

**CONSERVATORIUM CONCERT.**

**An Excellent Programme.**

The twelfth students' concert of the 1924 season, under the direction of Professor F. Harold Davies, Mus. Doc., was presented at the Elder Conservatorium, before a large audience on Monday evening. The programme, which included piano, grand organ, cello, and violin solos, instrumental duets, and trio, and vocal items, reflected great credit on tutors and pupils alike. The teachers represented were Messrs. G. Pearce, Charles Schilsky, Harold Wylde, William Silver, Harold Parsons, Frederick Bevan, Madam Delma Hall, Mrs. Quesnel, and Misses Sylvia Whittington and Maude Puddy. Mr. Fred Roberts gave an excellent interpretation of the exactive pianoforte solos, "Nautilus, A.D., 1620," by McDowell; and Miss Edith Lucas earned merited applause in the difficult "Jeux d'eau," written in the minor key by Ravel. Miss Jean Finlay displayed splendid artistry and technique in her interpretation of Chopin's "Scherzo in C sharp minor," for the piano. Mr. Mostyn Skinner's fine baritone voice was heard to advantage in "The night rider" (Treharne), and Miss Dotie Coonan showed promise of following in her sister Rita's footsteps by an artistic and sympathetic rendering of the aria, "Have I lost thee, love, for ever?" (Gluck). Miss Jean Sinclair's mellow mezzo-soprano was heard effectively in the typical Brahms bracket, "Gracious and kind art thou, my queen," and "Sapphic ode." The Mendelssohn duet, "My song shall be alway Thy mercy" was sung by Miss Rose Kinnmont and Mr. Fred Williamson, and the "Finale from sonata C sharp minor" (Basil Harwood) was effectively played on the grand organ by Miss Isabel Tilbrook. Of the instrumental music the cello solo, "Hebrew melody" (Granville Bantock), executed by Miss Alice Cummins, won well-deserved applause, and the trio, violin, cello, and piano, by Misses Bessie, Francis, Marie Coghill, and Helena Harris, and also the violin solo, "Ave Maria" (Schubert-Wilhelm), were meritorious items.

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**ELDER CONSERVATORIUM CONCERT.**

The twelfth concert of the Conservatorium season attracted a large gathering to the Elder Hall on Monday evening, when a well-arranged programme was tendered. The items given showed a distinct advance in the students' work, which was of high quality. Mr. Fred Roberts opened the concert with two piano solos by McDowell. The delightful "Nautilus" was followed by the contrasting piece, "A.D. 1620," of which Mr. Roberts gave an excellent interpretation, the crescendo effects being good. Miss Lilian Walsh has a sweet soprano voice of delightful timbre, which was heard in "Looking backward" (Parry). A violin solo, "Symphonic Espagnole, 1st movement" (Lalo), by Miss Gwen Moss, indicated further progress by this accomplished student, whose easy style was suited to the rhythm and striking melody of the piece. Miss Isabel Tilbrook gave with expression the beautiful finale from Basil Harwood's Sonata in C sharp minor as an organ solo. She played with fine discrimination, receiving deserved applause. "The night rider" (Treharne), sung by Mr. Mostyn Skinner, showed evidence of careful tuition. His baritone, though pleasing, is not strong. "Jeux d'eau," by Ravel, was given the necessary lightness and gaiety by Miss Edith Lucas, who was rewarded with applause. A striking "Hebrew melody" (Granville Bantock) for the violoncello, was well rendered by Miss Alice Cummins. Brahms' "Gracious and kind art thou, my queen" and his exquisite "Sapphic ode" were sung with fine intonation by Miss Jean Sinclair in a rich, mellow mezzo-soprano. The first movement of Beethoven's difficult Trio in C minor was nicely executed by Misses Bessie Francis, Marie Coghill, and Helena Harris. Mendelssohn's beautiful classic "My song shall be alway Thy mercy," was rendered as a duet by Miss Rose Kinnmont and Mr. Fred Williamson, and was followed by a violin solo, "Ave Maria" (Schubert-Wilhelm), sympathetically played by Miss Clarice Gmeiner. Miss Jean Finlay gave a vivid interpretation of Chopin's Scherzo in C sharp minor on the piano, faithfully bringing out the movement in this difficult piece. The accompanists were Misses Alice Meegan and Muriel Prince.

**INFANTILE MORTALITY.**

A very important but comparatively neglected aspect of the question of infantile mortality was brought into prominence by a paper read by Dr. F. S. Hone before the sanitary science and hygiene section of the Science Association at the congress last week. While statistics show a gratifying improvement in the general mortality rate of infants under one year of age, there is an actual increase in the rate of deaths during the first month of life. What this means is that although success is visibly attending the measures taken to reduce the loss of child-life from post-natal causes, the deaths from causes which may be described as of pre-natal origin are, in the words of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, "apparently not proving so susceptible of control," though it is not so certain, as Dr. Hone says, that they are relatively less controllable as that they have been less directly attacked. As the Registrar-General stated in his last annual report, South Australia has one of the lowest infantile mortality rates in the world. A comparison of the two periods, 1894-1908 and 1909-1923, indicates a very substantial improvement in the latter term. The average rate per 100 births registered for the first fifteen years was 9.30; for the second, only 6.33—a decline of 32 per cent. When the figures are examined in detail we find that in the period 1894-1903 the rate ranged from 9.39 to 9.68. In five of the years it was over 10.00, and in 1898 it rose to 13.99. There was a big drop in 1904 to 7.00, since when, despite some fluctuations, the tendency has been gradually downward. The rate was as low as 4.73 in 1922, but rose to 6.05 in the following year.

Dr. Hone points out that the big fall in 1904 was common to all the Australian States, and the cause of it is not fully understood. Probably it was due to the contemporaneous operation of several causes, such as the increased emphasis laid on the correct feeding of babies, and the cessation of a series of drought years which had favored diarrhoeal conditions. It is likely that the latter factor was the more important. Infant mortality from diarrhoeal causes is evidently being controlled, because, as Dr. Hone showed, the curve of deaths from these causes is the same as the total infantile mortality curve. Here is progress on which we may congratulate ourselves. But no satisfaction can be derived from the figures showing the deaths from causes which may be regarded as pre-natal. In 1923 there were in this State 707 deaths of infants under the age of twelve months. Of these 171 died of diarrhoeal complaints, while there were 366 deaths from premature birth and congenital debility and de-

fects, of which no fewer than 304 occurred in the first month of life. The Registrar points out that of the total of 345 infants who died before completing one month—49 per cent. of the aggregate infant mortality—119 were less than one day old, 239 died before the end of the first week, 40 more before the end of the second week, and 28 more before the end of the third week. Dr. Hone fastens on the fact mentioned by the Registrar that the reduced infant mortality in recent years is not due to any improvement in the deaths under one month, but is limited to the later age-periods. In fact, the curve for deaths from prematurity, congenital debility, and malformation—roughly corresponding to deaths in the first month of life—shows a steady increase. The figures prove that the campaign against infantile mortality requires separate and distinct lines of attack, according to whether the causes of death are post-natal or pre-natal. Against the former the campaign has been fairly well-developed. As Dr. Hone observes, it primarily demands attention to "food and flies." The environment must be made suitable to babies who are well enough fitted to survive provided that the elementary laws of health are not broken to their detriment. But the mortality from pre-natal causes, which are now hardly attacked at all, presents a more difficult problem, which involves questions not only of environment but of heredity. Here the saving of child-life must begin before birth with the parents, and especially the mothers.

According to Dr. Hone, with whose conclusions Sir James Barrett fully agrees, the great foes are venereal disease and slovenly obstetrics. The former, as Sir James says, is just as important a factor in early infantile mortality as in insanity, mental deficiency, and other racial maladies. It needs to be fought on a bigger battle-ground than that on which the war against infant mortality alone is carried on. But in that corner of the field it obviously calls for antenatal supervision of expectant mothers, besides the popular education, moral and physical, without which there is small hope of ever extirpating the red plague. The evil of slovenly obstetrics, responsible for too many deaths, cannot be remedied without an improved supply of trained nurses. On these two points the members of the section carried resolutions in favor of co-operative Federal and State action, the Commonwealth to subsidize midwifery training centres, and to work with the States in an intensive propaganda against venereal disease, and in the establishment of ante-natal clinics. By such means, and with the infant welfare work of each State co-ordinated under medical control, as suggested by another resolution, it will be possible to save and strengthen a great deal of the young life which now perishes every year, or survives only under conditions that are inimical to health, strength, and efficiency.

**Conference at Hobart in 1924.**

An invitation to hold the conference following that to be held in Perth in August, 1923, in Hobart in January, 1924, was extended from Tasmania by Mr. Rodway. He said the Government of Tasmania had authorized him to say that every possible assistance would be given to the conference. (Applause.) They could not hope to equal the hospitality experienced in Adelaide, but he could promise them some rugged scenery and some late also a rugged time. (Laughter.) The invitation was supported by Major Giblin and Sir Baldwin Spencer and unanimously accepted.

**Votes of Thanks.**

Votes of thanks were unanimously passed to the following:—

Their Excellencies Lord Forster and Lord Jellicoe, for their assumption of the office of patrons to the association; his Excellency Sir Tom Bridges, for his active interest and patronage during the Adelaide meeting, and for the evening reception held in honor of the association; Sir John Monash, for his reception to the citizens of Adelaide and the members of the association, for his conduct of the meeting, and construction and forceful assistance in all phases of the association's activities; the Lord Mayor of Adelaide, for the civic reception to the members of the association, and for his entertainment of them at an afternoon reception; the Lord Mayor, for the use of the Town Hall for the inaugural address by the president, the public lectures, and the presidential reception; the Premier and Government of South Australia, for generous help in printing the handbook, for undertaking to print the proceedings, and for the provision of chaperons for excursions; Sir George Knibbs, the retiring president for his distinguished services to the association and for enlisting the sympathy and support of Lord Forster, Lord Jellicoe, and Sir Tom Bridges; the chancellor and council of the University, for the use of the University buildings; Mr. E. T. Fisk and Captain G. H. Pitt-Rivers, for their public lectures; the Hon. G. M. Thomson, for the preparation of an index to the volumes of proceedings I, XVI; the Railways Commissioners and General Traffic Managers of the Commonwealth and of all States, for railway facilities and concessions; the shipping companies for concessions; the Royal Adelaide and Kooronga Golf Clubs, for the privileges extended to visiting members; the Adelaide University Sports Association and the Adelaide University Women's Union, for placing their rooms at the disposal of members of the association; the local committee and reception committee, for the arrangements made for the entertainment of visiting members; Professor E. Harold Davies, for making available the Elder Hall for use as a reception-rooms, for active help in enlisting the sympathetic co-operation of motor car proprietors, and otherwise rendering invaluable assistance to the association; Sir Frank and Lady Moulden, for generous and untiring help in arranging for the entertainment of visitors in a variety of ways; the writers of articles in the handbook for the use of members; the Director of Intelligence and Tourist Bureau for the gift of maps of Adelaide, and for help in arranging excursions; the Government Statistician, for providing pocket-handbooks of statistics regarding South Australia for the use of members; Mr. H. S. Nusch, for his work as local treasurer and as acting local secretary during the absence of the local secretary; Mr. E. A. Clark, for his able organization of the work of allotting rooms to sections, of excursions, and of planning the reception-rooms, and arranging directional signs; Messrs. L. J. Winton, R. Lockhart Jack, R. J. M. Clinch, H. E. Thomas, for help in organizing the meeting and excursions connected with it; the Press of Adelaide, for the very generous allotment of space for recording the proceedings of the association, for the manner in which these proceedings were reported, and the sympathetic assistance rendered to the cause of science, both before the meetings and during the session; hosts at excursions and proprietors of motor cars for the use of their cars.

The chairman made special reference to the work of the permanent hon. secretary, Mr. E. C. Andrews, and the local secretary, Mr. L. Keith Ward.