

# "LA MASCOTTE."

## PERFORMANCE BY CONSERVATORIUM OPERA CLASS.

In the comparatively short period that has elapsed since the Elder Conservatorium Opera Class was established, a number of well-produced musical works have been presented, and at the Norwood Town Hall last night another successful performance was credited to the company. The work chosen was "La Mascotte" (Audran), a light opera in three acts, and it proved to be tuneful and highly entertaining. Edmond Audran (1842-1901) was a French composer, and is regarded as one of the best of the successors of Offenbach. In "La Mascotte" he revealed a degree of musicianship rarely associated with the ephemeral productions of this lighter stage, his music being distinguished by elegance and refinement of manner.

Mr. Winsloe Hall was the musical director, and to his energy and skill, last night and during rehearsals, much of the success achieved was due. The production was well staged, and the dressing, notably in the second act, was beautiful. In the ensembles the peasants, soldiers, court ladies, and courtiers were effectively grouped, and some excellent singing was heard in the choruses. The orchestra was led by Miss Kathleen Meegan, and Miss Muriel Prince was at the piano. The dances were arranged by Miss Phyllis Leitch. The producer was Mr. Frank Johnston, and the stage manager was Mr. Lloyd Taylor. Mrs. Harold Davies and Madam Delmar Hall supervised the costuming, and the wigs were by Mr. J. C. Gordon. The hall was well filled with an appreciative audience.

Most of the principals were young musicians, and they acquitted themselves admirably, experience in previous operas having greatly improved their stage carriage and deportment. The cast was as follows:—Bettina (La Mascotte), Miss Stella Sobels; Fiametta (a Princess, daughter of Laurent), Miss Edna Lawrence; Angelo (the chief page), Miss Florence Fry; Luiji, Carlo, and Beppo (pages), Misses Claire Symonds, Lillian Wegener, and Dulcie Evens; Laurent (Duke of Piombino), Mr. Donald McKie; Pippo (a shepherd in love with Bettina), Mr. Mostyn Skinner; Fritellini (a prince, affianced to Fiametta), Mr. Charles Higgins; Rocco (a farmer), Mr. Les Coney; Mathec (an innkeeper), Mr. Jack Roberts; Bianca and Finella, dancers, Misses Phyllis Leitch and Peggy Leitch; Antonia, Francesca, and Paola, peasant girls, Misses Barbara Green, Trude Mudie, and Lois Thomson; Carlina and Zanetta, bridesmaids, Misses Edna Gogan and Dorothy Fuller; Parafante (a sergeant), and Tito (a Bohemian), Mr. J. C. Gordon; Guiseppe (a peasant), Mr. Jack Roberts; Antonio (a young officer), Mr. Nen Nettleton. Miss Sobels (soprano) and Miss Mostyn Skinner (baritone), as the mascot and her shepherd lover, gave an excellent performance of the principal roles. Their singing in duets and as soloists was warmly received, and their acting was convincing. The story hung upon the legend concerning Bettina that—

If she loves whom she shall wed,  
Then the Mascot's power is fled.

Despite this, the course of true love was never finally diverted, and the play ended happily. By a specious pretext the charming turkey herd (Bettina) was taken from Rocco, the farmer, by the Duke of Piombino, and created a countess. The broken-hearted shepherd (Pippo) followed her with a dancing troupe. At one time it appeared that Bettina would be married to the Duke, and Pippo (rather unwillingly) to the Princess Fiametta, but in the end the princess was espoused to her betrothed, the Prince Fritellini (who had started a war in his previous disappointment), and the rural lovers were left happy.

Miss Lawrence was well cast as the princess, imperious even in love, and she sang well. Her lover (Mr. Charles Higgins) sustained his part with an easy and cheerful grace, and sang melodiously. Mr. Donald McKie had the difficult role of the foolish Duke, and he bore it well. Mr. Les Coney, as the farmer, promoted to court chamberlain, was also a prominent member of a well-chosen cast. The singers who will relieve them to-night have been set a high standard to maintain. The four pages sang sweetly, and the dances by Miss Phyllis Leitch and her assistants provided a happy interlude, which was extremely popular. The performance reflected great credit upon all concerned in its production. There will be an almost complete change in the cast to-night, when Miss Olive Dyer will appear as Bettina, Miss Jean Berry as Princess Fiametta, Mr. Layton King as the Duke, Mr. Charles Higgins as Pippo, Mr. Robert Steen as the Prince, and Mr. Peter Hooper as the farmer.

The second performance of "La Mascotte" by the Conservatorium Opera Class at the Norwood Town Hall on Friday night, was a credit to all concerned, and went with a swing from start to finish. Among the large and appreciative audience were the Hon. Lady Hore-Ruthven, the Chief Justice (Sir George Murray), Miss Murray, Mr. Legh Winser, Professor Harold Davies, and Mrs. Davies. There was a complete change of cast, and the director and conductor (Mr. Winsloe Hall) has reason to be proud of the results he has achieved. Much credit is due to the producer (Mr. Frank Johnston), who spared no efforts. The work of the orchestra, under the leadership of Miss Kathleen Meegan, with Miss Muriel Prince at the piano, added to the enjoyment of the evening.

Miss Olive Dwyer, as the mascot, gave a charming performance. She looked dainty in the part, and with a sweet soprano voice sang and acted admirably throughout. It was a big test of so young a performer, and the audience showed its approval of her ability in no uncertain manner. She was showered with floral tributes at the close. As Pippo, her lover, Charles Higgins did all required of him. His light baritone voice was used with restraint, and his acting was natural. One of the outstanding successes was that achieved by Layton King in the difficult part of the duke. His comedy work was irresistible and not overdone. Disguised as a strolling musician, he kept the audience laughing. Jean Berry sang dances arranged by Miss Phyllis Leitch as Princess Fiametta, and Peter Leitch. The producer was Mr. Frank Johnston, and the stage manager was Mr. Lloyd Taylor. Mrs. Harold Davies and Madam Delmar Hall supervised the costuming, and the wigs were by Mr. J. C. Gordon. The hall was well filled with an appreciative audience.

### NEWS 22.6.28

Dr. A. C. Garnett, M.A., who recently returned from London after completing a post-graduate course, has been appointed to the Chair of Apologetics of the Butler University, Indiana, America.



DR. A. C. GARNETT, M.A., who has accepted a position with the Butler University, Indiana, America. The institution is controlled by the Churches of Christ in America.

Butler University, Indiana, America. This institution is one of the largest of its kind, and is controlled by the Churches of Christ in America. Dr. Garnett was lecturer in psychology and philosophy to the Workers' Educational Association. Before that he was the preacher at the Grote Street Church of Christ.

## Ninth Annual Dinner.

The ninth annual dinner of the Adelaide University Commerce Students' Association was held at the Grosvenor on Friday evening. The president (Mr. C. W. Anderson) occupied the chair, and among those present were Professor J. McKellar Stewart, Messrs. E. W. Holden (president of the Chamber of Commerce), F. N. Simpson (president of the Chamber of Manufactures), and Brig-Gen. S. Price Weir.

Mr. C. G. Gordon submitted the toast "The University." It was an institution, he said, greater than they knew, and it spoke of high and lofty achievement. It was not merely a place where they obtained knowledge, but rather a place where they found themselves; a training ground in which it was not so much a question of what they learned, but how they learned. It was a great force as strengthening to the moral as well as the mental character. (Applause.)

Professor McKellar Stewart, in response, said the president of the association had set an example which perhaps few departments of students within the University had had set them. He had been prominent in the affairs of the commerce students, and had taken a leading part in the life of the University. He was hopeful that within a year the commerce lectures would be better accommodated than hitherto. The University had not quite a clear conscience regarding the way in which it had treated the department of commerce. It had been left for some time without a permanent head. When Dr. Heaton departed from Adelaide his position had been left somewhat indefinite. Mr. A. L. G. Mackay had been asked to carry on, and had done so for a number of years. The University had in view the possibility of appointing a professor to the head of the department, and if it could see the money it would establish a chair immediately. The council was hopeful that some generous citizen, or combination of citizens, would make that possible. He assured them that the council was extremely interested in the commerce school, and it was hopeful of soon putting it on a proper basis. (Applause.)

In proposing the toast of the association, Mr. E. W. Holden said it was an oasis in the desert of University associations, being by comparison a very live and vigorous body. The part it played in the corporate life of the University was a pleasing feature. They suffered in Adelaide the handicap of a non-resident University, although the new union building would in a measure make up for the shortcoming. Employers generally needed educating along the lines of the advantages of employing University men in their business. The obtaining of a diploma, however, was only a step in a man's career. As president of the Chamber of Commerce, he could tell them that the council had agreed to the majority of the proposals put by the committee of the association for working in conjunction with the chamber. The council were prepared to supply the association with details of the business, with Parliamentary papers, with the monthly bulletin of the chamber, and grant members reasonable access to the library, and arrange for members of the chamber to address the students on commercial subjects. The chamber welcomed their suggestion and trusted they would be of mutual assistance. The president, in responding, said that the position commerce occupied in the world to-day was no mean figure, and the importance of commercial education could not be overestimated. In commerce as in other walks of life, the all-round man had to give way to the specialist. Business required intelligence and training to understand it thoroughly. This training had to be gained in actual touch with business itself, but the training in a business house could be shortened and made more adaptable by preliminary training in special schools. The toast of the lecturers was proposed by Mr. E. J. Collier, and responded to by Mr. L. G. Melville; and "Kindred societies" was proposed by Mr. K. F. Newman. Mr. M. W. Evans responded briefly. At the conclusion of the speeches the rest of the evening was devoted to dancing.

## SIR EDGEWORTH DAVID.

### A VISIT TO ADELAIDE.

With a view to collecting further material for the study of obscure forms of early animal, and possibly plant life, round Adelaide, Professor Sir Edgeworth David, of the University of Sydney, arrived in Adelaide on Sunday. Professor Walter Howchin, who has collaborated with him on many occasions in the study of the geology of South Australia, has made arrangements for Sir Edgeworth to visit areas where further collections may be made to advantage. On Monday morning both professors visited the district about Montacute, Sixth Creek, and Torrens Gorge, and collected specimens which Mr. C. T. Madigan, who is in temporary charge of the geology department of the University, is having prepared for examination under the microscope by his scientific assistant (Mr. Brock).

To-day Professors David and Howchin propose to visit the quarry at Devil's Elbow in the Adelaide hills, and similar limestone deposits at Beaumont. Arrangements have been made for them to motor to One Tree Hill to-morrow. Sir Edgeworth David stated on Monday that the latter locality appeared to be specially promising, as the limestone there, instead of being rendered crystalline as the result of great age and the pressure and heat in the part of the earth's crust in which they were originally buried, were remarkably free from alteration. They showed traces of actual hard portions of the bodies of small annelids or sand-worms, even on the weathered surface of the limestone, so that they could be seen without the aid of a microscope.

On Thursday the scientists hope to visit the Field River, near Hallett's Cove, where there is a special variety of finely-ground greenish limestone which, under a microscope, is seen to be full of remarkably well-preserved remains of small animals and possibly plants. Small orange to yellow fruit-like bodies are present in this rock, Sir Edgeworth David pointed out, which would certainly prove to be new to science. Sir Edgeworth stated that in view of the fragmentary nature of most of the fossil material, it would probably be some considerable time before palaeontologists were in a position, as the result of securing many complete specimens, to classify the highly interesting and, from the point of view of evolution, very important collection of some of the very earliest discovered types of animal life. As the material had been traced through a thickness of approximately 10,000 feet of rock, and as practically the whole of the Mount Lofty and Flinders ranges contained these fossiliferous formations, there was obviously a grand field for the fossil hunters of the future. At the same time the task of finding good specimens would be one that would require extreme patience. In view of the enormous antiquity of the rocks, perhaps 600,000,000 years, it was only in rare spots that fossils were sufficiently well preserved to be definitely recognizable as types of primeval animal life.

### REG 29.6.28

#### CONSERVATORIUM ORGAN RECITAL.

The Elder Hall was crowded on Thursday for the fourth of the series of luncheon hour recitals by Mr. John Horner, F.R.C.O. His chef d'oeuvre was the "Suite Gothique" of Leon Boelmann, a Parisian organist. Mr. Horner played this noble work in masterly style. From chorale to toccata the fresh, graceful, poetic sequence was treated with sympathetic insight. The recitalist's interpretation of its richly harmonic structure, bold at times, yet never otherwise than clear, well deserved the plaudits from delighted hearers that marked its conclusion. Other organ pieces were Rheinberger's "Monologue in G," Edgar Barratt's "Coronach," and the "Three Impromptus" of Coleridge Taylor. The assisting vocalist was Miss Edna Lawrence, whose singing of Landon Ronald's "Sing No More" and Rogers's "The Star," to the skilful pianoforte accompaniment of Mr. Horner, proved tuneful and pleasing.