LECTURE BY SIR ARCHIBALD STRUNG.

The Adelaide Repertory Theatre has deserved well of lovers of the literary grama by the presentation during the last 18 years of more than 150 plays, including works by Shaw, Gaisworthy, Schnitzler, Arnold Bennit, Ibsen, Synge, Yeats, and many others. Five plays will be presented in 1926, the first being Herman Suderman's plat "Magda," translated by a South Australian, Miss Meta Buring, which will be presented in May. In addition to the plays there are to be ave lectures and short-play evenings. This series was maugurated on Tuesday evening at the Lady Colton Hall by a secture on "Drama aproad," by Sir Archibald Strong, President of the board of management of the Repertory Theatre. Mr. S. Talbot Smith, M.A., in introduc-

ing the speaker, said that by some miscake two rectures had been announced for the same evening. He believed that Mr. Clive Carey would be better pleased to give his upon "Opera abroad' on some later occasion, so that Sir Archibalu Strong might occupy the whole evening. Sir Arenibald said that during his recent trip to Europe, be had considered nimselt as an envoy of the hepertory Lheatre, and had seen as much as time permitted. He had bought back programmes of 102 dramatic performances, not including a builight at Seville, and an exhibition of dancing in the south or opain, which he thought the most beautitul he had ever seen, better even-than the much-tamed Russian dancing. In brance he had gone constantly to the theatre, and in Brussels every evening while he was there-not so extravagant a proceeding as it sounded, as a front stall achieved remerkable enect in a play cost only 2/6. Taking French acting as a whole, he had found it to be on a very nigh level, especially at the Comedie rentcatse. M. Sibiot he regarded as the best comic actor, while in "Le Tribun" Lucien Guitry did a supero mece oacting. Among the foremost French actresses was Yvonne de Braye, while Simone about Joa not Art-not Shaws. in Paris he saw a play of Ibsen's admirably staged, though he thought that the Erench actor who played the principal part had not enough of the northern treing nuequately to represent the character. Some Beigian farces were amazingly funny,

Touching upon State support of the drama, the lecturer asserted that he round the Odeon Company not so fine as the Comedie Francaise, and that suroughous the Continent the State companies, save those of the very first class, were not at all of a high order. This was true of Germany and Austria, as well as of France. In the State theatres in Berlin especially, a sharp gap was especially marked. He saw several plays of Schiller's, some of them not at all well done, and came out half-way through a performance of "raust." He noted in German actors (except a lew in the first rank) a peculiarly unpleasant speaking the tone, especially noticeable after the clean, clear enunciation of the French, Germans put a great deal of vigour and passion into their acting which might pave a bad effect upon the voice. He saw two Max Reinhardt plays, one in Berlin, the other in Vienna. An amusing class companies were very poor. Vienna comedy seen in Vienna, which had more in it than mere comedy, was one which turned upon jealousy, and was stage. with a bewildering wealth of multi-coloured garments in a dressmaker's shop-the surroundings adding immensely to the atmosphere. The play he most enjoyed had been one by Schnitzler, who was the leading living playwright of Europe in his day, Those who had only seen his lighter sketches had no idea of his depth and power.

Criticism and Actors in England. Sir Archibald gave a scathing description of the behaviour of English dramatic critics at some Italian plays given in London, and said that, apparently, they had little Italian and less manners. They talked among themselves through tense altuations, and the reports even in some of the important papers were absolutely inadequate. He held that English dramatic criticism was at present at its lowest level. How different from what it was a century ago, when Hariett, Colera very high level was being presented, stone name of Aust'n Trever, Among the plays running when he was Marie Tempest. Others were, "Spring Cleaning," "The Pelican," and "The Green Hat," the last not much better than the novel. Neither "We Modern" nor "Layender Ladies" was notable. Better in themselves and better acted were quite interesting. Quite a number of rooms of the society afterwards, theatres and players came under review. A revival of Drinkwater's "Abraham Lincoln" was of interest and well acted. "Madras House" was an instance of care-

ful, painstaking direction on the part of the author, Granville Barker. He had seen "The Seagull" and "The Cherry Orchard," but did not thing that English actors could fully enter into the Russian author's characters. The remarkably fine work done by "The Old Vic was given special commendation by the lecturer, who had attended 10 perform- in 1926 is the increase shown by the Worances of opera or Shakespearean plays, kers' Educational Association in the first The method of giving blank verse was nine years of its existence in South Ausparticularly good. "Hamlet" in modern tralia. Enrolment figures are equally dress, bad had the advantage of breaking encouraging. The number of stuaway from tradition. The work of the dents has risen from 330 in 1921 Birmingham Literary Theatre and other to 1,039 in 1925. Though total enrolmovements of the kind was described, and ments in city and country centres for the characteristics of a number of English this year are not available, it is expected actresses were touched on.

included a piano solo, Liszt's second £613 in 1920 to £2,012 in 1925. It is anti-"Polonaise," and two vocal numbers, cipated that this amount will be ex-"Shipmates of mine," by Mr. Mostyn Skinner, and "Till death," by Mr. Fred Ellis. The audience was then invited to adjourn to the Repertory clubrooms for

refreshments.

## 21 4.26 ADV.

## DRAMA ABROAD.

TALK BY PROFESSOR STRONG.

Duling his travels last year on the Continent and Great Britain, Professor Sir Archibald Strong lost few opportunities of renewing his acquaintance with the stage in the old world. The professor is president of the Adelaide Repertory Theatre, and last night at the Laay Colton Hall he entertained members of that society with an outline of many of the plays he had seen. He added to this instructive and illuminating comments on the state of theatrica, art in various countries, en.ering into a mass of personal detail and drawing on a fund of anecdote that bore out his assertion that it was not a comprehens.ve survey of the modern English and fore gn stage he was undertaking, but rather giving a few impressions gained in travel and some judgments not lightly formed.

The hall was hardly large enough to hold the audience. The occasion was the first of the season's lectures which are arranged man (Mr. S. Talbot Smith) announ ed corporation. regarded himself as the emissary and envov of the Repertory Society while abroad. He had attended 102 dramatic and semidramatic entertainments in England and Europe, and had brought the programmes home with him. He would confine his remarks to drama although he had heard fine opera in Stockholm and had seen dancing in the south of Spain that was better than any Russian dancing he had ever witnessed. He lingered awhile on delightful acting and staging the French theatres, many of There which were state institutions. was, however, a big gap between the first class and second-class Government companies in France, and in Germany and Austria also. Some of the secondwas remarkable for its fine theatres and for some interesting machinery for staging. In one theatre there were three storeys under the stage, and when one scene was finished the curtain was dropped and another scene swung up from below. A new scene could be staged three minutes after the fall of the curtain.

The professor was caustic in his references to British dramatic criticism for the ncess, which he declared to be at its lowest ebb in history. He lightly skinned from country to country, drawing upon a proditious memory for detail, aided by the briefest of notes, discussing the various players he had seen and their work. In London at the "O'd Vic." he save "I'am'et" in its entirety, with Errort Milton in the name part, an actor, who performed that role better than any other he had seen. The play 'asted for five hours, with only one interval of a cuarter of an hour. He had also seen "H-mlet" n'ayed in modern dress, and found on entraordinary freshness given to the work by the change. After the first five idge, and Leigh Hunt were among the or ten minutes the details of dress were critics. As a whole, he thought English almost forgotten, and one experienced acting to be poor compared with that of on'y a sense of release from a falling of France. There was a tendency to play compression. The experiment worked to the gallery. Still there were excep- quite satisfactorily. Among the actors tions. Except for the works of Shaw and whose work he admired was a son of Mr. Barrie, he did not think that much of Charles Schilsky, who played under the

The lecturer concluded his talk by urgthey wanted, and unless the society conthued to produce modern literary plays, the members would be cut off from

meat source of life and of art.

Musical items were provided during the

# ADULT EDUCATION

# Popularity Increasing

From two classes in 1917 to 28 classes that they will at least equal those of The musical portion of the programme last year. The income has risen from ceeded this year.

Of the 28 classes opened in South Australla, 13 are in operation at Adela'de University, four at Renmark, two at Port Adelaide, and one in each of the following centres:-Berri, Murray Bridge, Gawler, Freeling, Riverton, Angaston, Waikerle, Colonel Light Gardens, and Trades Hall, Adelaide, At the request of the Trades Hall authorities a series of six lectures in preparation for a course in political theory on control in industry has been inaugurated.

English literature and psychology are the most popular subjects. History, economics, public speaking, singing, and international affairs come next in order of popularity. Five of the total classes are devoted to psychology.

NEWS. 20-4-26

### HALL STUDENTS DAMAGE

# Corporation Wants Payment

Unless they pay the Kensington and as a subsidiary part of the work of the Now, ood Corporation 12 for damage Repertory Theatre. Members had been done at the Norwood Town Hall durnotified that Mr. Clive Carey would as) ing the recent concert, University stuspeak on "Opera Abroad," but the chair dents will be proceeded against by the

shortly after the professor began that the At a meeting of the council last wight whole evening would be devoted to the a letter was received from Mr. Haynes talk on drama. Another evening will Leader (secretary of the concert) enbe set aside for Mr. Carey's address. The closing a cheque for £9 5/, for hire of professor kept his audience in a good the hall. Mr. Haynes advised the humor all the evening, and said he had council that he did not consider his committee responsible for the damage done to the hall. He stated that an attempt would be made to collect the amount from some of the offenders.

The town hall committee recommended that Mr. Leader be informed that the council, while it would regret taking legal action for the recovery of the amount, could not exempt the concert committee from responsibility for the damage, and looked to it for the payment of the amount of £3.

# 21.4.26

## ARID AUSTRALIA.

DISCOURSE ON PLANT LIFE.

the professor, and remarked that students largest of its kind in the world. of botany and others interested were well supplemented his informative remarks by way Bridge at Mile-End. a fine selection of slides showing the effects of overstocking upon what is known that in speaking about plant life in arid Australia. Australia, particularly in arid South Australia, he made no excuse for chosing that as his topic, because one could not overlook the fact that South Australia was an almost arid State. It was not unpatriotic to say that. They could not quarrel with the locality in which they SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORCHESTRA. lived, but if they found that an arid coun- The opening concert of the South Aus-

B. B. Beck.

The Workers' Educational Association has always followed the principle that It is not the function of an educational body to matil any particular doctrine into its students. It presents the theories of various authoritics to the students, and then leaves them to form their own conclusions.

Professor H. Darnley Naylor, M.A., is honorary director, and Mr. G. McRitchie is general secretary and administrator for the joint committee for tutorial classes, which comprises four representatives each from the University and the Workers' Educational Association,

# NEWS 21. 4.26

## Expert in Concrete

Few engineers at the age of 30 years can point to as many buildings which they have supervised during the period of construction as Mr. Herbert Henry Cartledge can. Concrete construction is his specialty. He is a member of the firm of Essery & Cartledge, which is building a concrete wharf at No. 2 Quay. Port Adelaide, of a type unique in Australia.



Mr. H. H. Cartledge

Born at Peterborough in 1895, Mr. Cartledge was educated at the local public and high schools, and as a lad entered the office of the Railway Engineer there. He worked as draftsman and was in the department for 31/2 years. Then the war came and he enlisted but while in camp met with an accident to his knee which rendered him unfit for service. Study at the University of Adelaide followed, and while taking the engineering course he assisted Professor Chapman in the testing laboratory.

Mr. Cartledge specialised in concrete construction, and became associated with the Kidman Contracting Company. Among other jobs he supervised the erection of Hayward Building in Charles This work attracted street, Adelaide. An interesting lecture on plant life in much attention, as it was the first strucarid Australia was given to a large audi- ture in the city with flat concrete slab ence on Tuesday evening by Professor T, floor construction. He designed and G. B. Osborn at the Institute, North ter supervised the building of the Moorook race, under the auspices of the field natu- water supply tank, a landmark on the ralists' section of the Royal Society. The Murray lands, Holding 250,000 gallons President (Mr. J. F. Bailey) introduced and 126 ft. high, this tower is the

Other works completed under his acquainted with the valuable work which supervision include "The News" office, the lecturer was doing. Professor Osborn Napoleon Hotel, and Bakewell Over

For three years Mr. Cartledge was as saltbush country and upon plant com- honorary secretary of the Adelaide divimunities. He remarked at the outset slon of the Institution of Engineers of

### 22.4.26 APV.

try was one receiving less than 10,00 of tralian Orchestra this year promises to rainfall a year, then five-sixths of South be one of extraordinary interest to lovers Australia was arid. It was no good trying of instrumental and vocal music, for it will to hide it, because the lump of territory comprise the two portions of Coleraigo was much too big. Rather was it a thing Taylor's Hiawatha music. The whole set that they should closely study because they of the ballet music will be rendered by in England were "Vortex," a heetic pro-duction; "Fallen angels," and a lighter piece, "Hay fever," which had the ade vantage of the delightful acting of Miss described his research work at the Koona-Bach Society gave this wonderful work. more flora reserve, which had been made On that occasion the programme had to available through the generosity of Hamil- be repeated owing to the enthusiasm ton & Wilcox, Limited, and explained aroused. For this reason it is intended how, after tests, it had been shown that to give this concert in the Exhibition evening by Miss Mamie Horgan, and the bluebush and saltbush by their pecu-Building on May 15, when their Excel-"White Cargo" and "The Emperor At the invitation of the president, mene-but yet have a very low rate of water conchaven, and Sic Tom Bridges and bers of the society had suppor at the loss, and can thus withstand long dry, adv Bridges will be present. The bailers hers of the society had supper at the loss, and can thus withstand long dry, adv Bridges will be present. The bailes At the conclusion of the lecture a vote w Mr. W. H. Foote, A.R.C.M., and the of thanks was accorded Professor Osborn Jack Society by Dr. E. Harold Davies. at the instance of Mesers. J. M. Black and Plans at the Acolian Company next week.