

misunderstood by their own generation, but Shelley and Keats in their lives had a multitude of admirers, whereas the modernists were endeavoring to turn their coterie into a crowd. Their work might be of value to psychologists. In the poetry of the 18th century inspiration of the highest order was inhibited, and the modernists were trying to impose the same thing on English poetry to-day. Luckily there were still a few poets in England besides the modernists.

"I notice that the Russians are going to try to force a passage by means of their ice-breakers. That seems to be the most hopeful method to adopt, provided they can get there in time. Aeroplanes could not land, but, of course, they could drop food and other necessities. One statement, that they were out of the reach of aeroplanes, did not seem quite clear, as the distance was given as only 125 miles. I take it that that means that suitable planes are not yet on the spot. A limb that has been frostbitten for 24 hours has to be amputated; there is no hope of saving it.

"When I first read of the disaster it struck me that it had probably been brought about by the airship colliding with one of the northern Spitzbergen mountains, in consequence of being over-weighted by ice, or from some other cause. The objects of the expedition were mainly geographical, and great pride was taken in its work by the Italians as being a notable national achievement. A secondary result of the expedition was the testing of the airship, in the construction of which Italy of late has been displaying extraordinary interest."

REG. 14-6-28

### "RUTHLESS REGIONS."

#### Scene of the Disaster.

#### Mr. C. T. Madigan Interviewed.

"The Polar regions are ruthless. There you are dependent on the essentials of life—food and suitable clothing. Unless relief comes quickly, the grim Arctic will score another victory."

These were two sentences contained in the opinions given on Wednesday by Mr. C. T. Madigan, lecturer in geology at the Adelaide University, in regard to the disaster which has overtaken the Italia. Mr. Madigan was a prominent member of Sir Douglas Mawson's famous Antarctic expedition, and is consequently eminently qualified to speak on such a subject.

"The seriousness of the news," he said, "can scarcely be exaggerated. No man-roofed party could get into a more inaccessible position anywhere on the earth. The reason for that is that they are on the edge of the frozen Polar seas, and the conditions there are such that it is most difficult to reach them, either by land, water, or air. You can't walk there because of the great possibility of there being open water between the ice floes, and there are sure to be many pressure ridges, which are caused by the floes jamming against one another, a fact which always makes North Polar travelling difficult. You can't get a ship there because of the floes, and you can't land by air-



MR. C. T. MADIGAN.

plane because of the pressure ridges. It has always been found necessary to clear a long run in order to make a take-off or landing ground for planes in the Arctic seas.

"It is obvious that Gen. Nobile and his companions are on moving floes, and run the risk of being rafted out into the open sea, a very dangerous position. Of course there is the chance of their drifting up against the land, and apparently Nobile is hoping to reach the land in that way. On the other hand, they may float away, break up, and melt."

#### "No Half Measures."

"The very fact of the men being frost-bitten shows that they are in a bad way. The Polar regions are ruthless. There you are absolutely dependent on the primary essentials of life—food and suitable clothing. So long as you have those all goes well; but immediately there is a deficiency in either disaster is almost inevitable. You either sink or swim in the Polar regions; there are no half measures. The fact of the cable stating that the men were frostbitten indicated that there was a failure of those essentials. Unless relief comes quickly the grim Arctic will score another victory."

ADV. 14-6-28

#### KING'S COLLEGE HEADMASTER.



Mr. James Bills, B.A.

Mr. James Bills, who was recently appointed headmaster of King's College, in succession to Mr. J. A. Haslam, is a graduate of the Adelaide University, and a son of Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Bills, of Orroroo.

He was educated at the Orroroo school, and entered the Education Department as a pupil teacher in 1897. In 1923 he severed his connection with the department to accept a position at the Carey Grammar School, Kew, Victoria, and at the time of his appointment to King's College was vice-principal of that institution.

ADV. 15-6-28

#### MIDDAY ORGAN RECITAL.

The size of the audience at the Elder Hall at lunch-time yesterday was evidence of the public appreciation of the organ recitals given by Mr. John Horner, the Conservatorium staff organist. It was the second of a series of ten recitals to be given on Thursdays, and many people availed themselves of the opportunity to spend a pleasant and an instructive half hour. The programme was as follows:—"Toccata and Fugue in D Minor" (Bach); "From Hebridean Seas" (Julian Nesbitt)—sea croon, sea feet, sea surge, and sea plaint; and "Grand Choeur in D" (Guilmant). Mr. J. A. Gibbs (cellist) played "Elegie" (Massenet). The next recital, on June 21, will be of works by Russian composers.

REG. 16-6-28

#### FORESTRY DELEGATES.

SUVA, June 15. From the Niagara, bound for Auckland, there disembarked at Suva to-day, Major R. S. Furse and Mr. R. L. Robinson, who will represent Britain at the Forestry Conference in Sydney. They are now the guests of the Governor of Fiji, and will inspect the colony's forests.

## TREATMENT OF CANCER.

### Utilization of Radium.

The Commonwealth Department of Health has issued a review of the steps taken to deal with the cancer situation in Australia up to the present. This states:—

"In 1925 a comprehensive review of the mortality statistics for the last 40 years was made and the full information published. At the same time, research work, which was being carried out at the Universities of Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide, was subsidized with money granted by the department. At Sydney University the principal direction in which research is proceeding is the application of physical agents, such as X-rays, to growing tissues and the determination of the effect of such rays on living tissues under different conditions. Under the auspices of the Melbourne University, research is proceeding into the possible relationship to cancer of the effect produced by the introduction into living tissues of the bacilli of tuberculosis under different conditions. At the Adelaide University the investigation has taken the form of an examination of the rate of growth and nature of growth of living cells under various artificial conditions, and the possible relationship between such growth and the abnormal growth which occurs during the development of cancer. At the Commonwealth serum laboratories an investigation is proceeding into the possibility of the use of various chemical agents for the retardation or prevention of growth in cancer tissues.

In New South Wales a cancer campaign was started in order that funds might be obtained to provide for continuous research of this kind over a number of years. The campaign was launched and successfully completed by the University of Sydney, assisted by prominent business men. The appeal to the public was eminently successful, a total of more than £137,000 being raised. The Commonwealth Government associated itself with this movement and subsidized the fund to the extent of £7,500. In Queensland also an appeal, inspired by the Governor of the State (Sir John Goodwin) was made by a body of leading men of the community. This appeal has not yet had time to develop fully but already a considerable sum of money has been raised, and it is proposed to devote this money largely to the provision of modern facilities for treatment at the principal hospitals. The Commonwealth Government has subsidized this fund to the extent of £5,000.

No definite action has yet been taken towards such an appeal in the other States, but so great is the importance of this matter that it is considered that each State should use its best endeavours to raise a sum of money sufficient for the carrying on of any necessary research, and for the provision of all modern facilities for the treatment of cancer on an adequate scale.

#### Importation of Radium.

The Government, realizing that, while research was being carried on, it was equally important to provide modern facilities for the treatment of cancer, has led the way by importing a large amount of radium equivalent to 10 grams, or in value approximately £100,000. So far as can be ascertained, this is the first occasion upon which a national Government has taken this step of providing a quantity of radium sufficient, if properly distributed, for the needs of the whole population.

In Sydney, Dr. Burrows has commenced a series of lectures to medical men, and the allocated portion of radium has been lodged with the Sydney University. Arrangements have been made with the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital for proper accommodation to be provided and for the use of radium to be carried on under the best conditions possible. The actual agreement has not been completed, but it is anticipated that this will be shortly finalized. Interviews have been had with the authorities of the Brisbane General, the Melbourne General, and the Adelaide General Hospitals, and a full and detailed definition of the best arrangements at each of these hospitals has been forwarded.

A small amount of radium has been reserved for research purposes, and this will be utilized wherever its use offers greatest promise of successful results. In addition, an international standard has been deposited with the Melbourne University, so that the value of any other radium can, whenever desired, be estimated from the international standard. The only other aspect of the use of this radium is the method of distribution for use by private practitioners to their private patients. This presents certain technical difficulties, but these will be overcome and a method will be adopted whereby the use of radium, or radium emanation, for private patients will be made possible upon the payment of a small rental fee.

## ENGLISH POETRY.

From RONALD FINLAYSON, Adelaide. —In your report on Wednesday of Sir Archibald Strong's lecture on "Victorian and Modernism in English Poetry," there are certain strictures on various modernists, in particular Miss Sitwell and Miss Stein, which appear to require qualification. I have not read the verse of Miss Stein, but am acquainted with some of her prose. Her aim is apparently to approximate representation in literature to that in painting. A picture is looked at as a whole before one's eyes at one point of time; prose or poetry is presented in a sequence; one thing comes after another; the meaning and the emotions aroused are carried along in time. Hence the curious and infantile repetition in her work. The result may be absurd, and achievement impossible, but the experiment is not contemptible. Was it not Max Nordau who found in the mannerisms of Rossetti's work evidence of a "weak and deranged mind"? No one, I suppose, would suggest that any of the three Sitwells have written great poetry. Assuming that they are lacking in imagination, yet Miss Sitwell and her brothers have an original way of approaching nature and expressing the qualities which they see. A great deal of their work is unrelated, hard, sharp, and sardonic; unpopular qualities; yet they have acuteness of vision, a capacity to disclose unsuspected likenesses and unusual ability to create a world of bright and baroque images. This is not the kind of poetry we were brought up on, but to some it is provocative and stimulating.

ADV. 22-6-28

### ORGAN RECITAL.

#### LARGE AUDIENCE AT THE CONSERVATORIUM.

The third of the weekly organ recitals given in the Conservatorium by Mr. John Horner was attended on Thursday by a large audience, and a highly attractive programme was greatly enjoyed. The Director of the Conservatorium (Professor Harold Davies), discussing the satisfactory attendance with a representative of "The Advertiser," said he was pleased to see the public appreciate the recitals in such a way. People should regard the Conservatorium as their own possession, which, of course, it really was. They should feel that the building with all its activities belonged to them. It was gratifying to see the interest taken in the recitals by business people, and he trusted that the interest would continue.

The programme was devoted entirely to Russian composers, the items being as follows:—"Prelude in C sharp minor" (Rachmaninoff), "Andante Cantabile" (Fifth Symphony) (Tschaiakowsky), "Basso Ostinato" (Arensky), "Hymn to the Sun" (from the "Golden Cockerel") (Rimsky-Korsakoff), (a) "Au Village," (b) "Kieff Processional" ("At the Merchant's Gate") (Moussorgsky), and a violin solo, "Cantozonetta," from a concerto by Tschaiakowsky. The sixth concert of the Elder Conservatorium 1928 season will be given on Monday evening next by students. The programme will include piano solos, vocal solos, clarinet solos, a violin ensemble, and a cello solo.

The next organ recital will be given on June 28, when the following selections will be played:—"Suite Gothique" (Boellmann), "Monologue in G" (Rheinberger), "Coronach" (A Highland Lament) (Edgar Barratt), "Three Impromptus" (Coleridge Taylor).

REG. 22-6-28

### CONSERVATORIUM ORGAN RECITAL.

The Elder Hall was thronged on Thursday for Mr. John Horner's lunch-hour recital. The programme was devoted to Russian works, and opened with Rachmaninoff's inevitable prelude, followed by the Andante cantabile from Tschaiakowsky's Fifth Symphony. Arensky's "Basso Ostinato," with its virile melody, then received due interpretation. "Hymn to the Sun," from "The Golden Cockerel," fairy opera of Rimsky-Korsakoff, followed. Miss Kate Yoerger (violinist) played the Cantozonetta from Tschaiakowsky's violin concerto clearly and melodiously, its beauty enhanced by the recitalist's judicious organ accompaniment. The final item was drawn from Moussorgsky, that genius, who died in his forty-eighth year, in abject poverty. "Au Village," a peerless pastoral, was followed by the thrilling "Kieff Processional." Throughout the programme Mr. Horner played with that high artistry that Adelaide hearers have already learned to expect from him. The large audience listened intently, and applauded heartily. Next Thursday's recital (1.15 p.m.) will include "Suite Gothique" (Boellmann) and Rheinberger's "Monologue in G."