NEWS 30-6-27

UNIVERSITY DEBATES

Preparations for August

Inter-University debates will be held in Adelaide during the August vacation, when it is hoped that at least five universities will be represented.

Trial debates have been held at Adelaide, and a selection of six made from which a final team of three will be chosen.

Sports will also be held during the August vacation. They will include basketball in Adelaide and lacrosse and football in Melbourne. The first named is a Triangular contest between Melbourne University, Adelaide, and the last two mentioned sports will be contested between Melbourne and Adelaide.

ADV. 1-7-27

THE UNIVERSITY UNION BUILDING.

Arrangements are being made for the erection of a University Union building, which will probably be at the rear of the Darling Building at the University, facing Victoria Drive. Students of the University are bound together by two main organisations, the Students' Council and Sports' Association, and working in conjunction with them is the Women's Union, which superintends social activities. When the union building is completed the present-mentioned organisations may still function in their respective spheres, but they will be bound together under the union. University unions have been established in Sydney and Melbourne, and have served a very useful purpose in University life.

ADV 1-7-27

25 YEARS OLD.

THE BACH SOCIETY.

One of the best-known musical organisations in the State, the Adelaide Bach Society, has just entered upon the twenty-fifth year of existence, and its history contains a fine record of service to the community. The society was formed with the object of achieving something approach-ing perfection in choral work, and especially in unaccompanied choral singing—that exquisite refinement of the vocal art. How successfully the conductor and the members of the choir have lived up to this ideal is a matter of history. The founder of this society was Dr. E. Harold Davies, who has for many years been the Director of the Elder Conservatorium of Music, and since 1902 he has been the conductor, bringing to his labor of love an unflagging zeal, and being a source of inspiration to those who have the good fortune to belong to the society.

In an interview yesterday, Dr. Davies said the original plan in the formation of the society, which had been adhered to ever since, was to have a choir of about 100 picked voices. The giving of concerts was not a primary object of the society, but study and ensemble rehearsal were the main considerations. The difficulty most choral organisations had to face was the obligation to give a certain number of concerts every year in justice to subscribers, and that sometimes resulted in the

Dr. E. Harold Davies.

encouragement for graduates in the way of salary and position. War broke out, and depleted their ranks, having lost four men, and they had been left with a small number. Notwithstanding that they realized that the application of science to agricultural methods, through the medium of those scientifically trained men, was already beginning to show its efficacy.

A Forward Move.

The Government appreciated that position, and acting on a suggestion of mine, the course, and make it much more comprehensive along the following lines:—1. Undertaking at the University for youths, who had attained a certain standard of education at the public and secondary schools. 2. The Government agreed to strengthen the staff at the University by appointing a number of seven departmental officers to undertake lectureships in a specialized course of agriculture, such as chemistry, bacteriology, dairying, horticulture, viticulture, sheep husbandry, entomology, and plant pathology. 3. Making provision in an Act of Parliament of an obligation on the part of the Government to provide positions for at least six graduates annually for 10 years at the beginning salary of not less than £300 a year, the men to be employed in any one of the three departments of agriculture, water supply, and education.

Demand for Graduates.

"A most significant thing is this," the doctor said, "that we took four years before the first output of these graduates was available. In the three years that have intervened we have no fewer than 21 additional graduates in Government employ. Incidentally, South Australia has taken two of the three first of them. The whole of these 21 graduates are in our Department of Agriculture. There is no overflow of them into the Water Supply Commission, and we can absorb the output of the school for the next five years easily. We are not really afford to hand any over to the other departments. The reason why we can absorb them is because of the demand—indeed, clamour—on the part of agricultural organizations throughout the country for the services of these men. The more they see of them the more they want them."

Plenty of Scope.

In conclusion, Dr. Cameron remarked—and he said he was speaking out of the fullness of 22 years' agriculture administration, 16 years as Director of Agriculture in Victoria—that it was his firm conviction that the increase in the agricultural production of Australia would be in direct ratio to the output of graduates in agricultural science from the University.

REG 1-7-27

ADELAIDE BACH SOCIETY.

A Notable Anniversary.

To have bestowed a splendid, ever-increasing influence upon the musical life of Adelaide, is the justly proud record of the Adelaide Bach Society, extending over a quarter of a century.

Asked to say something concerning the growth of his "foster-child," Professor E. Harold Davies, Mus. Doc.—in the course of an interview at the Elder Conservatorium yesterday—said that when he commenced the movement in 1902, and that original conception had been adhered to. It took the form of a relatively small choir of about 100 picked voices, the balance being supplied approximately by 30 sopranos, 25 altos, 18 tenors, and 22 basses.

In order to qualify for admission, every candidate was required to undergo tests relating to the voice, sight-reading, and the ear.

"My idea, really, was to try to achieve something as nearly as possible to perfection in choral work," remarked the Director yesterday. "And it was in the realm of unaccompanied choral singing that I specially desired to succeed. Concerts were not considered to be the primary object, but, rather, study and ensemble rehearsal were the main considerations. It was decided that concerts would be given only when the work was absolutely ready. I realised the great problem which most of the choral organisations had to face, and that was the obligation to give a certain number of concerts per annum, in justice to their subscribers. The result was that, often, works which could be only inadequately rehearsed, had to be presented. Having arrived at this diagnosis of the position, a remedy had to be found. So, in order to overcome the difficulty I chose that all the work of the Bach Society should be done for love. There were no paid officers, and, therefore, no financial obligation of any kind. Thus we were free to please ourselves just when we gave public performances. That principle has been maintained throughout the whole 25 years of our existence."

"But you have given a great number of performances, have you not?" asked the interviewer.

"I cannot say, off hand, just how many," replied Dr. Davies, "but we have given, certainly, a considerable number, and all have embraced exacting compositions. For instance, our first public work was the 'St. Matthew Passion,' of Bach, which has been repeated on several occasions since then, together with a number of Bach motets, and the cantata, "Sleepers, wake!" Among other classics might be mentioned Mozart's 'Requiem,' Brahms's 'Requiem,' Elijah,' 'St. Paul,' and, of course, 'The Messiah,' which continues to be an annual presentation. 'The dream of Gerontius,' 'Everyman,' and numerous other famous works are contained in our repertoire. Then there have been also many concerts devoted entirely to unaccompanied part music."

A Labour of Love.

Chatting upon the joy of being able to assist in such a worthy cause in the need of assistance, the professor said that, there being no need to set aside funds for the difficult the Bach Society was able to dispose of any profits that might accrue in various charities. In that connection more than £1,500 had been disbursed; about £1,000 given for the help of students of music, and another £500 contributed to war charities during that period.

"Does the interest continue to be maintained by present-day singing?" was enquired.

"Yes, on the whole, rehearsal attendances are well maintained," replied the doctor. "I feel, also, that the society is as vital as ever, and that, in spite of the counter attractions of the day, it does not exist in earlier days. It is almost inconceivable that conditions should so have changed in 25 years."

"Have you any of the original members in the choir?" asked the pressman.

"We have four original members, I am glad to say," answered Dr. Davies, "and they still attend, and do good work. I must give first place of honour to Mr. Arthur Mellor, who for more than 20 years served as honorary secretary, and did invaluable service, and still remains a member, frequently attending the rehearsals. Mrs. Mellor, also, keeps her place in the chorus, together with Miss L. Clark, and Mr. F. J. Thomas."

Dr. Davies said a special programme now being made for the approaching concert, to be given in the middle of August, when a great programme of works would be presented. It included Greig "Psalms," with a baritone solo, three works by Percy Grainger, one by Granville Bantock, and a group of old English folk songs.

REG 1-7-27

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.

What Victoria is Doing.

Interview With Dr. Cameron.

Dr. S. S. Cameron (Director of Agriculture in Victoria), passed through Adelaide on Thursday on his way to London to represent the Commonwealth Government at the first Imperial Agricultural Research Conference, which will be attended by delegates from all the Dominions. The object of the conference is to aim at the organization of agricultural research administration, whereby co-operation and collaboration of such research can be ensured between the different parts of the Empire with the ultimate object of making the British Empire self-contained as regards food production.

During his brief stay in the city Dr. Cameron had a chat with a representative of The Register on the question of research in Victoria, and qualified men to conduct it. At the outset he paid a tribute to the activities at Urrbrae and Roseworthy. The result was materialization of a staff of scientifically trained officers, the doctor went on to say, was absolutely essential. Was the most progressive step that any State could take, at the present time. It was one that had been taken in 1920 in Victoria, prompted by the very definite results that they had obtained from the work of the few University graduates they had been able to gather on to their departmental staff. Although the agricultural course at the Melbourne University had been established as far back as 1906, there had been little

Dr. S. S. Cameron.

REG 1-7-27

STEEPED IN MUSIC.

Mr. T. H. Jones's Lifelong Love.

Mr. T. H. Jones, Mus. Bac., of Adelaide, on Wednesday retired from the staff of the Elder Conservatorium of Music, in which he has been an instructor since its inception.

In the course of an interview with a representative of The Register on Thursday Mr. Jones made it clear that he had found musical life of absorbing interest. Many letters from noted musicians have been received by Mr. Jones. One from Colder criticised a composition he had submitted to him, and suggested the alteration of a note or a passage, but the critic

MR. T. H. JONES, MUS. BAC.