

Ad. 13 Aug 09

Reg 13th Aug

CONSERVATORIUM CONCERT.

The University choral and orchestral classes gave a decidedly meritorious presentation of "The Martyr of Antioch" (Sullivan) at the Elder Hall on Monday evening. There was a large audience, which included Lady Le Hunte, Sir Samuel and Lady Way, and the Premier and Mrs. Price. The scene of the work is laid at Antioch, and the time is the latter part of the third Christian century. Olybius (the Roman prefect) is in love with Margarita, and in her heathen days she returns his affection. Upon her conversion to Christianity, however, the idea of union with a heathen becomes repugnant to her. The opening chorus of sun worshippers, a fine spirited piece of writing, which was rendered with telling effect, leads to the prefect's calling upon Margarita, of whose conversion he is unaware, to take her usual place in the worship. Callias charges Olybius with lukewarmness in the cause of Apollo, and he replies by intimating his intention to put all the Christians to death. In the second part the scene has changed to a Christian burial place, and it is introduced with an organ solo, "Andante religioso," which Mr. A. Williamson played with great taste. An unaccompanied funeral hymn, "Brother, thou art gone before us," was rendered with solemn dignity. The Christian bishop (Fabius) sings over the grave, "Brother, thou slumberest silent as yon stars," the bass number was nicely rendered by Mr. H. Daymond, and after the ceremony Margarita stays, and in a recitative and hymn of great beauty renders adoration to the Saviour, "Yet once again I touch Thy golden strings" and "For Thou didst die for me, oh, Son of God." In this number Miss Clytie Hine's pleasing soprano voice was heard to advantage. The alternating solos between Callias and Margarita, taken by Miss Hine and Mr. Hurtle Cooke, were amongst the finest things of the evening. The third part opens with the "Evening song of maidens" before the palace of the prefect. Very beautiful was the rendering by the choir of ladies of the charming music in this item, "Come away with willing feet." At the close Olybius and Margarita are left together. Mr. H. Savage took the part of Olybius, and Miss Muriel Cheek that of Margarita, and the young tenor acquitted himself meritoriously. Miss Cheek sang with true feeling and refinement. The final scene, which is outside the prison of the Christians on the road to the Temple of Apollo, was particularly impressive. The chorus of heathen maidens, "Now glory to the God who breaks the monarch of the realms on high," was nicely sung, and the splendid Christian chorus which follows was given with excellent effect. In the parts where Margarita is called upon to make her choice and decides to hold firm her faith in Christ, Miss Olive Bassett's contralto voice was judiciously used, as it had previously been in the solo "The love-sick damsel." Mr. Savage also sang in artistic style, and Mr. Cooke again did credit to himself. Miss Cheek as Margarita sang splendidly. Miss Ethel Ridings took the last Margarita number, "What means yon blaze on high," and sang in her usual pleasing style. The magnificent final chorus, "Glory, glory, the Lord Almighty reigneth," was given with dignity, and was impressive. Mr. Alexander Cooper did satisfactory work in the tenor aria, "Where is the crown," and Miss Elsie Riggs gave a sympathetic and chaste rendering of the part of Julia in "The maids lift up their hymn." The orchestra was well balanced, and performed well. Praise is due to Mr. F. Bevan for the efficiency to which he had trained his company, and also for introducing to the Adelaide public this splendid work, which was given for the first time in this State.

UNIVERSITY ARTS ASSOCIATION.

A largely attended meeting of the recently formed University Arts Association was held at Bricknell's Cafe on Saturday evening. Professor Mitchell presided, and the constitution of the society was submitted and approved. Professor Henderson outlined the probable nature of the meetings of the association. It was decided to hold a dinner in September. Songs and recitations were given by Professor Naylor, Messrs. Barnes, Keyes, and Belcher; and student choruses were heartily sung. Mr. Adams accompanied. The meeting terminated with the singing of "Gaudete."

Reg 13th Aug 09

RADIO-ACTIVITY

ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR BRAGG.

The last meeting for the session in connection with the Adelaide University Scientific Society was held in the Prince of Wales lecture theatre on Monday evening, when the President (Professor Bragg) gave an address on "Recent advances in the science of radio-activity." Professor Bragg, speaking to a scientific gathering, dealt with the constitution of an atom. The electron enters largely into its composition, and since an electron zips about at the rate of 6,000 miles a second, and is 1,000 times smaller than an atom, the difficulty of seizing on to it for the benefit of the lay reading public will be understood. Scientifically, however, Professor Bragg's lecture was entitled to great respect, for he is in the front rank of the world's physicists who are engaged in the study of radio-activity. He stated that an electron was a charge of negative electricity, although Professor Thompson, of Cambridge, and a Berlin investigator both claimed to have isolated a positive electron—a fact which great men were inclined to doubt. Many phenomena in nature, such as thunderstorms, were only a multiplication of these insignificant things. An atom was described as an extremely empty thing, and Professor Bragg stated that scientists had arrived at a baffling point in their endeavours to trace the eventual fate of the alpha particle.