

University of Adelaide

CENTRE FORMED AT MOUNT BARKER.

On Friday evening a public meeting was held in the Mount Barker Institute for the purpose of forming a local centre in connection with the University of Adelaide. The weather was wet and boisterous, but notwithstanding this there was a representative attendance.

Mr. L. von Doussa, who was voted to the chair, on behalf of the meeting extended a hearty welcome to Professor Ennis and Mr. C. R. Hodge (Registrar), who had come from Adelaide to explain the objects of and method of working the centre. The formation of the centre would be a very high honor and benefit to the district, and as one of the vice-presidents of the institute he felt he could say that that institution would lend itself in every way possible to the purposes of the University. He did not know how the centre was to be worked, but the representatives of the University would give all information that the meeting might require.

Mr. Hodge stated that the Council of the University was always willing to extend the benefits of the institution as far as possible, but no local centres were formed unless applications were made for them. It was appreciable to see the public spirit of the people at Mount Barker, and the formation of the centre would be a good thing for the place, people, and candidates. At Jamestown last year no less than 81 candidates presented themselves for examination, but had there been no local centre it was probable that not 5 per cent. of that number would have been able to go to Adelaide. The value of the system was that candidates in the country could obtain at their own doors benefits at the same cost as could candidates in Adelaide, and the result was that after passing exams. they might go on further and at the University take subjects for the B.A. degree. The method adopted by the Council was to have a committee selected at a public meeting called for the purpose—a committee in whom the townspeople had every confidence and of which therefore the Council would approve. There were two schemes of examination. The first was the public examination in general education (primary, junior, senior, and higher, at which all schools could present candidates), and the second was an examination in both theory and practice of music. After the committee had been appointed it would be necessary to elect a chairman and a secretary, the latter of whom would give all information and forms necessary to inquirers and have charge of the papers, &c., in connection with the exams. For some years past the local institute had had courses of lectures by professors from the University, and while not appropriating the work of the institute in this way the local committee would be able to co-operate with them when arrangements were being made for other courses. Another matter in connection with the centre was that a set of rooms would be necessary. At Jamestown, Mount Gambier, and other places the institutes had been placed at the disposal of the committees, and he had no doubt that they at Mount Barker would have public spirit enough to follow those precedents. In the examinations in music a good piano was necessary, and he knew that the one at the Mount Barker Institute was as good as could be found in the South. The duties of the committee would be to attend and supervise the examinations, and they could arrange between themselves as to when and for how long they could take a turn. The exams. would be held at the same time as those in Adelaide, viz.:—Primary theory of music, June; primary public in general education, August; junior,

senior, and higher public in general education and also all grades (except primary) of both theory and practice of music, November. They had already received some applications for exams. here, and he hoped a committee would be formed and that the centre would be a benefit to all concerned.

Professor Ennis said he thought the establishment of a local centre at Mount Barker a matter which ought to do a very great deal of good. He referred to the practice of colleges in England sending examiners to Australia to hold exams. in music and stated that in these cases the whole, or nearly all, of the fees went out of the states and benefited students in the Old Country. The University of Adelaide was a benevolent institution, and all fees collected were spent for the good of local students. Recently the Universities of Melbourne and Adelaide, the former having very great resources, had combined in the matter of holding examinations in music, giving interchange of professors, and probably the practice would be extended all over Australasia in the near future. For the present two examiners would attend in connection with the tests in the two higher grades of music and one in the others. None of the visiting bodies offered this advantage at present. The examiners, in addition, would be men who had made a study of their branch—singers for singing, violinists for the violin, pianists for the piano, and so on. It would be an examination in general music conducted carefully and under the best conditions and so arranged that the candidate would not become a mere examination machine. The formation of the centre would be a great benefit particularly to the teachers and the candidates, and the Council of the University looked forward with the very greatest confidence to the support of the public and the teachers.

The chairman moved, Mr. A. C. Daw seconded, and the meeting approved that the Revs. J. MacIntyre, C. Frisby Smith, W. A. Langsford, and Father Landy, Dr. Bronte Smeaton, and Messrs. C. M. R. Dumas, A. C. Daw, A. F. G. Dye, S. W. Jackman, J. J. McKenzie, L. von Doussa, and C. H. Reeves form the committee of the centre. Mr. R. P. A. von Bertouch proposed, and Mr. C. M. R. Dumas seconded, that five form a quorum; carried.

On the motion of Mr. S. W. Jackman, seconded by Mr. Von Bertouch, it was agreed that the committee have power to add to their number, but that in the case of vacancies occurring the positions be filled at a public meeting called for the purpose.

After some discussion on the matter, Mr. C. H. Reeves moved, and Mr. R. Neate seconded, that the secretary be appointed by the meeting that night, but the motion was lost.

The Rev. C. Frisby Smith, in moving a vote of thanks to the University and its representatives, voiced the appreciation felt by the residents at the step taken in forming the centre. Mr. Reeves, in seconding the motion, mentioned that it was an additional honor in that Mount Barker was the first place in the South at which a centre had been formed. The motion was carried with acclamation.

Professor Ennis, after expressing appreciation at such a large gathering on so stormy a night and also for the cordial reception given to himself and Mr. Hodge as delegates from the University, tendered thanks to the institute committee for the loan of the room and to the chairman, Mr. Hodge supported.

On the motion of Mr. McKenzie, the thanks of the meeting were tendered to Mr. Reeves, who took the initiative in connection with the formation of the centre.

At a meeting of the committee held subsequently Dr. Smeaton was elected chairman and Mr. J. J. McKenzie secretary.

MORE UNIVERSITY CENTRES.

Next Friday Mr. C. R. Hodge (registrar) will visit Kapunda for the purpose of making arrangements for the establishment of a University centre there, so that candidates for examination in music and ordinary educational subjects may be tested locally instead of being compelled to come to the city, as at present. Mr. Hodge will address a meeting on the subject in the institute hall. He will also address a meeting at Gawler on Monday with the object of organizing a centre there.

Ad. 28th July.

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.

Although all the entries for the primary public examination are not yet to hand, the list is near enough to completion to show a considerable increase on the entries for the same examination last year. The total to date is 973, and of these no fewer than 449 come from Western Australia. The number who entered for the examination last year was 891, so that the increase is about 9 per cent. Examinations will be held at Adelaide, Clare, Jamestown, Koolunga, Laura, Moonta, Mount Gambier, Narracoorte, Port Pirie, Mount Barker, Elliston, Mount Pleasant, Crystal Brook, and Renmark, and at the following places in Western Australia:—Perth, Kalgoorlie, Albany, Coolgardie, Collie, Dongarra, Geraldton, Mount Leonora, Mount Morgans, Norseman, and York.

An examination in the theory and practice of music is being held at present in Western Australia by the University of Adelaide; 238 candidates have presented themselves.

Ad. 31st July

CONSERVATORIUM CONCERT.

The taste for orchestral music has grown steadily in Adelaide for some time past, and the large audience which assembled at the Elder Hall on Monday evening, when the Conservatorium orchestra, under the direction of Herr H. Heinicke, gave a concert, should lead to more performances of this character being given. The programme was representative of several styles of writing, and afforded variety and interest. The beautiful Italian "Symphony in A Major," op. 90, with its descriptive passages and its liquid cadences, made a charming number, and was performed with a sympathy which denoted that the spirit of the composer had been communicated to all the performers. Judicious use was made of the different varieties of wind-instruments, and the tone of the strings was good, while the expression was appropriate. The first movement, "Allegro vivace," with its pleasing coloring, made an enjoyable item, and the "Andante con moto" and "Saltarello-presto," which completed the symphony, were given in a manner which revealed the beauty of the parts and the unity of the whole. The other Mendelssohn number was the first movement from "Concerto in E Minor," op. 64; "Allegro molto appassionato," in which Miss Sylvia Whittington, a young girl, played the violin solo part. This contribution proved one of the most popular of the evening, and the applause was well deserved, although it was not to be expected that so young a player as Miss Whittington would have the robust tone necessary to make the selection completely satisfactory. In several instances the solo parts were lost in the general volume of the orchestra. A suite by Bizet, "L'Arlesienne," was excellently performed. It comprised—(1) Prélude—Allegro deciso—Andantino; Tempo primo—Andante molto; (2) Minuetto—Allegro giocoso; (3) Adagietto—Adagio; (4) Carillon—Allegretto moderato; Andantino—Tempo primo. The French writer's work was interpreted with thorough insight, and the light and shade and the delicate effects were observed with unerring taste. An orchestral setting of Paderewski's "Chants du Voyageur," was daintily rendered, but the work does not lend itself to orchestral treatment with any marked effect. A beautiful little writing of Rubinstein's "Toreador et Andalouse," was so much liked that it had to be repeated. One of the most brilliant performances of the evening was the overture "Rosamunde" (Schubert), which was invested with all the charm which attaches to any writing from the pen of Schubert. Two vocal numbers were included. Miss Florence Cowperthwaite sang "Despair" (Bemberg), with violin obligato by Miss Winnifred Cowperthwaite, artistically, and Miss Clytie Hume gave a pleasing rendering of "In a distant land" (Taubert).

EXAMINATIONS IN MUSIC.

UNIVERSITIES CO-OPERATING.

Mr. H. A. Thomson, of the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, is at present in Adelaide as deputation from the Melbourne University. His mission is in respect of a scheme of association between the two universities regarding the musical facilities. The Senate of the Adelaide University at its meeting on Wednesday adopted a new set of regulations in furtherance of the scheme. Speaking to a representative of "The Advertiser" on Wednesday, Mr. Thomson said that he was in Adelaide for the purpose of discussing with the Faculty of Music the details of the new scheme, and to confer with Dr. Ennis or other nominees on the question of a uniform syllabus of musical examination. For three years past the Melbourne Faculty of Music had worked under a new system, which had proved most successful, and Tasmania had also recently come under it. Prior to the introduction of the new system, Melbourne students submitted their work to examiners appointed by the Associated Board of the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music, London, these being the only two chartered institutions for music in the United Kingdom. Under the new scheme the examinations would be conducted by the local Conservatorium. At least two great advantages are claimed for the new scheme, the first being the ability to appoint examiners in each special subject to be examined in, and the second the retention in the Commonwealth of thousands of pounds in fees, which previously used to go to assist the big English schools of music. Successful students under the old system used to be given medals and prizes entirely out of proportion to the fees paid, and these did not assist the students to prosecute further studies. The Melbourne board decided that all the fees should go to promote further studies. It will offer free scholarships at the Conservatorium, entitling the holders to all the privileges that such an institution can afford. In each of the years 1904, 1905, and 1906 an exhibition, value £80, was given. In 1905 two minor exhibitions of £10 each were also awarded. There are now three scholars enjoying free tuition at the Conservatorium, and it is intended that the number and value of these scholarships shall be increased with the growth of the scheme. All who have obtained honors in any grade or have obtained the students' certificate at these local examinations are eligible, without further fee, to compete in a final examination, at which the scholarships are awarded to the most talented candidates. This examination is conducted by at least three members of the Conservatorium board. Under this scheme there are 54 examining centres in Victoria, and 16 in Tasmania. In addition to this the Victorian Education Department is now arranging for examinations of State school teachers in elementary music, to be conducted by the Conservatorium of Music. There are great hopes entertained that the South Australian Conservatorium of Music will adopt a scheme on similar lines to that of Melbourne. Mr. Thomson pointed out that certain difficulties were in the way. The fees at the Adelaide Conservatorium were much lower than in Melbourne. Thus where Adelaide fees were £12 and £15, the Melbourne payments were £25 8s. Some adjustment to a common basis in this matter would be necessary, in order that scholarships might be equitable. Another advantage to be gained by the association of the two bodies would be that there might be an interchange of examiners, and that certificates given by one body would be recognised by the other. "It is hoped," said Mr. Thomson, "that very shortly New South Wales, Queensland, and New Zealand will join with Adelaide and Melbourne, so that there will be, in effect, not an Australian, but an Australasian, Faculty of Music." The co-operation between Adelaide and Melbourne cannot take practical effect until July, 1907, and as the matter stands at present, Adelaide, Melbourne, Perth, and Hobart, each with its provincial centres of examination, will be brought into line. "It is hoped by this means," said Mr. Thomson, "to raise the standard of music, and assist those talented students who, we know, belong to Australia."

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.—The committee of the Mount Barker Institute has arranged for three University extension lectures to be given locally by Professor G. C. Henderson, M.A., the subject being "Poets of the 19th century; Wordsworth, Tennyson, Browning." The same course is now being given in Adelaide, and speaking at a meeting here last Friday night Mr. C. R. Hodge (Registrar of the University) said they were very popular and that he would advise everyone to attend them. He considered it was a mistake for the institute committee to make attendance at the lectures free; people in the city paid willingly, and a request had been made for Professor Henderson to repeat them. The course will be given on August 23 and 30 and September 6.