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CONSERVATORIUM ORCHESTRAL CONCERT.

There was a large attendance at the Town Hall on Saturday evening, when the Conservatorium Grand Orchestra gave a popular concert. A programme of excellent music was presented, and the playing of the band throughout the evening gave evidence of careful and conscientious training. Rossini's finest orchestral writing, the "Tell" overture, opened the proceedings auspiciously, for the work was splendidly played, the precision and finish of the performers being all that could be desired. The audience recognised the merits of the production by a vociferous recall, and in response the last movement was repeated. Wagner's "Album Leaf, No. 1," was also a meritorious effort, the playing of the strings being particularly good. In Weiss's pretty "Prayer" the string quintet succeeded in obtaining a particularly delicate and effective pianissimo, and the "Pizzicato" from Delibe's "Sylvia" ballet music, which was bracketed with it, was awarded an encore. The Orchestra's intonation in the "Pizzicato" was, however, not quite satisfactory; possibly Mr. Heinicke's tempo was injudiciously fast for an organization containing so many young performers. The "Introduction and Bride's Chorus," from Wagner's "Lohengrin," was interpreted in a satisfactory manner, save for slight indelicacy on the part of the wind in the middle section of the number. In the first and last movements, however, the band was heard to great advantage. Weber's fine overture to "Der Freischutz" was performed admirably; Cillelte's piquant string quintet "Lein du bal" exercised its customary fascination over the house, and a march by Ganne, "Des Petits Mat'lots," containing many quaint effects, proved vigorous and inspiring. The novelty of the evening was an excerpt, "Czardas," from Delibe's "Coppelia" ballet, portions of which have already been introduced by the Orchestra. Several fortissimo detached passages open this piece, and speedily give way to a measured and imposing melody, played by the violins and accompanied by the brass. A livelier rhythm succeeds the opening strains; we have some quaint accompanying passages in the wood-wind; the piece is worked up to an imposing climax, and a short "presto" concludes the writing. "Czardas" was excellently played, and gave evidence of careful and ample rehearsal. The vocalists of the evening, Miss Gebhardt and Mr. W. J. Graham, though they have several times appeared in Adelaide, were new to these concerts. Miss Gebhardt, who was palpably nervous, is the possessor of a pleasing contralto voice, which has been fairly cultivated, and she uses it with good judgment. Her two songs, "The soul's awakening" (Haddick) and "The glensier's slumber song" (Walthen), were technically well sung, but (no doubt on account of her nervousness) were lacking in warmth. Mr. Graham created a satisfactory impression in Hervey's well-written song "Once," and was recalled for "Bid me to love" (Barnard). In response Mr. Graham repeated the latter portion of the song. Mr. T. H. Jones, Mus. Bac., accompanied all the vocal numbers at the piano with taste and judgment; Mr. Heinicke's efforts as conductor were as satisfactory as ever; and Mr. A. C. Quin once more demonstrated his ability as the leader of the Orchestra.

UNIVERSITY TRAINING FOR PUBLIC-SCHOOL TEACHERS.

To the Editor.

Sir—The suggested arrangement between the Council of the University and the Minister of Education for the training of teachers will meet with the approval of all true lovers of education. Trained and competent teachers are not easily obtained either for primary or secondary schools. The time for training should be extended to cover from two to three years, either after the period of pupil teachership, or with a year of study alternating with a year of teaching. Pupil teachers ought not to be asked to teach and study at the same time. What was true of the training of Inspectors as quoted by Mr. Rathbone in the British House of Commons in 1879 is also true of teachers. He asked—"Was it not a monstrous absurdity that, whereas in England we consider a much longer apprenticeship than one year necessary to make a man a good cobbler, a good joiner, a good merchant, or lawyer, we should expect men to do satisfactorily without any previous technical training such highly skilled and technical work as the inspection of elementary schools?" But the training of teachers in the so-called Training Colleges in England has been regarded as a comparative failure by leading men in the educational world. The training has been too one-sided. "Too much pedagogy and too little education" has been the weakness, and how to combine the two has been the crux. Mr. H. Holman, one of Her Majesty's Inspectors, speaks with authority on this point in his "English National Education," just published. Mr. Holman was a pupil, and afterwards a pupil teacher, in a primary school, a student in training, and a certificated teacher, as well as a Cambridge honoursman in Mental and Moral Science. I quote from the "Practical Teacher," in which he says:—"To take young men and young women from the strict limitations and severely narrowing influences of the pupil-teacher life, and shut them up in Training Colleges, where they still further accentuate and intensify their professional traits by contact with only those who have similar experiences, thoughts, habits, aims, and pursuits, is hardly the best way to develop broad and generous intellectual and social sympathies. Living and working with those who have had different trainings, are pursuing different courses of study, and have different modes of thought has a formative and developing influence upon personal character, which only those who have experienced both or closely studied them can appreciate. More than half the value of residence at Oxford and Cambridge comes from this; and not only is this lost, but the conduct of Training Colleges must surely entirely cease to be of the half-school, half-barracks order. Self-dependence and the right ordering of one's own life within reasonable limits ought to be encouraged to the greatest possible extent. The theory of self-governance was a deadly heresy according to the traditions of fifty years ago, and it is a question if these do not still survive." The attempt to obviate this is about to be made by our University, but we should take care that practical training is not neglected. Theory and practice must go side by side, but not be taught by the same persons. In an article read before the Public School Teachers' Association last year I ventured to predict the establishment of a Chair of Paedagogy at the Adelaide University. I little thought then that the fulfilment of the prophecy was so near. I trust that while the psychological basis of education will have the attention of the University Professors the practical side will not be omitted. There are men in the public school service of large experience to whom this branch of the subject could be entrusted, and who would throw all the enthusiasm of a long experience into their work.

I am, Sir, &c.,
W. G. TORR.

THE LAW REFORM BILL.

The richest joke of the Parliamentary season is the appearance of the Attorney-General in the role of a law reformer; but we prefer to consider his Law Reform Bill apart from its origin and championship. This year's measure differs little from its predecessors of former sessions, but the changes are mostly for the worse. Sir Walter Besant relates how the rejected and despised manuscript of his first novel lay in a dark and dusty corner of his study, and how as he sat labouring at a second effort in fiction he often saw in the twilight a grotesque and misshapen figure sitting on that pile of paper, weeping and wringing its hands and crying in a pitiful voice—"Not another like me! Not another like me!" Was the Attorney-General, as he drafted this latest Bill, never haunted in the same fashion by the spirits of its misbegotten ancestors? Probably not, unfortunately. The new Bill is not wholly bad. Certain isolated parts of it are marked by a spirit of practical law reform, but these are far outweighed and outnumbered by provisions irredeemably and inexcusably wrong. The first part of it deals as before with the education and admission of barristers and solicitors. The Attorney-General wants to render unnecessary any general knowledge examination, to abolish the requirements of attendance at University lectures, to substitute for the University an official Board of Law Examiners, and to reduce in all cases the term of articles from five years to three. The things herein dealt with have never been the real obstacles to successful entrance of the legal profession by the clever poor, so that in this respect the Bill has an air of unreality, if not of hypocritical pretence; but let us deal with it as it is. It clearly attacks the present system of legal education in a manner for which no adequate reason can be advanced or any excuses offered. The arrangements now in force were established about fifteen years ago, when the examination of candidates for the legal profession was handed over to the University. The system then introduced proved to be an immense improvement upon the older and discredited official examination which the Attorney-General now proposes to reintroduce.

What are the hardships to be avoided, the abuses to be remedied, the public interests to be served by this reactionary proposal? Are we expected to believe that the manufacture of shoddy lawyers is the nearest way to the reform of the law; or are our legal practitioners so few in number and so prosperous in their monopoly that the gates of the profession must be opened wider at any cost? On the contrary, would not the monopoly of the few leading lawyers be enormously increased under the operation of Mr. Kingston's Bill, and would not good law be made in the end dearer to litigants? Outside of South Australia advanced reformers commonly recognise that it is advisable to raise—not to lower—the standard of education required in the legal profession. The idea in these places is that good lawyers are the best guarantee against bad laws, and that in the long run the cheapest kind of law is good law, just as the best kind of bread is the cheapest. Can the Attorney-General of this colony—the conspicuous figure in the historical Harrold and Arthur cases—demonstrate that this belief is a mere delusion, and that the public benefit will be promoted by a lowering of the standing and the qualification of South Australian lawyers below the level demanded by the rest of the civilized world, so that they may be characterized as contemptuously as certain American doctors so frequently are—their names a byword? If he can give such a demonstration, let us by all means hear him do so. Hitherto he has not done anything of the kind. Nearly all that he has done is to take advantage of the public demand for protection against the abuses of lawyers to present a scheme which will not in any way remedy those abuses—a scheme, moreover, which in parts proposes what can be done under existing law. Part II. of the Bill extends the jurisdiction of Local Courts of Full Jurisdiction from £490 to £2,000, both in respect of land and money. Even if such a provision were limited to Local Courts pro-

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UNIVERSITY MUSICAL EXAMINATIONS.

To the Editor.

Sir—It is not yet too late for the University Council to alter the arrangements for the musical examinations. The engagement of an examiner, representing the Associated Board of the Royal College and the Royal Academy of Music, was right and proper, but none of the examiners should be head of the Conservatorium, because he must be—no matter how unconsciously—directly interested in the success of his own candidates, whom he would almost necessarily know by sight. Mr. Wale, Mus. Bac., is to assist in connection with the theoretical examinations, and why are his services not secured as co-examiner in practical music with the representative of the Associated Board? I do not reflect upon the head of the Conservatorium in any way, but surely he would shrink from so invidious a position as that of an examiner under existing circumstances.

I am, Sir, &c.,
A MUSICAL TEACHER.

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ORCHESTRAL CONCERTS.

This season's series is drawing to a close, and only two more concerts will be given. The next takes place on Saturday, October 22, in the Town Hall. The full strength of the Conservatorium Grand Orchestra will perform a popular programme, including overtures "Marco Spada" (Auber), "Bohemian Girl" (Balfé), selection "Ivanhoe" (Sullivan), the "Czardas" from ballet music—"Coppelia" will be repeated by request—introduction to "King Manfred" (Reinecke), "Rococo" serenade (Helmund), and the "Parade" march (Meyder). Miss Madeline Watt and Mr. H. Behrndt will each sing two vocal numbers. Mr. H. Heinicke will as usual conduct, and Mr. W. R. Pybus will act as accompanist.