

"The Advertiser"
6th Aug. 1898.

The other toasts were—"The visitors," proposed by Mr. P. F. F. Wholohan, and responded to by Colonel Madley and Professor Tate; "The press," proposed by Mr. R. T. Burnard, and replied to by Mr. Calder; and "The chairman," proposed by Sir Langdon Bonython.

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COMPLIMENTARY DINNER TO SIR LANGDON BONYTHON.

On Friday evening the members of the Adelaide Branch of the Teachers' Association tendered a complimentary dinner to their President, Sir Langdon Bonython, in the Old Exchange Dining-rooms. The Vice-President, Mr. J. Harry, occupied the chair, and there were a large number of lady and gentleman teachers present. The Minister of Education, Hon. R. Butler; the Commissioner of Public Works, Hon. J. G. Jenkins; the Hon. J. H. Gordon, M.L.C., and Mr. W. Copley, M.P., ex-Ministers of Education; Mr. J. Bath, Secretary to the Minister of Education; the members of the Board of Inspectors, the School Inspectors, Professors of the University, and others interested in the cause of education were also present. After the loyal toast the Chairman, in complimentary terms, proposed "Our Guest." He alluded to the services their President had rendered to the important matter of education during his fifteen years' tenure of office as Chairman of the Adelaide School Board of Advice. They had not met to do him honour simply because he was the leading spirit in the Agricultural School, or for the assistance he had given to their late chief in his efforts to build up the educational system, or because he was the main-spring of the School of Mines and Industry, or because of the honour which the Queen had conferred upon him, but because he was their President. (Applause.) He spoke in highly appreciative terms of Sir Langdon's efforts on behalf of the Association, and the great kindness he had shown towards all the members.—Sir Langdon Bonython, who was received with cheers, thanked the Association for the honour they had done him. He remembered with pleasure his connection with educational matters in South Australia. He briefly traced the changes in the personnel of the educational staff in Adelaide, and paid a tribute to the efficient heads. South Australia had a remarkably good system of education, and paid little for it. No one more than he realized the importance of the work. Those who controlled the schools to a large extent made the nation. There was no nobler work done in the world. There was no higher calling than that of the teacher. He put in motion influences which continued to operate when he was no more. There might be drudgery, there might be lack of appreciation on the part of those around, but the true teacher—and there were many in South Australia—cared little for these things. His heart was in his work, and he knew that the future would bring with it the reward which would fit his deserts.—Mr. M. M. Maughan proposed "The Parliament," which was responded to by the Hon. J. H. Gordon, M.L.C., and Mr. W. Copley, M.P.—Professor Mitchell tendered the toast of "Education," and spoke of the great desire of outsiders that their children should be journeymen in education when they were thirteen years of age. The public did require that education should make some kind of moral character in the pupil, and to fit him for a place in the social system. There was the difficulty that they did not know what became of the children after they left school. They went out into the world and were lost sight of. He thought a register should be kept of them until they were nineteen years of age, and it could be easily done. The most important factor in education was the teacher, who should be highly educated. He was sorry to say that on paper the teachers of South Australia were not highly educated. Individually those he had met were well educated, but in South Australia there was poor provision for educating the pupil teachers.—The Minister of Education, in replying, alluded to the work of the teachers and the assistance they were rendering in the agricultural districts.—The Chairman of the Board of Inspectors, Mr. L. W. Stanton, also responded.—The Commissioner of Public Works gave the toast of "The Adelaide Teachers' Association," and Mr. C. B. Whillas replied. Mr. P. F. F. Wholohan tendered, and the Commissioner of Police, Colonel Madley, and Professor Tate replied to the toast of "The Visitors." During the evening Miss Noye sang "I was dreaming," Messrs. F. Gratton, A. Buring, P. Mitchell, and W. P. Nicholls the part-songs "Two roses" and "The soldier's farewell," and Miss F. Ward "The island of dreams."

"Register"
9th Aug. 1898.

THE ELDER CONSERVATORIUM AND THE MUSICAL PROFESSION.

To the Editor.

Sir—The Adelaide musical profession have unitedly combined in the production of a new pathetic sonata. The two principal subjects of its first movement in the tonic major and relative minor keys have been submitted to us through your columns. This constitutes the enunciation or exposition section, and now we pause at the double bar. As a musical layman, presumptions as it may appear, may I proceed with the development. The burden of Mr. Howard's complaint that the musical profession were not consulted in the establishment of the Conservatoire is capable of treatment by various methods, the contrapuntal not excepted. His analogy drawn from the clerical and medical professions is a dangerously double-edged weapon. In ecclesiastical matters the clergy would be consulted, and in the matter of a medical school the medical profession; but the term clergy is surely not meant to include every man who rants at a street corner, and the medical profession rigorously excludes quacks. In this, of course, I do not intend any personal allusion. For both the clerical and medical professions a long and severe course of study is demanded. Their equipment must be certified by the highest authorities. But what is the qualification demanded of the musical profession? Its members are self-elected, and 75 per cent. of the so-called teachers of music can evidence only lamentable ignorance of the subject they profess to teach. How often does it occur that, as soon as a girl has mastered her five-finger exercises and learnt to crash down eight notes on a pianoforte in rapid succession, her gymnastic agility is regarded as a professional accomplishment, and she forthwith proceeds to secure pupils, collect fees, and give instruction as a teacher of music? We demand that clergymen, doctors, lawyers, school teachers, architects, accountants, chemists, engine-drivers, plumbers, &c., shall all pass qualifying examinations peculiar to their profession or trade before they can be allowed to practise; but in the musical—the highest branch of education—the training of emotions through a fine-art medium is entrusted to anybody who has the effrontery to stick up a brass plate with the mystical legend "Teacher of Music." Teacher of music, forsooth! How can one teach what one has never learned? How interpret a fine-art work when one knows neither the nature nor function of art, nor the fundamental laws which govern its interpretation? There are teachers who both know their work and how to do it, and my words must not be read as wholesale or indiscriminate condemnation. I am speaking of the majority of those persons who are allowed to constitute themselves the self-elected musical profession. It is a matter for regret that there is no law by which such people as I have in mind could be imprisoned for obtaining money under false pretences. One great advantage arising from the establishment of the Elder Conservatorium will be the mitigation at least of this crying evil. It provides a thorough and complete musical education, and it should fit and send forth its students, destined for a professional career, so well equipped that the wrongs wrought in the name of music will be gradually diminished until swept out of existence by prohibitive legislative enactment. Ere long this matter must receive Parliamentary consideration. The advantages arising from the establishment of the University Conservatorium will be seen after many days. Its establishment means the combination of conscientious practical work with the strictest theoretical study. It means a wide diffusion of musical knowledge, culture, and interest in which every true musician should rejoice. Such a fostering of the high ideals of musical art will create a new place for accredited and worthy teachers outside its own boundaries, and it will open new doors to competent teachers who have anything to teach. The leading members of the Adelaide musical profession should therefore assume an attitude not of opposition to, but of sympathy with, its aims and methods. One thing certain is that the University Council cannot alter its course, and in the interests of sound musical education and true art this is a matter for thankfulness.

I am, Sir, &c.,

EUTERPE.

[Our correspondent apparently misunderstands the particular reason for the objection to certain methods of the Conservatorium. The objectors, professedly at least, wish to improve its standard, not to lower it.—Ed.]

"Register"
10th Aug. 1898.

"A Voice from Orpheus in Inferno" writes satirically of the lines on which the Conservatorium is being conducted, and in the same spirit condemns them as "business" lines. Our correspondent deals with certain personal matters which had better not be introduced into the discussion, especially by correspondents who write anonymously, and proceeds to refer to the way in which the Conservatorium competes with private music teachers. "When I saw an advertisement calling upon any and sundry to give their names to the Registrar for their enrolment in a Singing Class at 10s. per term, I knew what might happen, thinking at once of a respected teacher who conducts classes in singing. I thought it altogether infra dig. and needlessly crossing private enterprise. Likewise did it seem so to have asked Mr. Bevan to use his talents in the interests of a high University at a Saturday 'Pop' but I must curtail my criticism. Why, if the profession will not be beaten, do they not combine and not send a single pupil to the exams again? Let them co-operate and have their own Conservatorium. The present Conservatorium might retaliate by giving all elementary instruction gratis, but this would only do away with some inefficient teachers."

"Register"
12th Aug. 1898.

THE ELDER CONSERVATORIUM

To the Editor.

Sir—If I understand "Euterpe" aright, had he been a member of the musical profession he would have been one of the very first to sign the memorial in question. The Elder Conservatorium will never mitigate the evil of which he complains. It is "Hobson's choice" with many people—10s. per quarter or nothing. The teachers who signed the memorial are not concerning themselves with that phase of the matter at all. The compulsory registration of music teachers cannot be brought about in England, and it is altogether Utopian to think of it here. "The proof of the pudding is in the eating," and if "Euterpe" tried to turn his musical talents into £s. d. he would find it impossible to keep up a decent social position in Adelaide unless there was some solid ability behind the "mystical legend," whether his paper qualifications were good, bad, or indifferent. Music as a practical subject does not depend entirely upon diplomas. You must allow for exceptions to every rule. Sir John Stainer said—"The teaching of voice-production baffles all examination; it is eminently practical, and yet it is so difficult in practice, although the theory would appear comparatively easy." All great voice-trainers were born, not made. This is one exception, and there are others.—I am, Sir, &c., EDWARD HOWARD.

"Advertiser"
13th Aug. 1898.

THE NORMANS IN EUROPE

On Friday evening Mr. E. G. Blackmore gave the second of the series of lectures on the "Normans in Europe" in the chemistry classroom at the University, which was filled with an audience largely composed of probable candidates for the coming senior. The subject was "William I.," and the lecturer began by explaining the foundation of Normandy as a duchy, and the wonderful career of William, who was called to succeed his father as duke of that turbulent province at the early age of 8, and in the governing of which he received that training which fitted him to play the great part which awaited him in the future. The invasion of England and the claim of William to the throne, not as a foreign conqueror, but the legitimate successor of Edward, were set forth, and the statesman-like policy by which William continued to govern both English and Normans was elaborated. The gradual subjugation of the land of England was described, and the career of William to the summit of his power traced. The later years of his reign, when it seemed as though vengeance was being taken for his two notable crimes—the judicial murder of the last English Earl and the devastation of Hampshire to form the New Forest—were left to be dealt with in the next lecture, when the reign of the Red King will also be discussed.

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ORCHESTRAL CONCERT.

To-night the sixth orchestral concert will be given in the Town Hall, when the full strength of the "Conservatorium Grand Orchestra" will be represented. A very fine programme is announced, the chief items being "Andante con moto," from symphony op. 21 (Beethoven), Mendelssohn's "Songs without words," Reissiger's brilliant overture "The mountain milk," and Schubert's symphony in B minor (unfinished). Four other orchestral items will also be given. Miss Ethel Lohrmann will sing "The gift of rest," a new song by Cowen, and Hope Temple's pretty ballad "When we meet;" and Mr. R. W. Swan, who will make his first appearance at these concerts, will sing "The king's minstrel" (Pinsuti) and "The yeoman's wedding song" (Poniatowski). Mr. T. H. Jones, Mus. Bac., will be the accompanist.