

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY.

WORK OF THE LOCAL CENTRE.

THE MUSICAL EXAMINATIONS.

NEW SCHEME PROPOSED.

ANOTHER MATTER OF IMPORTANCE MOOTED.

The visit to Western Australia of Mr. C. R. Hodge, registrar of the Adelaide University, and Professor J. M. Ennis, Mus. Dec., Lond., is an event of more than ordinary importance in the educational annals of the State. Both arrived from the Eastern States by the R.M.S. Orotava yesterday, and are at present staying at the Esplanade Hotel. The mission of Professor Ennis to Western Australia bears upon the musical examinations conducted here by the Adelaide University. Mr. Hodge's work is of a more comprehensive character, and the particulars have not yet been divulged. It may be stated, however, that a meeting of the committee of the local centre of the University of Adelaide will probably be held in the course of a few days, to discuss matters of vital importance, both to the people of Western Australia and to the University, which has hitherto enabled residents of this State to reap many of the benefits of university education.

Reference may, however, first be made to the work which immediately presents itself to Professor Ennis. As most people here are aware, for about eight years past the University of Adelaide has conducted examinations, on behalf of Western Australia, in theory and practice of music. Latterly, the examinations have been conducted in conjunction with the associated board, which represents the combination of the Royal College of Music, London, and the Royal Academy of Music, London. To a representative of the 'West Australian,' who waited on him last night, Professor Ennis explained that a conference of representatives of the universities of Australia and New Zealand was held in Melbourne in April last, in connection with the Melbourne University jubilee celebrations. During that week Melbourne and Adelaide representatives came to an agreement about a scheme of co-operation in regard to the conduct of public examinations in music. This year the agreement with the associated board will expire by effluxion of time, and the scheme which was drawn up by the representatives of the Universities of Melbourne and Adelaide was for mutual co-operation to be regarded as the nucleus of an Association of Australasian Universities. The proposition was submitted to the General Conference of Universities held on April 25, and was approved. The conference then passed the following resolution:—

That co-operation between the Universities of the Commonwealth and New Zealand in the conduct of public examinations in music is desirable, such co-operation to be on the general lines of the proposed agreement between the Universities of Melbourne and Adelaide, adopted at the conference held in Melbourne on April 23.

"The scheme generally," Professor Ennis remarked, "is that the whole of the Universities shall co-operate towards the introduction of some uniform system. The present agreement with the Associated Board expires at the end of this year, and next year a new scheme of co-operation between Melbourne and Adelaide will come into force. Briefly, I am here to explain the details of the proposal so that teachers and all those interested in these examinations may have the fullest possible information."

The business that calls Mr. Hodge to Western Australia has no particular connection with matters musical, but rather with the general education of the people. When asked whether or not he thought the establishment of a University in Western Australia desirable, Mr. Hodge was disinclined to express an opinion. Questioned as the object of his visit, he remarked as he edged towards the door that meetings would be held shortly, and that afterwards the question would be placed clearly before the people of the State. Referring again thoughtfully to the matter of the establishment of a university in Western Australia, Mr. Hodge remarked that except from a financial standpoint Western Australia was at the present time in a better position than Adelaide was when the Adelaide University was founded.

In order to show how readily candidates from schools in Western Australia have come forward at the examinations regarding general education, it may perhaps be mentioned that there are no less than 455 entrants for the primary public examination which begins to-day—an increase of no less than 145 as compared with last year. In addition to this there were 240 candidates for the public examination regarding the theory and practice of music held during the past fortnight, and concluded yesterday.

The history of the Adelaide University has a peculiar interest to people in Western Australia at the present time. It was established by Act of Parliament in the year 1874, and in the year 1881 Royal Letters Patent were issued by Her Majesty Queen Victoria declaring that the degrees granted by it should be recognised as academic distinctions and rewards of merit, and be entitled to rank, precedence, and consideration throughout the British Empire, as if granted by any University in the United Kingdom. The University owes its origin to the munificence and public spirit of the late Sir Walter Watson Hughes and Sir Thomas Elder, G.C.M.G., from each of whom a gift of £20,000 was received for this purpose. Further endowments were granted by Parliament, provision being made in the Act of Incorporation ('The Adelaide University Act, 1874') for an annual grant from the public revenues of a sum equal to 5 per cent. on the capital funds then or afterwards to be possessed by the University, but not exceeding in any one year the sum of £10,000. Under the authority of the same Act an endowment in land of 50,000 acres and a grant of five acres in the City of Adelaide as a site for the University buildings were provided for. At first the professorships founded in the University were four in number, their subjects being the following:—(1) Classics and Comparative Philology and Literature, (2) English Language and Literature, Mental and Moral Philosophy, (3) Mathematics, and (4) Natural Science. The academical work of the University was commenced in March, 1876, the number of matriculated students being 8, and of non-graduating students attending lectures 52. The foundation-stone of the University buildings was laid by His Excellency Major-General Sir W. F. D. Jervois on July 30, 1879, and the buildings were opened by him in April, 1882. The total cost, including that of subsequent additions, was about £38,000. In 1883 Sir Thomas Elder made to the University a second gift, £10,000, for the foundation of a School of Medicine. The University Council thereupon established a Chair of Anatomy and a Lectureship in Physiology, and made further provision for the first two years of the medical course. In 1880 arrangements were completed for a complete medical curriculum. In 1884 the Hon. J. B. Angus, M.L.C., gave £5,000 for the endowment of a Chair of Chemistry, and in the following year the first Angus Professor of Chemistry was appointed. The Chair of Music was established in 1884 and a Professor of Music appointed. This chair had no special endowment. In 1880 the Council established a Professorship of Law in place of the Lectureship in Law which had existed since 1883. The Lectureship in Physiology was converted into a Professorship in 1900.

Sir Thomas Elder, at his death in 1897, bequeathed to the University the sum of £65,000, his total gifts to the institution amounting from first to last to nearly £100,000.

In 1898 the University was enabled, by means of Sir Thomas Elder's bequest, to make arrangements for a post-graduate course in mining engineering and metallurgy, and for the granting of a diploma in these subjects. However, in March, 1903, the University concluded an agreement with the South Australian School of Mines and Industries, under which the two institutions combine, to some extent, their teaching powers, and their laboratories for the purpose of providing courses of instruction in mining engineering, metallurgy, mechanical engineering, and electrical engineering. In these various branches of applied science the University and the School of Mines, acting in concert, hold examinations and grant diplomas. It is felt that this agreement conduces to greater efficiency as well as to economy, and that the courses for the diploma in Applied Science may rank with those of the best institutions in other parts of the Empire.

The number of graduates admitted by examination since the establishment of the University is 300. The number of undergraduates in the year 1905 was 366, and of non-graduating students 229, exclusive of those studying at the Elder Conservatorium, of whom there were 340. The teaching staff of the University comprises 9 professors and 21 lecturers, and that of the Elder Conservatorium 10 teachers. Facilities for University examinations have been extended to the country, and local centres with committees have been formed for the primary public examination and examinations in music at Broken Hill, and for the primary, junior public, senior public, higher public, and music examinations at Mount Barker, Gawler, Petersburg, Burra, Mount Gambier, Naracoorte, Port Pirie, Clare, Jamestown, Talia, Koolunga, Laura, Moonta, and Yorketown; also at Perth, Kalgoorlie, Coolgardie, Albany, Norseman, York, Geraldton, Newcastle, Gingin, Mount Morgans, and Collie, in Western Australia. The Technical School at Perth has been affiliated with the University of Adelaide since 1901, and various courses of its lectures are accepted as equivalent to corresponding portions of the degree courses in Adelaide. The Roseworthy Agricultural College also has been affiliated since 1905.

The number of professors, lecturers, and teachers has increased from 4 in 1876 to 40 in 1905. The number of undergraduates has grown from 8 to 366; of non-graduating students from 52 to 229; and of Conservatorium students from 0 to 340; a total advance in 30 years from 60 to 935. The number of candidates for public examinations in the same period has risen from 10 to 3,233. A large number of valuable scholarships and exhibitions are available every year.

DISTINGUISHED MUSICAL VISITORS

Prof. Ennis and W.A. Exams

A representative of the 'Evening Mail' saw Dr. Ennis, director of the Elder Conservatorium, and the present occupier of the Chair of Music at the Adelaide University, and Mr. Charles R. Hodge, the registrar of the University, who are over here on a visit to arrange a basis for examinations in theory and practice of music.

Mr. Hodge pointed out that the University of Adelaide has held examinations in practice and theory for the past eight years. At first the examinations were conducted by the University of Adelaide alone, but latterly by the University of Adelaide in conjunction with the associated boards of the R.A.M. and R.C.M., London. Mr. Hodge proudly pointed to a long list of passes as the result of the work of the University of Adelaide and the boards above mentioned. That agreement with the associated boards is about to terminate, and so the University of Adelaide and Melbourne are taking up the work. There are, of course, some students from West Australia not only taking the local courses, but undergoing severe tuition at the Conservatorium—two from Kalgoorlie who are doing good work are Miss Hilda Klintberg and Miss Gladys Edwards. The former won the Elder scholarship a couple of years ago, and the latter is now entering for the mus. bac. course. She secured senior honors last year and the silver medal.

Professor Ennis mentioned that Miss Edwards was doing excellent work in theory. We learn that it is the intention of her parents to give her the benefit of a few years at the Royal Academy.

Professor Ennis has been working, advising, and speaking at the various centres ever since he landed, not having a minute to call his own.

Both gentlemen are very pleased with their visit, and Mr. Hodge especially was much surprised at the growth of Perth and Fremantle since he was here eight years ago. They will pay a visit to the goldfields before returning.

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MUSICAL EXAMINATIONS.—A meeting of those interested in the Adelaide University music examinations was held on Saturday, at which the arrangements for forthcoming examinations were outlined. Dr. Ennis, Professor of Music at the Elder Conservatorium, Adelaide University, explained that it had been decided that the Universities of Melbourne and Adelaide should co-operate, and conduct in future the examinations in music in Western Australia, which were instituted in this State by the Adelaide University in 1898, and had been continued ever since, for the past five years, in conjunction with the Associated Board of London.

Perth Morning Herald 24/8/06

PERSONAL.

The friends in Western Australia of Mr. H. B. Corbin, of Adelaide, will be pleased to hear he has achieved further successes in his studies in metallurgy. Mr. Corbin, who was in charge of the cyanide plant at Arltunga for three years, went to England early in 1904, and entered the Royal School of Mines, Kensington, London, and there gained the Murchison Prize in June, 1905. In June last he completed the course for the A.R.S.M. in brilliant style, winning the Bessemer medal and prize awarded to the student who comes out at the top of the first class in metallurgy. Mr. Corbin has followed in the footsteps of Mr. J. Collett Moulden, who also won this prize, and he has, in addition, the honour of being the second man who has ever won the "double," both the Murchison and the Bessemer medals. Mr. Corbin, who is now B.Sc., F.G.S., A.I.M.M., and A.R.S.M., has not yet decided upon his future action. Mr. Corbin is related to Dr. C. Corbin, of Fremantle.