

THE ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

Though the second pianoforte recital by Mr. Bryceson Treharne at the Elder Conservatorium of Music on Saturday drew a good audience, the attendance was not by any means as large as at previous free concerts, which have been held under the auspices of that institution. The programme was a severely classic one, and the various pianoforte numbers served to display to the full Mr. Treharne's powers of technique, his felicitous expression, and absolute command over the instrument. None of the items, however, were played from memory. The first number consisted of "Toccata and Fugue in D minor" (Bach-Taubing), "Minuetto Scherzando" (Stavenhagen), "32 variations" (Beethoven), and "Capriccio" (Brahms). The contrast between the styles of the different composers was admirably and cleverly brought out by Mr. Treharne, and the performance met with due recognition from the audience. In Schumann's "So rasch wie moeglich," "Andantino," "Scherzo," and "Rondo-Finale," Mr. Treharne brought to bear all the resources of his art, the charming and sympathetic execution of the andantino movement being as splendidly accentuated as the playing of the sparkling scherzo. The last pianoforte item was devoted to an interpretation of Chopin, whose "Ballade in G minor," "Valse," "Berceuse," and "Polonaise in A flat," were laid under contribution, and possibly opinions may differ concerning Mr. Treharne's powers as an exponent of the poetic sublimity and fanciful beauty of that great master's music. During the evening Miss Gull Hack very pleasantly diversified the proceedings with vocal numbers. Miss Hack can always be depended upon to sing nothing but the best music, and her interpretation of three exquisite Biblical songs by Dvorak—"Clouds and Darkness," "Turn thee to Me," and "Hear my prayer"—only enhanced her high reputation as a conscientious and thorough artist. Later on Miss Hack gave "I sent my soul through the invisible" (Liza Lehmann), and "The nightingale has a lyre of gold" (Frances Allitsen), and for her expressive rendering of the latter she was heartily ecored.

Register 8th Oct. 1900

The erection of the new three-manual concert organ for the Elder Hall is to be commenced about the 15th of this month. In all probability, the instrument will be completed by the end of the year, and it is hoped that it may be used at the next University Commemoration.

The entries for the University examinations in Theory and Practice of Music to be held next November show a gratifying increase, particularly in the former department, on last year's figures. Up to the present, Mr. C. R. Hodge has received 197 entries for theory, 29 in the senior division and 168 in the junior. Last year only 121 candidates entered; in 1898 there were 167; and in 1897 205 students sat for examination. In Practice of Music 127 names have been received, 31 for the senior test and 96 for the junior. Last year the total was 121; in 1898 it reached 202; and in 1897 there were 215 entries. No doubt under the altered conditions of the practical tests, next year will see an even greater increase than this. The practical students, who will be examined by Mr. Arthur Somervell alone, embrace pianists, vocalists, and violinists.

"Req." 9th October. 1900

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA.

The bi-annual meetings of the Library Association of Australasia, which are to be held in Adelaide this week, will be inaugurated by a conversation, which will take place in the Elder Hall this evening. His Excellency the Governor will be present, and a musical programme will be rendered under the direction of Professor Ives. A novel feature will be the exhibition of a large and valuable collection of old and rare books, manuscripts, engravings, and historical relics of various kinds. Mr. W. H. Ifould, Cataloguer to the Adelaide Public Library, has prepared a complete catalogue of the exhibits, which will prove invaluable for reference purposes. This will be the third Convention held under the auspices of the Association, which was formed in Melbourne in 1896, and in addition to representatives of all the principal city, suburban, and country libraries in this colony there will be present delegates from New South Wales, Victoria, New Zealand, and Western Australia. The Secretary, Mr. J. R. G. Adams, expects that from forty to fifty members and Associates will sign the roll at the first meeting on Wednesday morning, and of these at least thirty will represent intercolonial or country libraries. The Convention will be officially opened on Wednesday morning by the President, Right Hon. Sir Samuel Way, Bart., and the meetings will extend over three days. The programme includes papers and discussions on a number of subjects relating to the management of National, Circulating, and Country Libraries. Many of the papers to be read will necessarily deal with technical subjects, but others, such as those dealing with the relationship between the National Library and Country Institutes, the management of Country Libraries, and the preservation of local literature, will give the delegates an opportunity of discussing matters of almost universal interest. Special interest will also attach to the lecture on "Captain Flinders," which will be delivered by Professor Morris, of the Melbourne University, on Wednesday evening. Arrangements have also been made for the delegates to inspect the Parliamentary and University Libraries, and they have been invited to attend several social gatherings, including a garden party at the Government

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

The perfect librarian, said "Scribner's Magazine" in a recent editorial "is a subjective being, and moves more within than without the world of books that surrounds him. He is subdued to the reverence of what he works in, and has the student's perceptions. Even to those who have no feeling for the right spirit of the place, his manners and personality are an instruction, unconsciously absorbed, and leading them to a humaner attitude. In short, the most precious qualifications that a librarian can have are precisely such as cannot be taught." This is a fairly complete setting forth of the modern view of the subject; but how essentially modern it is can hardly be realised by those who have not taken a direct interest in the question. The old idea was perhaps to induct an elderly scholar into a library as a reward for a life spent in the cause of learning. Thus he was provided with an asylum for his declining years, and a means of continuing such studies as interested him. To the care of the books themselves he brought just such qualifications as may exist in every man who loves books for their own sake. He might or might not be a fit person to have a library in charge, just as Lord Roberts might or might not be an ideal person to place in charge of an arsenal, or Prince Ranjitsinhji of a cricket ground. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that the average citizen does not credit a librarian's post with requiring any particular qualifications at all. The recent vacancy in the University library brought in a crop of applications from persons of all standings, backed by some curiously irrelevant testimonials. Even so, the experience of the city of Bristol was not equalled, for there the municipal library received a communication from a lady of title desiring a post as librarian for her discharged cook, on the ground that the girl was "so fond of reading." To such persons, the technicalities of the librarian's profession are unknown; the arrangement and preservation of books; the wonders of a modern catalogue, exact and complete, yet infinitely elastic—all these things pass unregarded.

Another popular method of making a librarian is to catch him young; to take a youth of some apparent promise, pay him a small salary, and instruct him in the details of the profession in a practical manner. Unfortunately, unless he have the true spirit in him, he will by this method become a mere custodian—skilful enough, perhaps, in the minutiae of his calling—rather than an ideal librarian. He will in most cases find in his daily task sufficient experience of the volumes on the shelves in their binding and title-page, and in an extreme case he will become a machine. The books under his care will be well and effectually tended, and he will be able to direct enquirers to any desired part of the catalogue, but he will not be in the least "subdued to the reverence of what he works in," he will be in no sense a literary force, and the student must expect from him only a superficial assistance. The similes previously imagined must be reversed. It is now the arsenal store-keeper unable to command an army in action, the ground-man with no claim to an international cap. At a recent examination in an English city, certain candidates who were proposing to take up their life-work in a library were found to attribute "The Idylls of the King" to Rider Haggard, and "Modern Painters" to Mark Twain. These were juniors, it is true, and they were detected in time. But the same thing may be seen in a refined form in the recent damaging report of a Select Committee on the museums of the Science and Art Department in London. The catalogue had been found to give as an author's name, "H. C. Reneue," which is merely the French for "revised," and a misprint at that. "Deel," Dutch for volume, also appeared as an author, and so did the book-title "Mariani Fasti." The dangers of a little learning could hardly be better illustrated. The catalogue of the National Engraved Portraits contained some delightful touches. Sir Walter Scott was represented as visiting London in 1873, the same date being assigned to the capture of the Cape of Good Hope from the Dutch. Pugin was declared to have "cruised about the Channel collecting archaeological and natural curiosities." And the compiler had been paid two guineas a day for his work!

Only of late years has the fact been generally recognised that the librarian's profession is a definite and honorable one. To the powerful Library Association of the United Kingdom has been granted the somewhat rare honor of a royal charter of incorporation. In combination with a similar body in the United States, it held a conference at London in 1877, and a second one three years ago. The latter had the support and assistance of thirteen Governments, and over 300 libraries, from Tokio to Stockholm, from Buda-Pesth to Chicago, and the city of London lent its council chamber for the meetings. The association in Australia was established at a gathering

of librarians in Melbourne in 1896, and two years later it held its first official conference in Sydney. Adelaide's turn has now come, and the remainder of this week will be devoted to a pleasant alternation of useful discussions with the entertainment of distinguished guests. His Honor the Chief Justice is the present president of the association, the custodians of the Parliamentary and Public Libraries being respectively treasurer and secretary. Upon the latter, Mr. J. R. G. Adams, a flood of correspondence has fallen for some months past, and the fruition of his labors will commence this evening, when the visitors will be welcomed by local enthusiasts in literature in the Elder Hall of the Conservatorium. This fine room has been lent by the University, and will be the scene of all the meetings. The latter will continue from day to day, papers being delivered by experts on various subjects. In some cases, of course, these papers will be concerned with subjects of technical interest to librarians, and the ensuing discussion should be productive of good practical results. This biennial gathering is the only occasion on which the widely-scattered members of the profession meet to exchange notes upon book-binding, cataloguing, and other kindred mysteries which the general public is all too ready to take for granted; any shortcoming being readily found fault with, but a monotonous perfection being accepted as matter of course. Not all the subjects, however, are of restricted interest. At the Sydney conference less than half of the papers read were concerned with technical questions. The attitude of public libraries with regard to fiction, the best means of attracting young people to them, the growth of poetry in Australia—on topics such as these every person of literary tastes should have an opinion. The lecture of Professor Morris on Captain Flinders must, in particular, be of the most general interest. Further, a loan collection of remarkable value has been got together; the exhibits range from autographs of celebrated men (many of these, of striking interest, having been lent by his Excellency the Governor), to early proclamations of the infant province, from black-letter works of the sixteenth century to the latest and most beautiful specimens of the book-binder's art. This collection will be on view to the public, and it combines instruction with amusement in the most seductive manner. The well-known hospitality of Adelaide is on all hands being extended to the distinguished visitors, but it would seem to be the duty of every citizen having a pretension to literary tastes to assist in making the occasion an educational as well as a social success.

Register 9th Oct. 1900

Mr. Langton Douglas, the recently appointed Professor of Modern History in the University of Adelaide, has a volume in the Press on "Fra Angelico and His Art." The "Athens of the Southern Pole," as Lord Tennyson once termed your city, will probably be engaged soon in a mild controversy as to whether the Monk of Florence was saint first and artist afterwards, or whether—as Professor Douglas holds—his name is entitled to be remembered as much for his painting as for his piety.