

Arts all over New South Wales and Victoria. In this province a strong community of feeling amongst those who are concerned in library administration has grown up, partly as a result of the good work undertaken by the Institutes' Association and its enthusiastic Honorary Secretary, Mr. F. E. Meleng. All who are officially connected either with libraries open to the public, or with those attached to State and municipal institutions, are eligible for membership of the Society which is to hold its convention in October; and in prospect of that event members of the various professions in Adelaide, as well as others with literary tastes and sympathies, are to be invited to assist the enterprise by joining the Association.

Several puzzling problems confront those who are entrusted with the management of free public libraries in large cities. One of these has been raised to its position of prominence through the light thrown upon the study of disease by bacteriology, and it now influences the minds of many people in the direction of making them hesitate about the indiscriminate use of books. Librarians have for a long time been in search of some system of disinfection by which to reduce to a minimum the chances of disseminating the seeds of infectious diseases through the medium of the often-thumbed pages of volumes in public libraries. Closely connected with this aspect of the general question is what has been appropriately described as the "library-loafer problem." The term loafer is not here used as necessarily conveying a reproach, but simply in characterization of the class of men who, having nowhere else to go for a comfortable seat and a well-warmed shelter, take their places at the library tables and pretend to read. Wykhof, the author of a remarkable book on the American worker, who tramped through the United States earning his livelihood as an amateur casual labourer, describes the desperate plight in which he found himself in one city, and states that the temptation to loaf in the public library was irresistible. He did not want to read—he was too tired for that—and he fell asleep on the book he had opened. In Melbourne the inconveniences and offensive conditions due to the presence of very dirty people in the public library have debarred a large number of readers from using that institution at all, and proposals have recently been seriously made in favour of setting apart a room in which the loafer can obtain the rest and warmth which he seeks without having to make a pretence of reading some book, which perhaps he is only helping to spoil. In England, as well as in Australia, much divergence of opinion still exists on the "open-shelf" question. Some libraries leave the volumes open to the public so that each reader may take his book and replace it, while others permit the one and not the other.

Similar differences of opinion and practice are noted with reference to Sunday opening of libraries. Sydney now follows the practice initiated in Adelaide by throwing open the Public Library for a portion of the rest-day, and a number of British cities—amongst which Southampton is the latest—have made the same concession to the citizens. In Melbourne the free-lending system has partially fulfilled the same purpose, and many readers habitually get their books on Saturday for perusal during the Sunday. The free-lending library, however, has not in this part of the world attained to anything like such dimensions as it has acquired in America. Boston, in addition to its immense public library, has about thirty "local-delivery stations," where something to read may always be obtained by any suburban resident. The box system adopted in South Australia for the supply of literature of country and suburban Institutes may be regarded as a step in the direction of the larger lending method; but the most important matter which thrusts itself under the attention of every thoughtful member of any country Institute Committee is the disproportionate extent to which fiction is preferred and more solid reading left severely alone by the majority of readers. Some local residents, indeed, would rather have nothing but novels sent to their Institutes—with the addition, perhaps, of the latest sensational book of travel or sport. Against the attempt on the part of the novel-reader to monopolize the benefits of all funds devoted to public library purposes the central authorities and local committees have to keep continually on their guard. They are constrained

to remind subscribers that the man living and working in a producing district who secures from the local lending library a technical work on some department of rural industry, and who masters its contents thoroughly, deserves far more encouragement than the reader who uses the Institute collection merely for the purpose of whiling away an idle hour. If the educational aspect of the public library be overlooked the institution itself at once loses almost entirely its claim to support from the State Treasury. One of the difficult tasks which confront the members of the Association is to devise means of reconciling the popular with the truly educational side of public libraries; and this desideratum will doubtless be kept well in view by the local organizers of the Library Conference, who have the advantage of the active co-operation of Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Anderson—respectively of the Melbourne and Sydney Public Libraries. To these gentlemen librarians all over Australasia are deeply indebted for their zealous efforts to improve the status and otherwise advance the interests of their honourable and highly important profession.

Register 21<sup>st</sup> May 1900.

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

A concert in aid of the Adelaide University Rowing Club attracted a large audience to the Elder Conservatorium on Saturday evening. The programme, which was given entirely by the students of the Conservatorium, was of considerable musical importance, and the proportion of vocal and instrumental music could have scarcely been improved upon. University students of the male persuasion were well represented in the audience, and consequently there was no lack of appreciation, all the performers being required to return at least once to the platform and bow their acknowledgments. With the exception of the fact that these facetious youths wished to recall the porter who appeared for the purpose of opening and closing the top of the grand piano, they showed considerable discrimination in their plaudits, and accorded each performer an attentive hearing. The programme opened with an excellent rendering of two movements from Hummel's trio, op. 22, for piano, violin, and cello, by Miss Reinicke and Masters Alderman and Parsons, who displayed good ensemble throughout. Miss Elsie Hamilton interpreted the andante molto and alla minuetto from Grieg's sonata in E minor with artistic finish and an apt appreciation of the poetical beauties of the composition. Her brilliant playing of Liszt's second Hungarian Rhapsodie later in the evening evoked salvos of applause, which were continued until she returned to the platform and repeated the latter portion of the piece. Miss Nora Kyffin Thomas played Wilhelm's transcription of the "Prelude" from Wagner's "Die Meistersinger" with a rich, full tone, and an effective management of the climaxes, in which considerable individuality was manifested. She was also heard in a fine performance of a Brahms-Joachim Hungarian dance, and overcame its many technical difficulties with remarkable accuracy. Both solos were sympathetically and cleverly accompanied by Miss Hamilton. The vocal success of the evening was achieved by Miss Ethel Hantke, who possesses an unusually fine mezzo-soprano voice, that with further training should enable her to take a high position in the world of song. Both her numbers, "Angus Macdonald" (Roedel) and "Sleep, my love, sleep" (Sullivan), were recalled, and as extras she added "The banks of Allan water" and "Meet me in the moonlight alone." Mr. Clarence Degenhardt displayed his bass voice to advantage in "Blow, blow, thou winter wind" (Sergeant) and "The old soldier" (Bevan), and as encores repeated the latter portion of the former song, while the latter was succeeded by Mr. Bevan's popular writing "The Admiral's broom." Miss Alice Savers contributed a pleasing rendering of "The everlasting day" (Bevan), and "When the heart is young" (Dudley Buck). Mr. Frederick Bevan accompanied all the vocal numbers with taste and judgment.

CONSERVATORIUM STUDENTS CONCERT.

The Elder Conservatorium was crowded on Friday evening, when the tenth students' concert was held. A well-arranged and high-class programme, in which vocal and instrumental music was about equally represented, was given with considerable success, and met with the heartily expressed approval of the audience. Quite a number of the students distinguished themselves by their performances, and of those who are not familiar at the concerts of the Conservatorium special mention may be made of Miss Francesca Spehr, a young vocalist who displayed a promising voice of rich, even quality in the recit. "And God said" and aria "On mighty pens," from Haydn's "Creation." The vocal success of the concert was, however, achieved by Miss Ethel Hantke, who on previous occasions excited favourable comment by her singing. She received the only recall of the evening for an artistic and impassioned rendering of "Entreat me not to leave thee" (Gounod), and if the mistake is not made of training her voice for a contralto—at present, it is a mezzo-soprano of lovely quality—a brilliant future may be safely predicted for her. Miss Nellie Jarvis won rounds of applause for her finished singing of a couple of numbers from Elgar's clever cycle of songs entitled "Sea pictures." These two writings—"In haven" and "Where corals lie"—were interpreted with great refinement and finish. Praise is also due to Miss Guli Hack, who played the difficult accompaniments with extreme brilliancy, yet never overshadowed the soloist. The most important instrumental selection of the programme was a couple of movements from Grieg's sonata in F for pianoforte and violin, played by Miss Elsie Hamilton and Miss Nora Kyffin Thomas, who are now established favourites at the Conservatorium concerts. The romanza and allegro were the two movements selected, and the two young ladies fully sustained their reputation by their clever and finished rendering of the quaint and original music of the Norwegian master. The vigorous pianoforte passages were played in a masterly manner, by Miss Hamilton, while Miss Thomas deserves commendation for her artistic treatment of the numerous delicate passages for the violin and her management of the awkward modulations, which were played without a suspicion of faulty intonations. Some firm and vigorous chord-playing was exhibited by Miss Helen Phillips in her pianoforte solo, Schumann's "Novelette in F, op. 21," Miss May Allnutt gave a clear and generally commendable rendering of the first movement of Beethoven's sonata, op. 22; and Miss Maud Puddy was heard to great advantage in three pieces, "Siciliano," "Courante," and "Gigue," by Scarlatti. Master William Code, though a little out of tune in some portions of his violin solo, Lauterbach's "Romance," showed that he is making good progress, and has already acquired a fine tone. Master Eugene Alderman, a promising young violinist, gave a highly creditable rendering of the andante from De Bériot's second concerto. Miss Lilian Bishop sang "Should he upbraid?" (Bishop) in a commendable fashion, and Mr. Clarence Degenhardt, whose voice is as yet somewhat unequal, was heard in the recit. "I feel the Deity within," and aria "Arm, arm, ye brave," from Handel's "Judas Maccabeanus." Miss Alice Savers and Miss Maud Grayson gave the familiar duet "Maying," a somewhat unsuitable selection for equal voices; and the concert came to a conclusion with Pini's part-song "Le Spagnole," sung by Messrs. Aldridge and the Misses Coles, Gordon, Bonnin, Otto, and Jarvis. The accompaniments were shared by Miss Guli Hack, A.R.C.M., Mr. Bevan, and Mr. Reinicke.

Register 30<sup>th</sup> May 1900.

Professor Pennefather, who was connected with the Adelaide University for a number of years, and who has since filled the position of Acting Judge of the New Zealand Supreme Court, is at present spending a few days in Adelaide prior to leaving for England. He attended at the Supreme Court on Tuesday morning, and was invited by the Chief Justice to occupy a seat on the Bench of the Civil Court.

Advertiser 29<sup>th</sup> June.

Register 30<sup>th</sup> May 1900.

At a meeting of the Council of the University of Adelaide on Friday the Registrar reported the approval of the statute for the Professorship of Physiology. The position was then offered to Dr. Stirling, who had held the appointment of Lecturer for the last eighteen years. Dr. Stirling, in accepting the position, thanked the Council for the honour and expression of confidence.