Advertiser 22 May 07 Register 22 May 1907.

EXAMINATIONS IN MUSIC.

The syllabus of public examinations in music to be held in September next, under the arrangement which was recently entered into between the Adelaide and Melbourne Universities, has been issued, and shows that provision has been made for the work to be carried out under methods which should secure success to the enterprise. The object of the examinations, as set out in the syllabus, is "to assist and improve musical education by supplying an authoritative and reliable test of musical work from the most elementary to the highest grade." To secure this end the nusic board of the two universities proloses to enlist the services of the best musicians as examiners, and to "set a high and unvarying standard for all examinations." It is also intended that "as far as practical, the examination in each subject shall be conducted by a specialist in that subject. For pianoforte a pianist will be employed, and for violin a violinist," and although it is admitted that this cannot be done at present in the more distant centres the board promises to extend the scheme with the growth of the examinations. Another feature of the examinations which will give general satisfaction is that in the higher grades of the practical examinations and for all the examinations in theory two examiners will be employed. The advantage of this to the candidates themselves is obvious, and the interests of true musical education make it a necessity. For some years past the University of Adelaide has acted in conjunction with the Associated Board of the Royal College of Music and the Royal Academy of Music in conducting examinations in the practical divisions. The theory examinations have been conducted in connection with the University. Examination in the two branches will in future be conducted under the direction of the two universities, and will form part of the same scheme. On Monday Professor Ennis stated that in some grades the fees would be smaller than those charged under the old system. In order that the work might be done as efficiently as possible the duration of the examination of candidates in the advanced grades for practical subjects would be half an hour instead of 20 minutes. Dr. Ennis also emphasised the importance which the board attached to having two examiners in the higher grades, and said he was hopeful of obtaining the most satisfactory results possible by having, as far as was practicable, specialists in each division. "EXTENSION LECTURES AT COUNTRY CENTRES."

From "Country Centre":- "A few weeks since you published a paragraph in The Register which appeared to convey the impression that the residents of country districts would have an opportunity of deriving pleasure and profit from the visits of University professors. On a close perusal of the circular sent to country centres by the Registrar of the University, it seems that, having already obtained kndos from the public by their apparent willingness to lighten the dark places outside the city, the professors wish in addition to obtain no small amount of profit. According to all I can learn, any centre taking up the offer conveyed by the registrar makes itself liable to pay £3 3/ per lecture for a course of three lectures, and in addition there would be travelling expenses (in some cases over £2 for railway fare) and personal expenses of the lecturer whilst in the town. This would work out something like (with necessary advertising) about £15 for the course an amount quite prohibitory for towns of a thousand or so people, in which probably not 5 per cent. would feel interested enough to attend a course of three lectures in about five nights. If the University authorities are really in carnest why not do something which would fairly entitle the staff to some measure of credit, and offer to give the lectures? In the interests of education the Government might fairly provide free railage, and the local authorities the use of their town halls; and the only place where finance would come in would be in the personal expenses of the lecturer and the necessary advertising. This could fairly be borne by the country centres. My contention is that if the University authorities are desirous of giving country centres the advantage of coming in close touch with the professors, the latter, already in receipt of bandsome salaries, might act in such a way that they would not lay themselves open to the charge of being mercenary; and by the means I have indicated a course of lectures may be brought to the people's doors at a comparatively small cost. Under those conditions some degree of honour would attach to the whole transaction. There is little hope of the scheme being taken up very generally in its present shape."

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THE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

The extension lectures, under the auspices of the Adelaide University this year, will be inaugurated by Professor Naylor, M.A., but Adelaide is not to be the scene of the opening of the campaign. The residents of Broken Hill are to be favored in this respect. Professor Naylor will leave for Broken Hill on Monday next for the purpose of delivering three lectures there. Soon after his return to Adefaide the winter series will begin, and then for some months interesting addresses will be given in the Prince of Wales Theatre weekly by the professors. The lectures at various country centres will necessarily have to be postponed till the second vacation, except in the cases of towns within reasonable distance of Adelaide, such as Strathalbyn and Gawler, which can be reached by trains leaving late in the afternoon, and from which the professors can return the following mornings in time to conduct their classes at the University. Mr. Naylor, who is the professor of classics, will deal with "Life in classic times in Rome and Greece." In his first address, "A day in Rome, 100 A.D.," he will speak on the following topics:-"Martial's house and study. The poet describes literary life in Rome. Morning calls, recitals of works, &c. Pliny's letter on these topics. Selections from Martial's epigrams, grave and gay. Martial's life till 2 p.m. A Roman dinner with Pliny as host, and Martial and Tacitus as guests. An appreciation of Pliny, and his letter upon the death of Martial." In his second lecture, "Men you would meet in Athens, 300 B.C.," he will elaborate the following points:-"Athenian types as described by Theophrastus (321 B.C.) in his 'Character Sketches.' Importance of these as illustrating the true meaning of words. Life and times of Theophrastus. His imitators and translators. ilis thirty sketches, including 'The pawky man, 'The flatterer,' 'The garrulous man,' The boor,' 'The agreeable man, 'The larrikin,' The bounder,' The upstart,' Theophrastus' will." The subject of the third lecture will be "Theatre-going in Athens," and the chief matters upon which the professor will speak will be-"Popularising classics. The Athenian in real life. The feast of Dionysus and the plays 431 B.C. A walk from Port-Athens Holiday-makers. Politito the city. cians and the war. Æschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, as viewed by the man in the street. Women, Pericles, Pheidias, and others. A four days' programme -March 26, 27, 28, 29. Description of ceremonies, of the theatre, audience, and the plays. The scene when the prizes for tragedy and comedy are awarded." The remarks of Professor Naylor will be made doubly interesting by the introduction of pictures and diagrams. Great interest has already been shown in the extension lectures, and there is little doubt that the audiences will be as large us, if not larger, than in previous years.

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LIQUID AIR.

The public who feel interested in scientific matters and are anxious to learn something and also see something of liquid air, will have an opportunity of doing so in August. It has been arranged in regard to the University extension lecture scheme that Professor Rennie shall deliver two lectures during that month on "Low temperatures," and -+ the second of these on August 20 he will deal with "Liquetaction of air and experiments with liquid air." The University recently became possessed of up-to-date apparatus for liquelying air, and as this will be the first occasion in the State when any experiments of the kind have been made outside the professor's laboratory, it is probable that the lecture will be well attended.

Adver. 1-5-8-10 June 07 Reg. 1-4-8-10 June 07

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

The first orchestral concert of the session will be given at the Conservatorium on June 10, when a programme of great interest will be presented by the Conservatorium orchestra, under the conductorship of Herr H. Heinicke. The numbers to be performed are Weber's overture to the opera "Euryanthe;" Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony, and a violoncello concerto with orchestral accompaniment by De Swert, Mr. Harold Parsons being the soloist. Vocal items will also be contributed by students. Transferable season tickets, admitting two persons to the whole course of concerts during the session, may be obtained at the University office, also tickets for the single concert. It is also notified that the second term will begin on June 10, and intending students are invited to enter their names at once. All particulars of entry may be obtained from the registrar.

advertiser June 3 07

UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

A meeting of the council was held on Friday, Members present-The Chancellor, the Vice-Clancellor, Mr. Jacobs, Professor Bragg, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Murray, Professor Mitchell, Rev. Dr. Jefferls, Mr. Chapple, Rev. H. Gardlestone, Dr. Hayward, Mr. S. T. Smith, and Dr. Poulton. The board of commercial studies reported that Mr. A. S. Cheadle had been elected president of the Chambur of Commerce, and in virtue of his office had become a member of the board. On the recommendation of the board the council resolved to invite Mr. R. K. Thomas, ex-president of the Chamber of Commerce, to retain his seat on the board of Commercial studies. The public examinations board laid on the table the syllabuses of the public examinations to be held in 1908. Reports were received that valuable presentation of minerals had been made to the geographical laborators by Mr. A. W. Dobbie and Mr. L. W. Judell. The council directed that these gentlemen be thanked for their valuable contributions. An invitation was received from the Geographical Society of Londan to send a delegate to attend the celebrations. of the centenary of the society, to be held in London in September next. The usual terminal report from the Royal College of Music, stating that excellent progress was being made by Mr. Brewster Jones, Elder scholar, was received.