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Mr. George Gardner, Mus. Bac., is similarly dependable at the organ. Miss Brisbane Matthews presided at the piano. With regard to the solo parts, no happier choice in the domain of the tenor could have been made than that of Mr. Fred Stone. He has won many encomiums publicly, but none were ever more deserved than those accorded him at the close of Thursday evening. The roles of Gerontius and of the "soul" were magnificently interpreted. How one man could continue to support such a strain gave cause for wonderment, particularly as the quality of that glorious music in no way suffered. To listen to such smoothly given solos it is difficult to realize what mazes and pitfalls surround the path of the singer. Because there is nothing of the "vocal gymnastic" order, the average listener might easily remain oblivious to the incessant calls made upon the interpretative power of the soloists, particularly in the tenor numbers. Difficult intervals and exacting modulations, to say nothing of the vast range required, supply every known form of musical test.

The Narrative.

The story of the "Dream" cannot, of course, be traced in its entirety, but Elgar selected the most effective portions of the verse. Cardinal Newman has sought to accompany, in spirit, the flight of the human soul out through space into the Judgment Court, and thence, through terrible hordes of demons, down into the night of despair. But the Guardian Angel finally bears the now immortal soul into paths of peaceful preparation for the last stage, the entry into the presence of God. This was the vision that came to Gerontius as he lay, sick unto death, awaiting the dissolution of soul and body—and, waiting, fell into a troubled sleep. Elgar, in turn, sought every device with which to fittingly "clothe immortal words in heavenly music." "Gerontius" has been scored for a large orchestra; the strings alone sometimes being divided into about 20 parts. The short orchestral prelude strikes a significant note, for it is the structure upon which the whole theme is afterwards elaborated. All the varying emotions expressed throughout the oratorio have been indicated in that brief, but wonderful, bit of writing. The thought of judgment and its awesomeness, the descent of fear, the comfort of prayer that brings sleep—yet not a restful sleep. Later, one hears the wailing of despair, to be followed by a wonderful burst of harmony as the soul is committed to its Maker. Passing through these stages of struggle towards infinity, soloist and chorus well sustained their parts. The limpid notes of the tenor, embellished by the orchestral accompaniment, is followed by a devotional semi-chorus. Later, a hint of demoniacal entry is suggested, but gentler measures prevail as Part I closes. The tenor voice then resumes the theme, aided by the mezzo-soprano. Effective chorus passages follow, and the bass of the Angel of the Agony is heard. Another period of peacefulness merges into a sullen crescendo that attains a terrific climax as the celebrated "Demon Chorus" declaims its frenzied message:—"Lowborn clods of Earth." The opening by the tenors and basses, followed by orchestral picturization of the scene, and the combined force of the chorus, works up to an indescribable fortissimo. Organ and piano play a short prominent part in the peaceful offering that supervenes, in preparation for the glory of that melodious chorus, "Praise to the Holiest." Light and shade, beauty of rhythm, and a paean of praise are all contained in this number. More startling harmonic effects follow, in the prayer of the Angel of the Agony—one of the great moments in a great theme—peace has been secured, as voice and orchestra disclose, and the softly-breathed "Amen" discloses the "Dream," amid a sense of serenity emanating from the Most High.

The Artists.

Mr. Stone will not lightly surpass last evening's solo work. In spite of all his arduous rehearsals, he was in capital voice, and truly devout was the entire rendition. It is difficult to discriminate amid a consistently fine presentation. In tones of almost melting sweetness the opening "Jesu, Maria, I am near to death," was announced. The great "Sanctus fortis, Sanctus Deus," was given out with impressiveness and remarkable effortlessness. In Part II, "I went to sleep," was a veritable "poem;" and in the contrasting measures of "Now that the hour is come," Mr. Stone obtained every requisite effect. Throughout the evening his phrasing, also, was excellent. Mr. Richard Watson is to be congratulated upon

the bracketed parts of the "Priest" and "Angel of the Agony." His solos were the embodiment of reverence; and "Go forth upon Thy journey, Christian soul," aided by a double chorus, was well sung. Mr. Watson's pleasing young voice was further well suited to the Litanies of the Agony, and in this constraining supplication he excelled himself. To Miss Katie Joyce is due, also, a share in the eulogies

She delivered the noble message of the "Guardian Angel" with meticulous care and great sweetness of tone. In the alternating passages with the "Soul," Miss Joyce was especially pleasing. The chorus, entrusted with a stupendous task, emerged triumphant. Elgar did not spare that vocal combination, for it is inconceivable that a more difficult series could be composed. Very beautiful were the harmonic effects obtained throughout, and the balance was beyond criticism.

Saturday's Repetition.

Prior to the big work, an unaccompanied motet was sung. What "Never weather-beaten sail" (by Parry) had to do with "Gerontius" was not perceptible, but it was artistically given, with its arresting crescendi and diminuendi. The "Dream of Gerontius"—fortunately—gives little opportunity for interruption in applause form. Consequently, at the close, the audience poured forth a wealth of praise that testified to its delight. Dr. Davies came in for a special share of the ovation, which was well merited. Among the many who assisted to again register so happy a success, the names of the hon. secretary (Mr. Arthur Mellor) and the manager (Mr. Charles Cawthorne) must be specially mentioned.

"The Dream of Gerontius" will be repeated on Saturday evening. Mr. Fred Stone will again sustain the tenor part; but Miss Lilian Wilkinson—who made so successful a debut in the mezzo part in 1911—will succeed Miss Joyce, and Mr. W. G. Sanderson will relieve Mr. Watson of the other solo numbers.

Art as it Should Be.

"Art in Australia," No. 5, Third Series. (Art in Australia Company, Sydney.)

It is interesting to find that our own Leon Gellert is now associated with Sydney Ure Smith in the editorship of this fine quarterly. The present number is influenced, naturally, by the exhibition of European pictures now open in Sydney. There is a definite statement here that it will be shown also in Melbourne and Adelaide, and this happy forecast remains to be turned into a certainty by some definite effort in this city, for such an unusual chance of art education must not be missed. So one finds reproduced here, in colours, pictures by Strang & Sargent and Augustus John, as well as by Hans Heyssen. Other reproductions are from Orpen and Rothenstein, and George Lambert writes instructively and with inside knowledge on the exhibition referred to. A notable feature in this modern English work is a deliberate slighting of grace, with the idea, no doubt, that more strength can thus be obtained. But is it not possible to combine the two? Of the two fine nudes reproduced here, one is of each class. Another valuable thing in this number is a collection of book-plates drawn in Australia, with some exquisite work on the small scale. Dr. McLaurin has another of his oddly attractive peeps into history from the surgeon's point of view, Swift being the patient dissected this time. There are also two thoughtful essays on psycho-analysis in art, and the influence of Asia on Australian architecture. But these two are crammed into small print below their deserts: it is the only blemish on a book which is both interesting and stimulating.

Professor Kerr Grant, lecturing on matter and other matters, is thus reported:—"What he designated the Rutherford Bohr type of nuclear atom, i.e., a nucleus of small dimensions, but a correspondingly large mass, positively charged with a number of negative electrons, equal to the number of uncompensated positive electrons in the nucleus, explained all the properties of the hydrogen atom." Oh, yes, perfectly!

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

From the Hassell Press, Adelaide.—"Knowledge and Practice in Government," an address by Professor Coleman Phillipson.

EDUCATION.

By Unlocks.

THE CECIL RHODES TRUST.

The annual dinner of the Rhodes Scholarship Trust was held in the Oxford Town Hall on June 16 last. The Prime Minister was the principal guest, and over 300 past and present scholars attended. Reference was made to the fact that Australia, Canada, South Africa, and New Zealand were all represented, and a large number also came from Washington, Indiana, Georgia, and other parts of the United States. The Prime Minister spoke on the principles that guide the Anglo-Saxon race, and the opportunity of the English-speaking peoples for service to the world in the common aim of peace and justice. The President of the Columbia University said that one of the great sources of American indebtedness to England was found in the history and influence of Oxford University. He could not speak highly enough of the great man who conceived the idea of the trust, and gave opportunity to so many young men. He considered it impossible to estimate the influence in binding the English-speaking world that would go out from the men who had had part of their training at that ancient seat of learning. For America, he was profoundly moved and proud that so many of their best youth had sought, and were seeking, that opportunity. A scholar from the Orange Free State expressed the opinion that with the scholarship went a widening of interests, opportunities for travel, and the boon of a connection with Oxford. A Pennsylvanian counted the scholarship a great honour, but the opportunity was greater than the honour. Scholars at Oxford were enabled to obtain a proper perspective of their own countries, and, better still, could understand and admire British character and British purpose. It was pointed out that the trust would come of age next year, that over 1,000 scholars had gone out into the world, and that many of these had great achievements to their credit. A great spirit of comradeship existed among Rhodes scholars, and the deeds of each were watched with interest by his fellows now scattered all over the world.

The Davison Trust.

"Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery." There can be no question about the admiration which America held for the late Cecil Rhodes, and the great far-sighted policy which founded the famous trust. One citizen of the Great Republic, appreciating the benefits conferred on the English-speaking races by the Rhodes Scholarships, made an arrangement in his will, by which three students from Oxford and three from Cambridge may attend the three leading Universities of the United States for one year. Harvard, Yale, and Princeton are the Universities chosen, and two students will be assigned to each every year. The founder of the scheme is the late Henry P. Davison, a banker, and he stipulated that young men are to be chosen for character and general standing, rather than their promise as students. The selection will probably fall on post graduates, for no student would care to have his normal course of study interfered with. Though not so far-reaching as the Rhodes Scholarship scheme, it gives a further opportunity for cultivating, in a most effective way, a better understanding and real sympathy between the two great English-speaking peoples. This yearly interchange of leaders in the making must eventually prove of incalculable benefit to the nations concerned, for it is highly probable that these young men, who are now using special opportunities to understand the point of view of the other side, will later on find the knowledge so effectively gained of the greatest value when dealing with matters affecting their respective countries.

Registration.

In almost every country there are parents, who, being fairly well-to-do, prefer to pay for their children's schooling at a private institution, rather than allow them to pay for their children's schooling at a public special education that they expect; it is probably a matter of exclusiveness, and they have a desire to be a little higher than ordinary. The result is in many cases, a loss to the children, for often people who have no knowledge of method or subjects to be taught open schools, and flourish. In regard to law and medicine, people are protected, and registration is necessary before a man begins to practise. It would be a good thing were teachers required to register, for the status of the profession would be raised, and children saved from the prentice hand of some one who tried to make a success of teaching after failing at other callings. All the teaching experience some people possess has been gained at the expense of many unfortunate pupils. Before any one is permitted to teach he should be compelled to show his qualifications. There should be experience, training, and attainment in a greater or less degree, and the successful

teacher has personality not dependent on physical fitness, but rather on intellectual and moral. The Teachers' Registration Council of England has done invaluable work for the motherland in compiling a register of over 70,000 teachers. Ten years ago the conditions for admission to the register were set up, and for the last six years a marked advance has been made, the applications rising from 17,752 to 73,559. The registration is purely voluntary, and not every applicant is successful. Enquiries are made into the credentials, and unless these are satisfactory, registration is denied. Experience at an efficient school counts for much, but the number of schools which can give experience needful for registration, is limited. It is hoped that legislation will be passed to prevent any one from teaching unless his name is on the Teachers' Register. There is room for work on the same lines in our own State. Registration would be welcomed by the majority of teachers, for while it would strengthen the hands of those who are teachers indeed, and make for unity in the profession, it would eliminate those who are unsuitable and unqualified and protect the children of careless or gullible parents from those who would, in some of the higher branches of technical work, take large fees and give an inadequate return.

Exemptions.

It is of little use to tell boys that their school life is of the highest importance, when they are granted exemption to make themselves useful in a golf championship. The laws of the State should not be suspended for the pleasure of a few influential gentlemen, and it is clear that our Premier would have given a prompt refusal to the application. There are several points of view from which the exemption was undesirable; there is not one point in its favour. Teachers generally will be pleased to know that the Premier has done the right thing, and agree that it would have been much better had the golf enthusiasts, instead of asking for a temporary suspension of the law, had hired a number of young people above the compulsory age.

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AUSTRALIAN FAUNA.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PRESERVATION.

An inter-State conference of representatives of the various State Museums and Universities is to be held to consider the restriction of the export of Australian animals, the disposal of type specimens, and cognate matters. The following recommendations have been made by the Adelaide and Sydney Museums:—

1. That a body be appointed in each State to advise the Government as to the issue of permits and the export of skins, such body to include representatives of the Museums, Universities, Scientific Societies, Animal Protection Societies, etc., and a Customs office.
2. That Customs regulations as to export of animals should be in accordance with State ordinances, and that these should be uniform in the several States.
3. That in all the States the laws relating to gun licenses and the protection of birds and animals should, so far as possible, be uniform; and that consideration should be given to the practicability of imposing a royalty on skins obtained for commercial purposes.
4. That collectors from overseas should be required to observe a limit, imposed in each State by the body constituted as suggested in clause 1 above, regarding the number of specimens to be killed or collected; and to submit all specimens collected in the State to that body, which should have the power of retaining any special specimens for the museum of the State.
5. That the desirability of establishing mammal and bird reserves should be strongly urged on the Federal and State Governments.
6. That so far as practicable there should be co-operation between the various Museums and Universities so that—(a) overlapping should be avoided by the institutions in the various States which engage in museum work; (b) material collected for a museum, if suitable for anatomical investigation and not required by the museum, should be reserved for the use of the universities.

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HONOUR WHERE HONOUR IS DUE.

From W. H. FOOTE, Elder Conservatorium:—Reading the report on the performance of "The Dream of Gerontius," I was sorry to see that a certain amount of credit was attributed to me with regard to the orchestra. This is not correct, as the whole of the preparation for the work was entirely the effort of Professor Harold Davies. Will you be kind enough to give this due publicity.