

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN OTHER LANDS.

Chamber Music Recital.

Excellent Programme Given

There was a large audience at the Elder Hall on Monday evening for the second concert of the 1927 season. Led by Edgely Holden, the first chamber music recital for the year was of especial interest...

The second concert of the season, which was devoted to chamber music, was given in Elder Hall last night. The string quartet, led by Mr. Charles Southey as first violin, includes Miss Kathleen Meehan, second violin, Miss Sylvia Whitton, viola, and Mr. Harold Parsons, cello, and their long period of work together ensures an excellent ensemble...

Coming first to its public work after the long vacation a spontaneity and freshness were apparent, which brought out an admirable degree the main features of the compositions performed. The programme opened with Beethoven's "String Quartet, op. 18, No. 27" and was a tribute of memory to the great Rom composer.

Opening with an allegro, the first spirited phrase is announced by the first violin, then harmonized for the four instruments, after elaboration returns to the opening theme. In this movement a decisive beginning was made.

The adagio cantabile opened with a melodious passage in slow time, and the progress of the movement gave opportunity for the instrumentalists to develop the beauty of the theme and bring out the tonal quality of the instruments in masterly manner. In contrast the scherzo third movement was a dainty measure, the theme being culminated in the final section.

The quartet closed with an allegro molto quasi presto of decisive rhythms, well maintained by the players, and working up to the final presto. The beautiful imitation of the quartet of Beethoven's early period was delightfully in evidence throughout its performance, and hearty applause followed its conclusion. In different style was Ernest Chausson's "Piano Quartet in A Major," in which Mr. George Pearce took the piano part. The work of this composer, considered to the modern French school of Cesar Franck, of whom Chausson was a student. The first movement (anime) proved full of striking contrasts, and great demands upon the pianist and powerful climaxes. Mr. Pearce proving quite equal to all requirements. The second movement (très calme) opened with the theme for viola, which was altered and reiterated by the piano.

Full harmony was then brought to bear as in the final matter, fine gradation of tone being observed. The concluding theme (simple et sans hâte) gave the first violin, which was then taken up by the piano to a pizzicato accompaniment for strings.

The section took the form of a slow and tender, and much simple beauty, and interchange of phrase, working up to refinement. The whole work was most delicately interpreted, and received the appreciation it merited.

Mr. Carey was to have contributed as vocal soloist a bracket of Elizabethan songs, but Dr. Harold Parsons (director) announced that as Mr. Carey was suffering slight indisposition he could not attend. The third movement (Allegretto) presented a bracket of Schubert's songs with refinement and artistic taste, which was heartily received. The next concert will be given on Monday, May 16, and will be in the form of a student concert.

DR. RICHARDSON'S ASSESSMENT.

"One of the most significant features of the present time is the wide interest displayed in agriculture in the more advanced and progressive countries throughout the world." This was the opening statement of Dr. A. E. Y. Richardson (head of the Central Agricultural Bureau) when the latter body met on Wednesday.

He said: "This keen interest was not only shown by the newer countries, such as Canada, United States, South Africa, who were conscious of their rapid material progress in the present, but also by the older countries which were equally characterized by the older countries—Great Britain, Denmark, and Germany—where agriculture and stock production had reached a high level of development and where the land had been intensively farmed for generations. Even in England it is in particular in Japan, where farming had been the dominant industry of the nation for thousands of years, the keenest interest was shown in agricultural research and education."

There were differences of opinion, and in public policy, as to the best method of stimulating agricultural research, but there was universal agreement as to its immense importance to the nation and as a means of increasing the national income in output from the land.

Research Must Precede Propaganda.

All progressive countries have found out that education in agriculture is effective and permanent results are to be obtained, only when there has been agricultural research. States, Canada, Germany, Japan, where educational effort in agriculture has been followed with remarkable practical results.

In the enthusiasm to promote agriculture a State may encourage propaganda without providing a sound basis for its propagation. Such efforts are bound to fail, because experience elsewhere has shown that research and then research education are the basis for successful propaganda. American agricultural institutions failed to intensify the farming classes until a sound definite basis for agricultural education had been formulated through the work of the experiment and research stations.

Value of Research.

It is generally recognized elsewhere that the modern State, and particularly an agricultural State, must cultivate agriculture in order to survive. It is to become efficient and survive in world competition with its agricultural products, it must increase production. Without culture will stand still and the teaching of agriculture will have little meaning. Research education is the key to more efficient production, higher economic levels, better social relations in rural communities, and increased production of agricultural products. In fact, among many that might be quoted, may be given to show the value of research in agriculture. Marquis wheat, produced by Dr. Saunders, of the Dominion Experiment Farm of Canada, has practically supplanted all other varieties which are grown in the region of Canada and the United States. It is estimated that its value in this area had increased production of several millions of acres per annum. Australia's pioneer wheatbreeder, whose movement could be seen in nearly every wheat field in Victoria and New South Wales, has raised millions of bushels to Australia's wheat harvest.

With South Africa, the scientific work of Sir Arnold Theiler on stock diseases resulted in the saving of millions of sheep every year. The discovery of superphosphate by Liebig and Lawes has benefited Australian agriculture by at least 50,000,000 per annum.

Research increases production by placing the art of agriculture on a scientific basis, and it affords a sure means of ultimately controlling the diseases of stock and stock which at present exact such heavy annual toll.

Research May Be Slow Process.

Agricultural research involves the patient and painstaking examination of agricultural problems, and its progress was necessarily slow. The rate of progress in agriculture must be slower compared with the rate of progress in other industries. Within the lifetime of individuals there can be no such improvement in scientific research as the internal combustion engine has made it possible in transport. Great as are the achievements, and still greater the possibilities, of scientific research, there are limitations to the effect of research in agriculture, which do not hold for other industries. In agriculture we are dealing with plants and animals and cannot speed up the processes of growth. As Sir Daniel Halliday says, "It still takes the wheat plant six or nine months to develop, and cows bring forth their calves neither more quickly nor more numerously than the sheep in the Abram's." These limitations lie in the nature of things,

and though we can count up the immense advantages of agriculture, we must appreciate of knowledge, we must hope for revolutionary changes such as have been witnessed in flying or wireless telegraphy. In agriculture, however, the rewards in agriculture are not so accurate with those obtainable in industry or commerce, and so men are being drawn away to cities, and capital is being diverted from the farm. This movement is one common to all civilized countries, and its sources are social as well as economic. Perhaps this may be in part arrested by taking advantage of science, machinery, and organization, and intensifying agricultural production as has been done in the cotton and food industry capable of competing with other industries for men and capital.

A Function of the State.

In farming, there are no great business corporations. The whole of the farmers of a State benefit by a new discovery by an improved variety, or by a new control of a serious disease. Research profoundly affects the development of agriculture. If the development of agriculture is to be advanced, it is the farmers, they might be left to provide for themselves. The farmers may share the first advantages of such development, but as economic research progresses, they are not shared by the whole community. The development of agriculture is, therefore, a matter of vital public concern. Agriculture merely has generated wealth, and in all countries the public revenues are the main source of funds for agricultural research. Agriculture is a monopolistic industry, and money expended on its development will give a high return. Every bushel added to Australia's wheat yield means an additional 22,000 per annum. Every insect and fungus pest that can be brought under control brings great wealth to the community. Every contribution to our knowledge of stock management is of public benefit. The main difference between Australia and other countries is that the national sentiment is stronger in Australia. Countries like U.S.A., Canada, South Africa, Denmark, and Japan only believe that agriculture is the basis of the national sentiment. They are fast to take this belief into action and express it in legislation. These nations think in terms of agriculture. This attitude makes the national sentiment in Australia, which agricultural research, supported by State funds and the readiness with which they are prepared to map out policies for strictly national development over long periods. We cannot be said to have developed a strong national sentiment towards agriculture and agricultural research. We cannot afford to remain oblivious of the developments that are taking place in other countries. Agriculture needs as much aid as can be got by the most modern science. There is an obligation both on the part of the Commonwealth and of each State to support agricultural research to the fullest extent possible, in view of the great economic and social advantages which it has afforded to each State. The remarkable results which have been obtained in other countries by the application of science to agriculture, and the liberality with which other countries have made, nor without the aid of science, is the ultimate outcome of the investment.

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ADV. 14.4.27 LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY.

TWO LECTURES.

"Service to the Community" was the motto for legal practitioners by Professor G. C. Campbell. He was introduced by the Adelaide Legal Students' Society on Tuesday night, at which he occupied the chair.

Professor Campbell said the main object of legal practitioners should be the facilitation of the administration of justice rather than the accumulation of wealth. He deplored the absence of legal men from the legislature, to which he ascribed much of the present difficulty in interpreting the law. He expressed his hope that a personal sacrifice in entering Parliament, he would be performing a service to the community by doing so.

Professor Campbell advocated diligence in office work and the study of cases. The responsibility of important cases should be accepted. He stressed the importance of making errors in judgment, and often resulted ultimately in an increased knowledge and experience. Specialization was becoming a growing need for the profession as the scope of mercantile, criminal, and other especially trained lawyers increased. He expressed his hope that the world would be responsible for upholding the traditions of their calling.

FEDERAL FORESTRY SCHOOL.

Operations at the Commonwealth Forestry School, Canberra, Tuesday. Twenty students, drawn from all the States, have arrived to undergo study and research under the supervision of the director, Mr. L. M. Lamb. They are housed in two cottages at Eastlake, which have been made up to accommodate a national forestry school, and are now each of the Commonwealth Forestry School. The Commonwealth Forestry School is carried on in conjunction with the Adelaide University.

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