elder Conservatorium Staff Concert

By Alex Burnard

A large audience attended the concert in the Elder Hall last night, when members of the Conservatorium staff were heard in a long, well-varied programme.

Miss Maude Puddy and Mr. Harold Parsons played the Grieg piano and cello Sonata, op. 36, with full appreciation of its moods. They relished the opening Allegro, with all its grateful gush of melodies (the movement is rather too protracted for its ideas, I think), and achieved some lovely tone-contrast in the slow movement—the languorous, sad opening working up to a high pitch of intensity, and slowly sinking back to the exquisite quiet of the outset, with the sadness purged from it. The finale, bolstered with the spirit of the folk dance, was notable for the heavenly simplicity and charm of the tune that grows out of it, which is later worked into a frenzied rhythmic canon. The two players were as one in their feeling of the work, and their marshalling of the climaxes was wonderfully done.

Miss Hilda Gill's control of breathing was remarkably fine in Faure's "Après un Reve" (though the last difficult phrase had to be broken), and she caught the true devotional spirit of "La Procession" (Franck). Her second group, four traditional British songs, was all delightfully done. The two that charmed most were the jolly little Cornish air, "Where be goin'?" and "The two sisters of Binnorie." This last, a ballad of great length, and, one would say, a severe strain on any vocalist, was a triumph of dramatic characterisation. The low note of each verse had to be listened hard for, but apart from this it was a masterpiece.

Mr. John Horner, in Franck's swan-song, the A minor Chorale, showed great restraint of tone for most of the way—until the last two grandiose presentations of the subject in fact—yet the variety and aptitude of color obtained were remarkable; a highly impressive and musically handling of the poetic material. His second number, the well-known G minor Fantasia and Fugue of Bach, was a triumph of solidarity and positive worth.

Miss Sylvia Whittington's four violin numbers formed a very pleasant group. The first, an Adagio of Pugnani, made a tremendous impression by the lovely rounded nurture of its tone, and the soft velvet shades coaxed from Stoesel's Minuet (on a Tschalkowsky theme) were very beautiful. "Dragon Flies" (Zsolt) was an effective piece of realism.

Mr. William Silver's piano bracket (Chopin) comprised the "Clock" Prelude, the E major study, the romance not insisted on and the cantabile a trifle forceful; and a stirring performance of the G minor Ballade, which a few stray miscalculations in the coda did not appreciably mar. Mr. Silver, after bowing in vain several times, supplemented the "drum" Caprice of Mendelssohn, delightfully clean in the playing.

The accompaniments for the evening were in the hands of Mr. George Pearce.

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The following have passed the sixth year (final) examination in the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery at the Adelaide University:—Messrs. Julian Andrews, Kenneth Laurence Brooke Cowden, and Theodore Godlee.

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The following were appointed members of the Medical Board of South Australia by Executive Council today:—Dr. R. S. Rogers, A. M. Cudmore, E. Angus Johnson, B. H. Morris, and H. H. E. Russell.

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## Conservatorium Organ Recital

Mr. John Horner, at his Elder Conservatorium organ recital during the lunch hour yesterday, played the "Tristan and Isolde" prelude and libretto well, bringing out the mystical charm of this great Wagner music in a wonderful way. The minute in G minor from Handel's eleventh concerto received a delightful interpretation. Other pieces brilliantly played were the Bach E flat prelude and the fifth symphony toccata of Widor.

To the pianoforte accompaniment of Mrs. Horner Mr. Les Coney sang "The Horn" (Flegler).

At his recital on June 23 Mr. Horner will play the A minor chorale of Cesar Franck.

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## CONSERVATORIUM QUARTET

### Wonderful Playing At Recital

BY ALEX BURNARD

The Conservatorium String Quartet—Peter Bornstein, Kathleen Meegan, Sylvia Whittington, and Harold Parsons—has never before played as wonderfully, I think, as they did yesterday afternoon, in the seventh of the Tuesday series. Judging by the character of the applause, the audience was of the same opinion.

The Haydn D minor, op. 76 No. 2, was the opening work. A fine definition of contours marked the bright first Allegro, forceful in its syncopation, and truly strong in texture, plan, and harmonic significance. The variations were purely harmonic: a benign piece of cantilena from the first violin against a chordal background. In the highly effective two-part canon, which formed the main portion of the Scherzo, their precision was glorious, and the last movement was a magnificent piece of virtuosity.

Regarding the first quartet Beethoven wrote (op. 18 No. 1), I very humbly retract all my previous foolhardiness in not having risen to its appreciation before now, and thank the quartet for their wonderful playing. By such means does one grow up, musically. The boldness of the Allegro con brio was never so marked, especially in the rugged power of the Development, and the peace of the slow movement was gorgeous. They sensed the strong pulse of the Scherzo marvellously; and the tiny, but pertinent and individualistic Trio, and the sheer brilliance and sparkle of the Finale, left one with a strong feeling of regret that the concert had ended. I, for one, wanted the whole over again, then and there.

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## ENGLAND'S WORK IN SUDAN "NEARS END"

### Governor Hears Lecture On Land Where He Won V.C.

"British rule in the Sudan has been a triumph of administration of native races," said Mr. C. T. Madigan, lecturer in geology at Adelaide University, in an extension lecture on "Egypt and the Sudan" at the University last night.

Mr. Madigan was an official in the Sudan from 1920 to 1922. Included in the audience was the Governor (Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven), who won his V.C. for a rescue at Gedaref, while serving with Lord Kitchener's expedition which conquered the Sudan in 1898.

"Up to now the Sudanese have been grateful to Great Britain," said Mr. Madigan, "but I suppose that, sooner or later, they will wish to rule themselves, as Egypt did, and then England will gradually step out. England's great job has been done in Egypt, and is nearing its end in the Sudan."

"There was no sudden thrusting of Western ideas on Eastern minds in the Sudan, the natives being allowed to retain their customs and observances, really 2,000 years old, unchanged," said Mr. Madigan. "All the experience gained in India was brought to bear in the Sudan. Peace such as no Sudanese had ever known before was established. British administration in the Sudan has always kept to high ideals and has done wonderful work. Britain has never made anything out of it, and, until the cotton syndicate came in recently, following the erection of a dam on the Blue Nile, not a foot of Sudanese soil was exploited by a foreigner."

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## Examination Music Recitals

To aid teachers of music and their pupils who are interested in Australian Music Board examinations, the first of a series of pianoforte recitals of test pieces was given at the Elder Conservatorium Hall yesterday. Before playing the Grade V and VI works Mr. Harold Wylde spoke on the technical requirements. For those unable to attend in the afternoon an evening recital was added.

On June 23 Miss Maude Puddy will deal with the test pieces of Grade IV and II, and on June 30 Mr. George Pearce with those of Grade III and I. Admission in each case is free.

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## "FRIENDS OF LIBRARY" MOVEMENT

### First Meeting Convened

A preliminary meeting, to discuss the finances of the Public Library and the suggestion that a "Friends of the Library" society be formed, has been convened for today week, June 17. It will be held in the library building. Dr. R. C. Bald, of the University, from whom the suggestion originated, will be present, together with the chairman of the Library and Archives Committee (Mr. W. H. Langham) and others interested in the project to keep the library up to date.

The meeting, at which the constitution of the proposed society will be discussed, is likely to be followed by a public meeting, open to all booklovers. Various new suggestions have been made to support the movement, including the inauguration of "library evenings," at which lectures and other entertainment could be given.

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## "FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY"

### New Society Launched

At a preliminary meeting in the Public Library yesterday, the proposal to form a society to be known as the Friends of the Public Library, was adopted. The Vice-Chancellor of the University (Sir William Mitchell) presided, and there was an attendance of about 30, including the chairman of the Library and Archives Committee (Mr. W. H. Langham), Dr. R. C. Bald, at whose suggestion the movement was set on foot, and Professor W. K. Hancock.

Dr. Bald, explaining the project, said that unless some financial assistance were given to the board of governors, the Public Library would be unable to continue providing for the public the best thoughts of the best minds embodied in the best books. He moved that the society suggested be formed, and that a working committee be appointed to draw up a constitution and submit it to a public meeting. The motion was seconded by the Rev. K. J. F. Bickersteth and carried unanimously.

The following were elected to the committee:—Dr. Bald, Professor Hancock, Messrs. Langham, E. W. Benham, R. N. Finlayson, H. R. Purnell, E. J. R. Morgan (secretary), and C. Harding-Browne (treasurer).

Mr. Langham said that the movement had the full sympathy of the Board of Governors, and he thanked the society on its behalf for the generous assistance it proposed to render the community. As an instance of what could be accomplished, he referred to the purchase by the Royal Geographical Society of the York Gate library, London, at a cost of £2,000, and the library of the late Mr. Thomas Gill from funds partly subscribed by supporters of that society.

The public meeting will, it is expected, be convened in a few days.

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## Prof. Kerr Grant to Lecture for Public

Prof. Kerr Grant will begin a series of nine public lectures on modern (electron) physics at the Adelaide University tonight.

"The object of these lectures is to help those of the general public who are interested in modern physics," said Prof. Grant today.

During the course the professor will outline the way in which efforts are being made to split the atom.

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## EDUCATIONAL EXPERIMENTS

### Training In Groups

"Experiments in Educational Self-Government." By A. L. Gordon Mackay. M.Litt., M.A., M.Ed., Dip. Ed. London: George Allen and Unwin.

This book is a revision and an expansion of a thesis which won for the author, formerly Director of Tutorial Classes and Lecturer in Economics at the University of Adelaide, and now Professor of Economics at Rangoon

University, the M.A. degree at the University of Sydney in 1925. Its aim is to explain "how individuals, at schools and in the University, may be trained to think in groups without timidity and without discrimination, how to develop sufficient internal resources to resist the mechanisation of their minds, and how the education of a nation may conserve ability and develop it without being slaves of routine or supporters of licence." The first part of the book describes the application of psychological principles (especially those of Jung) to certain classes at two private schools in New South Wales. At the Church of England Grammar School, North Sydney, Mr. Mackay was associated in his work with Mr. F. K. Barton, now of St. Peter's Collegiate School, Adelaide, who first induced him to break away from traditional teaching methods. Mr. Barton conducted at North Sydney an experiment similar to Mr. Mackay's, and afterwards developed it, on a larger scale, at his own school, Turramurra College. Discarding the old methods of instruction and repressive discipline, Mr. Mackay established his classes as a kind of public meeting under the self-direction of the boys, with himself watching the proceedings, but interfering as little as possible. The scholars appointed their own chairman, minutes were kept, and problems of discipline, &c., were solved as they arose. With freedom of action, the boys gained confidence, were interested in their school work, became self-reliant, and in the examinations acquitted themselves as creditably, both as classes and as individuals, as any of the school classes working on traditional lines.

### Discussion Group

The second part of the book deals with a similar experiment of self-government, modified in consequence of the difference in conditions, with classes in economics at the Adelaide University. Mr. Mackay criticises the conventional methods in Australian Universities, where the students "cram up" their text books and lecture notes of professors and lecturers and release these as answers in the final examination at the end of the year, the examination being chiefly a test of memory. His view is that a university teacher should be an educationalist and a psychologist in addition to possessing competence in his subject. He should help a student to develop "a harmonious personality" as well as "an informed mind and a calm judgment." His aim should be, in short, to form both mind and character. This function, however, cannot be performed with huge classes, and with the compulsory lecture system and memory-testing examinations. Mr. Mackay formed his students into reading, essay-writing, and discussion groups, with which he kept in the closest touch. The stress was taken off instruction and placed on development, and it is claimed that the students' self-controlled and self-directed efforts resulted in work, the quantity and quality of which excelled that of the lecture system. Working at their own pace, and in their own time, without cramming, the students in the tutorial groups had the benefit of continual mental discipline, and they built up mind and character. Among the students themselves the consensus of opinion was that Mr. Mackay's method made University study "an active, vital, living force," clarified thought, and developed the critical faculty and the power of initiative.

### Problems Of The Educator

Mr. Mackay discusses in Part 3 of his book various educational problems, including the relation of education to democracy. "One of my main objections to the present system of education within the Empire, apart from ones based on psychological grounds, is," he says, "that it produces so many dull, unimaginative, and rather stupid people, or, alternatively, rebels, or potential rebels. The methods suggested in this book enable boys or students to rebel, and to be as revolutionary as they like, up to the point of realising what is the conservative element in their rebellion; this construc-

tive element is then built into the existing structure, strengthening it." Democracy, he contends, requires "clear thinking in the group or crowd, resistance to mechanisation of the personality, and the conservation of ability. To me," he writes, "there is nothing attractive in a democracy of 'duds' holding able men in bondage. I prefer a hierarchy of talent accredited by and serving a democracy of ordinary folk." To find and train this hierarchy is, he concludes, the educational task of modern democracies.