University Examinations

In reply to an article on "Teaching of English" by "Contributor" which appeared in "The Mail" last week, 'Observer' (Adelaide) writes:-

calamity should English be ruled out as la compulsory subject in the public examinations. There are many teachers who realise that, properly handled, the present English course may be made a very attractive one to the student.

It is greatly to be desired that those who have proved themselves worthy to sit in high places will endeavor to raise the status of English teaching in our English-speaking people.

NEWS

DISCOVERY OF FOSSILS

British Scientists Interested

NEW EPOCH IN GEOLOGY

(SPECIAL TO "THE NEWS")

LONDON, June 8.

open a new epoch in geology," declared every reason to be proud. Dr. Smith. "We have long been aware that Cambrian fossils were not the earliest, but we lacked concrete proof. What Sir Edgeworth has found will open up amazing vistas in research, dating back to the birth of life, beyond the wildest conjectures of geologists."

Becoming more enthusiastic, Dr. Smith informed Dr. J. P. Hill (Professor of Physiology at the University of London), who was equally excited.

"I am most impressed at the reported exquisite colorings of the fossils found by Sir Edgeworth David," he declared. Dr. Smith suggested that this was a

secondary characteristic analagous to opalescence.

"I do not agree with Sir Edgeworth David that scientists will rush to Australia immediately," he said. "It is most probable that members of the British

Association, who will meet in Africa this year, will go to Australia."

conferred on him.

PIANOFORTE RECITAL AT THE ernment, but the committee was unanimous that it would be satisfactory. CONSERVATORIUM.

It is astounding that anyone who The fifth of the concerts arranged by claims an interest in educational matters the Elder Conservatorium of Music for the should be so hopelessly blind to the good season was held last night, when Mr. John work that is being done by our university

examiners in refusing to grant a certificate
in English to candidates possessing but
pianoforte recital. There was a large
slovenly and inadequate knowledge of audience, and the soloist was warmly resolved and inadequate knowledge of audience, and the soloist was warmly resolved.

LECTURE BY SIR ARCHIBALD STRONG. ceived. The programme was largely clas- In the Prince of Wales Theatre at the

ing lectures, might have been enjoyed gave opportunities to the violinist for to-day. It could not be called, as could

aria, sarabande, minuet and gigue.

PROPOSED SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

ERNMENT.

REG. 13.6.27 VICTORIANISM

If students are not sufficiently intersical, the modern works being reserved for University on Tuesday evening, Professor The Victorian and modernist poets were rested in the work set out in the syllabus, the last of the five groups. Mr. Horner Sir Archibald Strong gave an interesting compared by Sir Archibald Strong, at the last of the last of the five groups. Mr. Horner Sir Archibald Strong gave an interesting compared by Sir Archibald Strong, at the proved himself to be a scholarly musician, lecture on "Victorianism and Modernism University on Tuesday night, in the first to be able to write intelligent examinathe last of the five groups. In . Holder
tion papers, it is a very grave reflection proved himself to be a scholarly musician, lecture on "Victorianism and Modernism University on Tuesday night, in the first
upon those who are responsible for their albeit without the fire which his virile markable periods in the history of English English poetry." training, and the strongest argument in organ playing suggested. His renderings poetry," he said. In one inspiration was The lecturer said it seemed to him that favor of raising the standard for those were thoroughly artistic, and full of almost entirely driven underground, in the by far the greatest amount of interesting persons desirous of possessing university beauty, with a touch the reverse of heavy-other it was above ground, but working work in England to-day was being done diplomas. How many Australians have handed. At the conclusion of the pro-in fetters imposed by the formal conven-in the form of the novel and not of drama felt, and are still feeling, the effect of a gramme he was recalled to submit an en-tions of its age. The first period was, or poetry. There was perhaps nothing slovenly training in English when they core number to the enthusiastic audience roughly, the century and a half between or the first order being produced, but have come into contact with a wider cul- The assisting artist was Mr. Charlesthe death of Chaucer and the rise of there was a great deal of brilliant and ture than at present exists in this coun-Schilsky, and he and Mr. Harner played Spenser. It was remarkable that the interesting work being put in the novel the "Kreutzer Sonata" for piano andrace which had given the greatest poetry form. That was a good thing. Lack of knowledge in other subjects violin (Beethoven). In four movements, to the modern world should have been predominence of the novel and the apmay be successfully camouflaged, but not the andante sostenuto and the presto were entirely without poetry of the highest peal which it exercised were caused per-Ito possess the hallmark of a standard given without intermission, the reflective flight for nearly 150 years; but this fif-haps because a great deal of the poetry English training is to have been deprived opening giving place to the warmth of theteenth century darkness was the prelude to-day was hardly worth reading. of our just birthright. So much of the presto. The whole of the movements to the glorious renaissance dawn. The were not living in that decade of the last richness and beauty of our language and were played with restraint and under-conditions of the second period of Eng-century, when it was possible for any literature, which we only acquire in later standing co-operation between the instru-lish poetry, the eighteenth century, had lover of poetry to look forward to a years by hard reading and attending even-mentalists. The andante con variazionia direct bearing upon the state of poetry volume once a year by a great poet. There from our youth if those who instructed melodious entries, and they were takenthe fifteenth, a century of poetic dearth was a dearth of poetly to day, but the process the process through they had no poet living in Engus had been better equipped for their with satisfying effect. The finale was As at the present day, there was intense is given at a lively tempo, and provided aand instructed, indeed over-instructed.

Mrs. Horner opened the programme withhad run three-quarters of its course the Wanted to deal with some who seemed a suite from "Partita No. 4 in D Major" highest inspiration was inhabited by the to him not to be on the right track. (Bach). It was composed of allcurande, adoption of an incomplete theory Thomas Hardy was one of the greatest Noot poetry, which was so passionate playing was demanded, and theplete as to fetter variety was provided in changing moods Certain large forces were at work in the and production, but he was Victorian in and tempi. The aria was daintily tune-mid-Victorian period which had now many ways in spirit and in respect of his and or limpid clarity, the minuet grown very weak. The most obvious of poetic form. He seemed to be more was comely in its stateliness, and the of contemporary English poetry was its perhaps any other of the great Victorians. schools and universities until it befits an gigue fresh and sparkling. The audience all but complete lack of that spiritual in. There had been two remarkable periods in had warmed to greater responsiveness by terest and conviction which had con- the history of English poetry, which seem the time the Chopin group was played stantly in the past flung open the flood to have a bearing on English poetry to Each of the five numbers—Prelude in Egates of poetry, and in one form or an-day. The first was the century and Flat Minor, Berceuse, Trois Ecossaises other seemed indispensable to poetic half between the death of Chaucer and and Etude in C Minor-was short, andgreatness. A corollary of this quality the rise of Spencer. The second was the happy treatment was given by Mr. Hor with the mid-Victorians was their fre- 18th century. During those times there The moods passed from scintilla-quent pre-occupation with religion, poli was an absence of any great poets and tion, through flowing volumes of sound tics (in their highest sense), and the social inspiration. to the tender and crooning of the cradleorder of their time. Closely allied to its Sir Archibald said the Victorian period song. Then came the sparkling Scottishmoral fervour was the emotional fervour had manifold weaknesses. There were three, and the brilliant closing number often felt in mid-Victorian poetry, find fripperies, sentimentalism, and a good The group was probably the most populating expression in Rossetti, Tennyson, and deal of sniugness, and the wrong kind of the evening. Schumann was repre Browning. The qualities of thought and of contentment with the existing order. sented by novelette in E Major, "Abend spirit were among the mightiest and most However, there were several outstanding musik" (evening music), and "Aufsch distinctive of the Victorian period. Good contrasts of The range of mid-Victorians, the leca Browning it linked itself with Christians tone color were obtained from the instructurer continued, was almost as wide in anity, and resulted in ardent and almost

concert to an end on a vigorous note at first glance to have broken with tradi- they had again "Reigen," opus 36 (Max Regen) was tune tion so far as was possible with poetry and Edgeworth David in the Adelaide Hills. showed himself to be a thorough musician entered by certain champions and practi-

of song.

Canberra, June 11. Modernists claimed that because they of a small nation. Yet William Walson, Referring to his election as a Fellow The report of the Federal Public Worksresembled Shelley and Keats in being mis- who was still living, but who was Vicof the New South Wales Royal Society, Committee, which was tabled in theunderstood during their lifetime they rian in all essentials of form, had writ-Dr. Smith said that he was surprised House of Representatives to-day, recom-would resemble those poets in all things, ten some of his best lyrics in that direction of the first honor has also responsible for excelthat an Australian scientific body had mends the erection of a school of publicand would be accepted as their equals by tion. He was also responsible for excelhealth in the grounds of the Sydney Uni-Keats were during their lifetime appre- form. He was a great virtuoso, and a versity, at an estimated cost of £30,000 ciated by multitudes of intelligent and prodigal creator of new forms. He could The cost of maintenance is estimated to poetically sensitive readers, not by a mere also achieve splendid terseness. Let be £9,000 yearly. It had been erroneously coterie. The greatest flaw in the theiry them compare with some of the work of assumed, states the report, that the of the modernists was that they were Watson, the Yodelling song of Gerschool was purely one for medical research, concerned but little, if at all, with the trude Stein, a modernist, with its babyish Actually it was to be a teaching school right business of poetry. Instead, they rhymes and absence of thought and at which little research would be carried concentrated upon that which did not imagery. It read like something less than out. As the school had to be associated admit of poetic synthesis, upon the that of a kindergarten moron, The work with a university, Sydney was considered broken and often utterly trivial trains of Miss Edith Sitwell and her two to be most appropriate, as it was the of thought which external or internal ex- brothers was also far from being true senior medical school in Australia, and had perience awakened in the human mind, poetry. It lacked imagination, and was for many years given much attention to The great qualities and the spiritual disjointed. The same applied to the developing its public health course of in-values constantly present among the great acknowledged leader of the modern'sts. struction. Sydney, as a seaport for the Victorians, the greater romantics, and T. S. Eliot. They seemed to be concerned island and Oriental trade, and having the greater Elizabethans were but small not with the creation of poetry, but with

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land to-day of the first order, they had It will be nothing short of a national fitting climax to the famous work. Yet until the century a number who were worth reading. He com- of the Victorians. He was not only View poetic freedom torian owing to the time of his living these was poetical fervour. A main mark closely in touch with their age to-day than

features. One was ethical fervor. In ment, and the group ended in characteris respect of poetic form as poetic idea and inhuman optimism. In Tennyson it found tic style. The modern group was closed emotion. Their inventions implied ex its expression in aspiration, but was none with the Brahms Rhapsodie in E Flat tension and variation of traditional form, the less intense and passionate. The aswith the Brahms Rhapsodie in E Flat not defiance of it. In sharp distinction piration of Tennyson was that and its well-definel rhythm brought the were the formal individualists, who seemed of the evolutionist. In Meredith the evolutionist. ful and rhythmic, and the Folk Song in Browning, Meredit and Charles Doughty hostile to orthodox belief; yet in him Dr. G. Elliot Smith (Professor of Ana-termezzo by Palmgren was sonorous did not claim that theire idiosyncrasy that fervor was dominant. In Swintomy at University College London) was Capriccio No. 1 (Frank Bridge) was should be made binding upon their genera-burne's paganism they had the fervor most excited when he heard of the dis- countries was moretion, or that it represented the main hope which encompassed liberty. Despite their coveries of pre-Cambrian fossils by Sir mirked on that account. Mr. Horner of poetic progress. This claim was to-day which encompassed in the with "It is safe to prophesy that this will of whom the Conservatorium staff havetioners of that which called itself intense spiritual carnestness. That seemed modernist poetry. A true poet, Victorian necessary for poetic greatness. Another in all essentials of form and spirit, ligion and politics. Closely allied with but he was by no means the greatest today. With Watson patriotism was too fault in mid-Victorian poetry. With profound and sincere to stoop to flattery respect to thought and spirit these or jingoism, and the ethical and political qualities were amongst the mightieest and fervour distinctive of much Victorian most distinctive of the Victorian period. poetry winged some of his highest flights He wanted to contrast the mid-Victorian ideals with the extreme tenets of mod-Miss Sitwell had a by no means impectin thought, which indicated spic tual cable sense of melody, but she started weakness and uncertainty. No great from an utterly false theory regarding the poetry could be the outcome of those function and values of poetry. A poet things. The range of mid-Victorian poetic whom most "modernists" considered their form was as wide as its poetic idea and greatest, and who exhibited at times emotion. On the extreme left they had gleams of true imaginative power, but the formal conservatives, chief of whom who was too often shipwrecked thorugh were Rosetti, Matthew Arnold, and adherence to a false theory of poetry, Tennyson. They were the inventors of RECOMMENDATION TO GOV- was Mr. Eliot. It was conceivable that splendid new rhythms, but their inventions the work of both Mr. Eliot and Mr. implied extension and variation of the Joyce might supply hints to the future original form, and not defiance of it. poet or novelist who should possess the On the other hand they had Swinburne. genius of tact necessary to give them Browning, and Meredith. The modernists their fit and subordinated place in a true, stated that they were not concerned with finished, coherent work of art. the thought of dying for the freedom

a large population, presented more gene-among the English poetry of to-day, and its disintegration. Their works were ral problems in preventive medicine. Con-were not likely to be increased by writers understood only by themselves and their trol would be vested in an advisory coun-who cared less for the nobler values of own coterie of adherents. They claimed

that like Keats and Shelley they were