

"Advertiser" 10th June 1898

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THE CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC.

A correspondent writing from London, under date April 1, says:—"Adelaide is to be congratulated upon securing the services of a very distinguished musical man from the mother country. A short time since the 'daughter of Parliament,' in order to find a suitable man to fill the principalship of the Conservatorium of Music there, commissioned Professor Bridge, the well-known organist of Westminster Abbey, and two other eminent musical men to select the best English available talent to fill the post. Out of 220 eligible candidates who offered themselves for the appointment Mr. Fred Bevan, who is a distinguished member of the choir of H.M. Chapel, London, and is therefore entitled to the dignity of 'Gentleman of the Chapel Royal,' was selected, and when he leaves for Australia on the 29th April he will be entitled to his pension for his long services at that historic place of worship. He is a very popular man in musical circles and also in Masonry. He has a particularly pleasing bass voice, but he will be best known by the songs he has given to the world. The best known of these is probably 'The flight of ages,' of which the publishers have sold over 250,000 copies. He is also the author of that popular song 'The Admiral's broom,' the other songs which emanated from his graceful and imaginative pen being 'The heart's rest,' 'The silver path,' 'The jolly friar,' 'The gates of heaven,' and many others. In fact, there is hardly a concert of any note in the metropolis at which some song of this talented composer is not sung. He has also composed several sacred pieces, including hymns and anthems, and he was one of the selected party, which included Sir Arthur Sullivan and all the leading doctors of music of London, to sing the solo in the anthem specially composed to be sung before her Majesty in St. Paul's Churchyard on the occasion of the Jubilee visit to the city last year. Australia will be a great gainer by his residence there, as he is a man of fine presence and an excellent and genial companion. The fact that he was selected from such an array of talent speaks for itself as to his musical abilities, and he may also be mentioned that he has for some time conducted a musical college in one of the principal suburbs of London—Brixton—which has turned out some of the best amateur pupils of the day."

THE NEW PROFESSOR OF SINGING.

Mr. F. Bevan, the new Professor of Singing at the Adelaide Conservatorium of Music, arrived in the colony by the mail steamer Oruba late on Sunday night. He was met on board by Professor Ives and Mr. T. N. Stephens, Collector of Customs. Mr. Bevan preferred to stay on board all night, and will come to the city this morning.

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ELDER CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC.

AN OPENING CONVERSAZIONE.

Despite the very unpropitious weather there was a large and fashionable gathering at the Adelaide University on Thursday evening, when an elaborate and highly enjoyable conversazione was held to commemorate the foundation of the Elder Conservatorium of Music. These conversazioni at the University, when many of the marvels of science and art are displayed in their most popular and enticing form, are always enjoyable and interesting, as well as educational, and the display of Thursday evening was no exception to the general rule. As befitted the occasion music and the sciences most closely allied to it were principally in evidence, and the whole of the proceedings must have deeply impressed those present with the fine educational work which the Elder Conservatorium is about to do in the most popular of the arts.

The Elder Conservatorium, established for the purpose of providing a complete system of instruction in the art and science of music, was opened on March 7, when 158 students entered. There are now about 200 studying in principal subjects. This is not inclusive of those attending classes, which number probably 200 more students, so that the results already obtained have far exceeded the most sanguine expectations. The Conservatorium is being carried on partly at the University and partly at the old Adelaide College of Music. New buildings are being erected close to the University, on North-terrace, to consist of a large concert hall and sound-proof teaching and lecture rooms, with a grand organ and other equipments. Open to professional and amateurs, the course of instruction is so arranged that students may be prepared for a professional career or study a single subject only. At present the principal subjects taught are harmony and musical composition, pianoforte, singing (solo), organ, harp, violin, violoncello, and other orchestral instruments, while the secondary subjects embrace elements of music, sight singing and musical dictation, history of music, ensemble playing, concerted music, orchestral playing, elocution, Italian, French, and German, and to these other subjects are to be added. The course of instruction is divided into Junior, Intermediate, and Advanced Grades. Provision is made for eight free scholarships offered for competition among Australian music students. Four are "local" scholarships and four "open" scholarships. Only two scholarships were thrown open this year. These were won by Miss Elsie Hamilton for the piano, and by Miss Nora Kylin Thomas for the violin. Students completing a three years' course of study will be allowed to offer for examination for the diploma of Associate in music. The Conservatorium is far-reaching in its aims. Part of its functions is to educate the musical tastes of the people, and to this end popular orchestral concerts are provided for. A University Orchestra has been established, having at present fifty-five members. Its purpose will be the practice of orchestral music by students and others and the giving of concerts. Popular concerts by the Grand Orchestra are to be held in the Town Hall every alternate Saturday evening, beginning next Saturday. The concert arrangements, which are very complete, include three chamber concerts during the 1898 season in the University Library, and students' concerts in the last week of every term. Full scores of the principal oratorios, operas, and orchestral works have been ordered, an Adelaide firm having been asked to send for about 400 works. Professors and teachers of high standing and ability have been appointed for the Conservatorium, and they will act under the direction of the Council of the University. Professor Joshua Ives, Mus. Bac., is the Director, and other members of the staff are:—Herr Reimann, Teacher of the Pianoforte; Mr. F. Bevan (Gentleman of the Chapel Royal), Teacher of Singing; Herr Heinicke, Teacher of the Organ, Violin, and Viola; Herr Kugelberg, Teacher of the Violoncello; Miss Gull Hack, A.R.C.M., Mr. Wybert Reeve, and Miss Pearson.

Dr. Barlow, the Vice-Chancellor of the University (in the unavoidable absence of the Right Hon. Chief Justice Way, the Chancellor, who was detained at the Supreme Court but attended a little later in the evening) with Mrs. Way received the guests in the library, which presented quite a gay appearance with the tasteful foliage decorations that were prepared for the recent University ball. The entrance hall and several of the smaller rooms of the University were likewise adorned with plants and decorations artistically carried out, while in the library itself the ornaments of the University boating crew ranged on the wall at either end, tennis racquets, and other implements of sport happily served to remind the audience that the modern student's life is not "all work and no play." At the conclusion of the reception a string orchestra, mainly composed of students of the Conservatorium, and directed by Mr. H. Heinicke, who played first violin, gave a thoroughly pleasing rendering of Handel's "Ave Marie," a charming little melody clothed with delightful harmonies. In this the students acquitted themselves most creditably, their expression, ensemble, and observance of the effects of light and shade being excellent. They gave an equally good performance of Teubert's "Lieblich," a dainty little conception of the musical

order, which succeeded it. The first part of the concert proper was opened by Mr. H. Kugelberg, the cellist of the Conservatorium, who was heard in a bracket of Thome's pretty melody "Simple Aven" and Volkmann's "Valse." These pieces formed an admirable contrast, the first being a typical andante, smooth and flowing and simple in character, while the second was brilliant, vigorous, and piquant. Both were well played, and the executant was rewarded with hearty applause. No doubt the chief interest of the evening was centred in the debut of Mr. Frederick Bevan, the new singing master of the Conservatorium, who elected to first appear in his own most popular composition, "The flight of ages." In this he exhibited a rich voice of thoroughly pleasing quality throughout its entire compass, of good power, and withal capably trained. Mr. Bevan is unquestionably an artistic singer, whose performances must always give pleasure, and should be in themselves a valuable educational lesson for our budding vocalists. A cordial reception greeted him, and at the conclusion of his initial effort he was warmly applauded. Mr. Bevan's second number, Hatton's "Fair is my love," was interpreted in an equally satisfactory manner, and served to deepen the favourable impression which he had created. Miss Gull Hack's artistic method and finished vocalization were once more agreeably displayed in her rendering of Stange's fine song, "Damon," her mezzo-voce effects and trills being particularly striking, and she was also heard with great pleasure in Kjerulf's "Last night," and was in both numbers sympathetically accompanied by Miss Elsie Hack. Mr. G. Reimann gave a bracket of Kullar's "Romanze," Op. 93, and Chopin's "Etude," Op. 10, No. 5, in a careful and scholarly manner; and Mr. Heinicke, whose appearances as a soloist are now days all too few, gave as his violin number De Beriot's seventh concerto. In this the performer's brilliant technique, fine tone, and unerring intonation were once more amply displayed. The musical programme came to a highly successful conclusion with two movements from Gade's pretty trio "Novelletten," played with taste and artistic finish by Messrs Reimann, Heinicke, and Kugelberg. This really fine specimen of melodious chamber music had not been heard in Adelaide for some years, consequently the performers would do well to give it again at the earliest opportunity. With the exception of Miss Hack's two numbers Mr. Reimann artistically and sympathetically acted as pianoforte accompanist throughout the concert.

During the half-hour interval between the two portions of the musical programme Professor Ives gave a brief but highly interesting chat in the music-room on the evolution of our modern musical notation, taking in turn the staff, notes, clefs, and rests. These were aptly illustrated by large diagrams, and explained in a simple, non-technical fashion. The Professor also exhibited the Virgil practice clavier, one of the most modern instruments for the development and perfecting of pianoforte technique. In the classics room Mr. H. J. Shroobree, the well-known violin-maker, showed a number of interesting musical instruments, lent for the occasion by Messrs. S. Marshall & Sons, and also displayed the various stages in the process of violin-making. Phenographic concerts were conducted in the chemical lecture-room by Mr. H. T. Wickens, of Messrs. Reeves and Co., and in the Museum several of Edison's latest talking-machines were shown by Mr. J. H. M. Davidson, of the same firm. Experiments on vibrating soap films and an exhibition of the singing jet were carried out by Mr. R. W. Chapman. Mr. G. Reeves exhibited the krompskop (or colour-photography apparatus of Frederick Ives), and a display of physiological apparatus and microscopic objects was made by Mr. W. Fuller, assisted by University students.

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MR. FRED BEVAN.

Mr. Frederick Bevan, the recently-appointed Professor of Singing in the Conservatorium of Music, Adelaide, left England on April 29 last for the scene of his new labors. At a complimentary banquet tendered him in St. James Hall, London, prior to his departure a most enthusiastic "send-off" was accorded him. The company numbered many musical notabilities, literary men, and actors, in addition to his friends in private life. Naturally some splendid music was provided, towards which the choir boys of H.M. Chapel Royal contributed. The chairman, Mr. James White, LL.D., L.C.C., was supported on his right by the guest of the evening, the Rev. the Sub-Dean of H.M. Chapels Royal, the Hon. Thomas Playford (whose name, by the way, appears on the list of guests with the prefix "Sir"), and other prominent men; while the total number present was 165. On leaving England Mr. Bevan was accompanied to the Oruba by a large number of friends, who expressed their heartiest wishes for his welfare while regretting his departure. Selected out of about 400 applicants by such competent judges as Sir Frederick Bridge, C. A. Randegger, and Sir A. Sullivan, he will certainly do credit to his position and to his country. He is described as a most gentle-hearted man, full of music and good humor, and one who is certain to make many friends.

"The Register" 6th June 1898

UNIVERSITY BOATRACE.

On Saturday afternoon the eleventh Inter-University race for the Challenge Cup presented to the Australian Universities by old Oxford and Cambridge blues, was rowed on the Port River by crews from Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide. The weather and water were favourable, and Sydney gained an easy victory by six lengths, in 18 min. 6 1/2 sec. A magnificent struggle between the Melbourne and Adelaide representatives resulted in the local crew gaining second position by about half a length. There was a large attendance on the launches, including His Excellency the Governor, Lady Victoria Buxton, and the Misses Buxton, Mr. Charles Buxton, the Right Hon. S. J. Way and Mrs. Way, and Bishop Harmer. The Sydney University has now won the event six times against Melbourne's three and Adelaide's two.