

Reg. 22nd March
1904.

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-A Low Ebb-

After a brief reference to the founding of important series of London concerts, the professor said that about 30 years ago music in England had sunk to rather a low ebb. Oratorio in those days was principally limited to performances of "The Messiah" and "Elijah," and the opera was a fashionable lounge, where people went to hear the prima donna, and talked most of the time that she was not in evidence. Pianoforte music was in an equally unsatisfactory condition, and most of the popular pieces were of a meretricious character. In some circles possibly things were no better to-day, for not long ago in the Conservatorium some one played to him part of "The maiden's prayer." The songs written at that time were also poor.

-The Renaissance-

About the early seventies, however, a musical renaissance took place. This might have arisen from various causes, but he thought the chief were the production of Wagner and Brahms's works in Germany, and the earnest efforts of some of the rising generation of young British musicians, of whom the chief were Parry, Mackenzie, and Stanford. Perhaps a fillip was given to the movement by the production in London of Wagner's works, and then Richter gave orchestral concerts, the like of which had never been heard before, with programmes mainly devoted to Wagner, Brahms, and Beethoven. From this time there was a steady improvement in the number and quality of the concerts given in London, with the gratifying result that now if one wanted to hear any important work he had not to wait more than a season for it.

-Visit to England-

Although his recent visit to London had been at absolutely the duller part of the year he had listened to a number of first-class concerts. But opportunities for hearing good music were by no means confined to the metropolis. As an instance, a souvenir programme of the 500th Bournemouth symphony concerts was quoted, which showed that between 1895 and 1903 891 different selections had been performed. These included 133 symphonies and 184 overtures. Bournemouth was a town about the size of Adelaide. In France and Germany the musical conditions were quite as good if not better than in England.

-Music in Australia-

At present in Australia musical conditions were very curious. To begin with one important branch of the art—oratorio—there were several healthy societies in the principal states who were doing good work, especially with the older writings. But with modern compositions they were seriously hampered, because of the scarcity of orchestral players. The symphonies of Beethoven and most similar works were almost a closed book in Adelaide. During his two years' residence here he had listened to only one symphony, which he had prepared with considerable difficulty at the Conservatorium. Sydney and Melbourne were perhaps a little better off than Adelaide.

-Music-loving Australians-

The prospect in pianoforte playing was much better, and he had no hesitation in saying that the Australians were distinctly a music-loving people, and their pianoforte playing was more than creditable. Vocal music was hardly so flourishing and trashy compositions were too frequently sung.

-Room for Improvement-

In order to improve the existing state of affairs he would urge the public to more largely support all worthy enterprises, especially local enterprises. It might be said that Melba and Ada Crossley had been supported well; but it was one of the weaknesses of Australians to run after those who had the halo of a great name. Several talented and deserving artists who had visited these shores had made a financial loss out of their tours. He feared, too, that many who went to hear Melba were disappointed, simply because they did not know what to expect, and much of her glorious production and finish was lost to them. At one Crossley concert which he attended he noticed that the greatest applause followed some of the inferior numbers on the programme. Music to tickle the ears of the public had nowadays almost been reduced to a science, and it was not difficult to produce it. He asked for a greater recognition of works of sterling merit, and would suggest that all the attention should not be devoted to the artists, but rather to the works which they presented.

-Support Local Productions-

The public of Adelaide would shortly have an opportunity to listen to two important works—the "St. Matthew Passion" and Handel's "Samson"—and he urged all present to on no account miss them. It was their duty to support all local productions of a worthy character. For a time their disadvantages in respect to orchestral music would probably continue, but he hoped that young musicians would seriously take up the study of orchestral instruments. The prospect was distinctly encouraging, and he saw no reason why in the near future, "musical Adelaide" should not be "musical Adelaide" in reality, and take the lead in the musical affairs of the Commonwealth.

-The Rhodes Scholarships-

Dr. G. R. Parkin, the manager of the Rhodes Scholarship Trust, who has lately returned from his tour on behalf of the objects of the trust, has informed an interviewer that there are 10 students in residence at Oxford—five from South Africa and five from Germany. "The big election, however, will take place in the spring. At the end of April or beginning of May between 60 and 70 students will be selected—one from each English colony and one from each state in the American Union. We want," said Dr. Parkin, "students of power and promise, the best types of manliness from each state and colony. To enable the committees to obtain such candidates an examination will be held, and those who succeed in passing it will be required to produce records of their prowess in the athletic world, reports upon their general character, their kindliness, their power to lead, and their popularity among their fellow-students. From these reports the members of the committees will be enabled to arrive at a final decision and to give practical effect to the qualifications which Mr. Rhodes had in his mind when he drafted his great scheme."

Register 29th March
1904.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

SPECIAL SENIOR EXAMINATION—MARCH.

A. PASS LIST.

1. English Literature; 2. History; 3. Greek; 4. Latin; 5. French; 6. German; 7. Arithmetic and Algebra; 8. Geometry; 10. Physics; 11. Chemistry; 14. Physical Geography and Geology. † Additional paper in English.

William Kenneth BAKEWELL, 10, 14, last place of education, Mr. J. D. Iliffe; Norman Leslie BURNELL, 1, 2, Mr. G. Newman; Gordon Cathcart CAMPBELL, 3, Mr. D. H. Hollidge; William Joseph DENNY, 4, private tuition; James Edward EVERARD, 11, 4, 5, 7, 8, Rev. D. Kerr; Nigel Stuart GILES, 5, private study; Matthew Edward GOODE, 7, 8, Mr. D. H. Hollidge; Charles George Gordon GWYNNE, 2, Rev. D. Kerr; May Josephine MOFFATT, 11, 4, 5, 7, 8, Mr. D. H. Hollidge; Robert James Baird MOFFATT, 8, St. Peter's Collegiate School; Henry Mortimer MUIRHEAD, 5, 11, St. Peter's Collegiate School; Winifred Phoebe NICOL, 3, private study; John O'GRADY, 11, 4, 7, 8, Mr. G. Newman; Ernest Albert Harold RUSSELL, 11, 6, 7, 8, Prince Alfred College; Ronald TRUDINGER, 11, 4, 6, 7, 8, private study; Elsie Madeline WORSNOP, 7, Mr. D. H. Hollidge; George Herbert WRIGHT, 8, private tuition, Perth.

Reg. 6th April
1904.

Professor Bevan in London.

The Royal Academy of Music has paid Professor Bevan the compliment of asking him to judge three of their chief vocal competitions, to wit, the "Evill" prize, the "Goldberg" prize, and the Ross Vocal Scholarship, which will be competed for among the Academy students next week. Since his arrival in England Mr. Bevan has been occupying his time in looking up old friends and arranging business matters connected with his many compositions. Like most composers of popular songs, he finds the piratical publishers of twopenny versions have laid him under contribution. You can, to-day, buy his stirring "Admiral's Broom" or that favorite ballad "The flight of ages" from street hawkers all over London for the price of a glass of ale, but, needless to say, perhaps, Mr. Bevan's income is not increased by royalties from these street sales.

Since arriving in London Mr. Bevan has renewed his acquaintance with the interiors of a good many Masonic temples in the metropolis, including that of his mother

lodge, The Orpheus, of which he is a past-master, and where on Saturday night he met with an enthusiastic welcome from the brethren. Later in the evening Mr. Bevan repaired to one of his old haunts in London, the Savage Club. By a somewhat singular coincidence Mr. Grainger was in the chair that evening, and exercising his prerogative the Agent-General called upon the visitor from South Australia to assist with the musical portion of the evening's entertainment.

THE GEOLOGY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Mr. W. Howchin, F.G.S., at a meeting of the Royal Society on Thursday evening, gave a preliminary account of the geological discoveries he had made during the recent vacation. Among the points elucidated by his observation were the continuity of the geological formations through the Mount Lofty and Flinders Ranges; the great importance of the purple slates series, the determination of the latter as being of lower Cambrian age, and the demonstration obtained that the old glacial beds underlaid the Archaean-cyanthine limestones, and therefore cannot be later than lower Cambrian in age. Mr. Howchin also described the geological features of Mount Remarkable, and explained how it came to possess so remarkable an outline. He showed that the limestones worked at Brighton for cement, at the Burra for copper, at Fairview (east of the Burra) for phosphates, and at the Government quarry at the Burra siding for road metal, were one and the same bed. Mr. Howchin, in the course of his remarks, made the rather disquieting statement that the reason why the Beetaloo Reservoir never had been and probably never would be full was because the water escaped through the unsound bottom arising from the porous nature of the small quartzite beds that occupied the base. In the discussion which followed Mr. Howchin's short address it was stated that the scientist's discoveries during the vacation had given the key to unlock the whole geological secrets of South Australia.

Ad. 15th April '04.

THE DEMAND FOR COMMERCIAL EDUCATION.

The demand for higher commercial education has been met in part by the munificence of Mr. Joseph Fisher, in giving £1,000 to the University, to establish a commercial course at the institution. Mr. H. G. Turner, the eminent Melbourne banker, who delivered the inaugural lecture of the course at the Conservatorium last night, remarked that there was a consensus of opinion that the first great International Exhibition in London in 1851 gave the initial stimulus in favor of higher commercial education, though fully 20 years elapsed before the conditions it had revealed began to be seriously discussed. The business methods and business technique of the long list of foreign competitors in the world's industries, were, by the exhibition, brought before the British manufacturer and distributor with a comprehensiveness hitherto unattained. It did not take long to discover that the Continental workman was, as a rule, better educated in his trade than the conservative Briton, running in the grooves that his father had traversed before him. There was an adaptability in the work of the foreigner, which ignored the superstition that "what ever is, is right." Such progressive ideas were not confined to, nor did they originate with the artisan. They were inspired by the employer of labor, the producer, the manufacturer, and the distributor alike. It must be borne in mind that without adequate commercial equipment the mere mechanical process of manufacture would soon create a block. It was too often overlooked how largely the success of great factory industries was dependent upon the ultimate dealing with their products at the hands of the merchant class. It was the enterprise, the daring, and the resourcefulness of the British merchant adventurers of the 17th and 18th centuries that laid the foundation of the acknowledged industrial supremacy of the motherland. Mr. Turner added that during the first half of the last century it looked as if English commerce would possess the earth, as English ships swept the seas, but the self-complacent belief that the world was submissive to the dictation of the British merchant and manufacturer was destined to receive a rude shock, and the competition of other nations caused John Bull to bestir himself, and ask questions.