

The South Australian Rhodes Scholar for 1928, Mr. F. W. Wagner, will leave Adelaide by the steamer Koln on May 19. He will be proceeding to Oxford, in October.



Mr. F. W. Wagner

He will spend several months in Germany studying the language there. At Oxford he will take up studies at Christ Church College for his Bachelor of Arts degree.

REG. 25 28 UNIVERSITY EXTENSIONS.

Will They Go Eastward?

Fate of Exhibition Building.

During recent months it has been said that the University authorities are anxious to acquire further property for the extension of their buildings, and that the grounds in which the Exhibition Building stands are being sought after.

It is not generally known that, during the Gunn-Hill regime, a Cabinet minute was adopted dedicating the Exhibition grounds to the University. That minute still stands, although it is understood that its affirmation will be sought from the Butler Government.

It has been insistently rumoured that, if the Exhibition Building were acquired by the University, it would be demolished if not immediately at a not far distant date. Along with the statements that the Exhibition Building was to be razed it was suggested that the Great Assembly Hall, promised by Sir Langdon Bonython in 1921, should be erected in its stead. Sir Langdon's gift, which was a sum of £40,000 will fall due in 1930. There are numerous other bequests, prominent among them being £20,000 by Mr. T. E. Barr Smith, for the erection of the Barr Smith Library.

In Which Direction?

The problem which has exercised the minds of leaders in the community during recent years has been the direction in which the University will extend. The property at present held by it is largely occupied, and apparently the only field into which it can move is that adjoining the Jubilee Oval and its contiguous ground. The Gunn-Hill Government granted the University more than five acres of the Exhibition grounds. It is on this acquirement that the Lady Symon and Union Buildings are being erected. These new structures are about 100 yards from the rear of the grandstands on the Jubilee Oval. At present the buildings are being plastered inside, and it will be some time before they will be occupied. A little more than 100 yards to the west of the Lady Symon Building is the structure given to the University by the Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. It, too, is incomplete, but, when finished, it will be occupied by Professor Brailsford Robertson, and used for the furtherance of his research in animal nutrition and allied studies.

There is an open space between the two buildings mentioned. Immediately south are several tiers, covered at present with grass, leading up to the new quarters of the Teachers' Training College. That institution has a splendid block and still in existence. They are still in use and among a group of solid modern structures furnish an eyesore. They abut the physics laboratory of the Uni-

Arrangement of Buildings.

It has been suggested that for the lay-out of some of the buildings, insufficient forethought was exercised, and that better planning in the first instance would have conserved a considerable amount of space. However, the peculiar slopes and angles of the roadways in that area may have influenced early designers. The curving Victoria Drive has, without doubt, affected the lay-out of some of the new buildings. The Animal Nutrition laboratory and the Lady Symon and Union Buildings face the drive, which is at present rendered ugly by the presence of a galvanized iron fence, running from the Drive Bowling Green to Frome road. No doubt when the new buildings are complete the iron fence will be removed. A suggestion has been made that barred railings should be substituted, although, counter to that a proposal has been voiced to do without a fence and have lawns to the driveway, the latter skirted with trees.

The Barr Smith Library will be erected to the west of the Union Building, and, according to the stipulation of the donor, who announced his gift in 1927, it must be completed within five years. Further extension eastward would encroach upon the Jubilee Oval grandstands. If the whole of the Exhibition grounds were ceded to the University, a considerable area would be freed for expansive building, even with the retention of the Jubilee Oval. At present the oval is leased to the Teachers' Training College for sports purposes.

The Exhibition Building.

The fate of the Exhibition Building is one of frequent conjecture. Opinions vary as to its usefulness. Some hold that Adelaide has need of such a building for the holding of big functions and exhibitions. On the contrary, others declaim its value either as an ornament or a utility. A prominent citizen discussing the building on Tuesday declared that its demolition was something "devoutly to be desired."

Controversy raged recently as to the Exhibition being altered to permit of dramatic performances being staged there. Leading engineers and others in Adelaide have condemned the building as unsafe. It was designated a "big barn" some years ago, mainly because of its outward appearance. It is not utilized often for public gatherings, although the Chamber of Manufactures uses it periodically for its exhibitions. That has been raised as an argument for its retention. The principal criticism levelled at it concerns its fireproof properties, it being contended that an outbreak would spread quickly.

The basements are cavernous in extent and appearance, and any remodelling would entail considerable expense. Along with rumours current that the University was negotiating to acquire the Exhibition, it has been stated that the building would be demolished. However, a contingent provision was that another should be found for the Chamber of Manufactures, and in that connection the Wayville showgrounds were proposed.

Inevitable Extension.

It is inevitable that the University will extend. Year by year it is becoming more apparent that the quarters of the English literature branch must expand. Further endowments will without doubt be made, and their use, together with those already made, will depend on the growth of the University. Economics as a study is taking a hold on the public, and a Chair in Economics is a possibility within a few years. To house these broadening faculties will be the problem, and unless the University authorities extend their buildings to property further distant from the present administrative theatre, then an extension eastward seems to be inevitable.

SUPPORTING MUSIC.

Value of S.A. Orchestra.

On Saturday night the South Australian Orchestra will give the first concert of the series for this winter, and a fine and varied programme will be presented in the Jubilee Exhibition Building under the direction of Mr. W. H. Foote, A.R.C.M. The programme will include the popular "Nutcracker Suite" (Tschaikowsky), the genial "Italian Symphony" (Mendelssohn), the "Bambula Dance" (Coleridge-Taylor), and other works. Miss Sylvia Thomas, A.M.U.A., will sing, with full orchestral accompaniment, the fine Weber aria, "Ocean, Thou Mighty Monster."

In Retrospect.

Discussing the history of the orchestra with a representative of The Register on Wednesday, Professor Harold Davies, its originator and first conductor, spoke with pride of the fact that the organization was beginning the ninth year of active existence. "Eight years ago this month," he said, "we were looking out on our first venture. I had collected from about 35 generous friends the sum of £3,500 in founders' donations of £100 each, and with this in hand as a guarantee against the inevitable loss that must attend any great artistic venture, we started. From the first the orchestra has been controlled by an executive largely composed of these first donors, and we owe much to the continuous interest of such public-spirited people as Mrs. Harry Dutton, Miss Lenore Reynell, Messrs. Harold Fisher, J. G. Duncan Hughes, O. von Rieben, and Gordon Sunter and others, who are constant in their attendance at our meetings.

"Last year was a time of some anxiety, as our funds were being steadily depleted. We were greatly encouraged, however, by a further generous gift of £500 by our good friend Mr. Charles Angas, and, following his lead, our founders and several other generous folk came forward with additional help to the amount of about £1,200. We are now secure for at least another three or four years."

The Future.

"But what will happen after that?" asked the interviewer.

"I wish I could see the way," Dr. Davies remarked, "but I can only trust, as before, that some adequate provision will be forthcoming." The great point he wanted to stress, continued the doctor, was the need to kindle imagination on the whole question. So far as the orchestra was concerned, they wanted the people of Adelaide to realize what they owed to the generous founders, and, realizing that, to supplement those gifts by loyal and wholehearted support. He had often been cynically advised that they should take a profiteering attitude, and double or treble the admission charges, but the executive were not of that mind, and while they knew well that concerts of the kind, involving the engagement of a professional conductor and about 70 artists, would be costly and even unprofitable, it was their wish that such should be within the reach of all.

"Whatever our difficulties have been or exist still may be," said the doctor, "there is nothing that cannot be overcome by public enthusiasm and support. We have a splendid conductor in Mr. Foote and a fine lot of players (better than ever this year), and I am sure that all will be well in spite of increased amusement tax! And really that is the last straw—that when we are labouring in the cause of education at a constant and heavy loss the only countenance we receive from the Government is the tax collector's grim smile."

Attractive Programmes.

Dr. Davies named a number of works of conspicuous interest which will be performed during the season. At the Town Hall concert in June the Glazounov ballet "The Seasons" will be given, in addition to the Berlioz "Dance of the Sylphs" and the "Rienzi Overture." In July the programme will be by Scandinavian composers, and Mr. Spruhan Kennedy will play the solo part in the "Greig Pianoforte Concerto." Another important item will be the Sibelius "Symphony No. 6." The Adelaide Glee Club will combine with the orchestra in the August concert, and the programme will include "Te Deum," by Friar Moreno. At the September concert the outstanding works will be Beethoven's "Symphony in B Flat" and the Mendelssohn overture "Calm Sea and a Prosperous Voyage." Another concert will be arranged at which the Bach Society will assist, and will sing Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise" and Parry's "Blest Pair of Sirens."

MEXICO, THE MYSTERIOUS.

LECTURE BY PROFESSOR HARVEY JOHNSTON.

A lecture on his travels in Mexico was delivered by Professor Harvey Johnston before the Adelaide branch of the Y.M.C.A. World Friendship Club at the Y.M.C.A. rooms, Gawler-place, on Thursday night. The president of the branch (Mr. Edison Churchward) occupied the chair, and introduced the speaker.

Professor Johnston said the object of his first visit to Mexico in 1913 was to make scientific enquiries in connection with attempts being made to control the prickly pear pest in Australia, in the hope that he might find some kind of insect which would restrict the prickly pear. Mexico was the great centre from which the cactus plant was distributed. A large quantity of the fruit was used as food, and the plant was also used to make intoxicating liquor. The prickly pear, a harmless plant in Mexico, when brought to Australia became a pest, because the various insects which fed on it and restricted it in Mexico were not introduced with it. The chief of these insects was the cochineal. In Mexico and Central America the cochineal industry was of extreme importance until the discovery of the aniline dyes. So important was this industry in the early days that the Spaniards passed sentence of death on anyone caught taking the cochineal insect away from Spanish possessions. In spite of this, small numbers were smuggled away from America, and some of these were actually brought to Australia with the first shipload of convicts. Unfortunately these insects were of the wild kind and of no great value for dye. They were now used on a tremendous scale in Queensland and New South Wales in the campaign to control the prickly pear. Professor Johnston spoke of the general physical features and vegetation of Mexico. He gave a description of the people and their lives, which were illustrated by lantern slides. There was also on view specimens of Mexican handiwork, relating more particularly to feather decoration and weaving.

MUSIC EXAMINATIONS BOARD.

The annual conference of the Australian Music Examinations Board, opened at the Elder Conservatorium on Friday morning, when Professor E. Harold Davies (Director of the Elder Conservatorium) presided. This board is responsible for the public examinations conducted by the Universities of Melbourne, Adelaide, Tasmania, Queensland, and Western Australia, and the State Conservatorium of Music, New South Wales. Among the representatives of the central board were Professor Bernard Heinze (Ormond Professor of Music, University of Melbourne), Professor E. Harold Davies, Mus. Doc., and Mr. I. G. Reimann (University of Adelaide), Mr. Sydney May (University of Queensland), Mr. Thomas S. Lobban (State Conservatorium of Music, New South Wales), Mr. J. Sutton Crow (University of Melbourne). The Advisory Boards in the various States are also represented.

The scope of the board's work is wide, and last year 17,000 candidates were examined. In addition to large cities, local country centres are arranged for, and the extent of the manual is an interesting illustration not only of the far-did conductor in Mr. Foote and a fine lot of players (better than ever this year), and I am sure that all will be well in spite of increased amusement tax! And really that is the last straw—that when we are labouring in the cause of education at a constant and heavy loss the only countenance we receive from the Government is the tax collector's grim smile."

Miss Mary Glynne, a doctor of science from the Rothamstead Experiment Station, Harpenden, England, who is coming to Australia to engage in research work at the Waite Research Institute at Urrbrae for 12 months, will arrive at the Outer Harbor by the Orsova to-day. During recent years Dr. Glynne has been investigating diseases which attack potatoes, and at Urrbrae she will concentrate upon diseases affecting cereals, especially wheat and oats. In all probability she will specialise on the disease known as take-all in wheat. She will attend the biennial conference of the Australian Federation of University Women in Brisbane from May 25 to 28, and on her way back to Adelaide will tour the agricultural districts of the eastern States studying plant diseases.



MISS OLIVE BASNETT, L.R.A.M.,

who will teach singing at the Conservatorium until Mr. C. H. Denton arrives from London.