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CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC.

The University authorities are showing considerable activity in musical matters and seem to be fully aware of their responsibility to the music-loving portion of the community. In addition to the ordinary teaching at the Conservatorium, Professor Ives is arranging for a series of three chamber concerts to be given in the library of the University and two orchestral concerts, which may have to be given in the Town Hall. An orchestra has already been formed with quite a number of efficient and enthusiastic members who are busy rehearsing symphonies and other classical movements under Herr Heinicke. The ensemble classes of the Conservatorium promise to be an important feature in the work of that institution. Some really excellent work is being done by the students under the direction of Herr Kugelberg, who seems to have special aptitude for this work and who is most enthusiastic. Several of the students, he says, show very marked talent in this branch of study, and it is hoped that lovers of chamber music may be afforded an opportunity of hearing them at no distant date. A prospectus has just been issued announcing the formation of no fewer than sixteen classes for the study of various musical subjects. This gives some idea of the comprehensive nature of the work to be done at the new Conservatorium and of the activity of the director and his staff of teachers.

UNIVERSITY CONSERVATORIUM.

The University authorities are becoming quite enthusiastic in musical matters, and seem determined to make efforts to cultivate a taste for music in Adelaide. Professor Ives thinks this can best be done by the holding of good concerts, and he is arranging for a series of three chamber and two orchestral concerts to be given during the winter months. An orchestra has been formed, and already contains quite a number of able executants, who are enthusiastically practising symphonies and other classical movements under Herr Heinicke's able direction. Herr Remann is to have charge of the chamber concerts, which will be given in the University Library. An important feature of the work that is being done at the Conservatorium is the attention that is being paid to this much-neglected branch of music in the ensemble classes, two of which have already been formed under the care of Herr Kugelberg, who is exceedingly enthusiastic in his work. Herr Kugelberg has had great experience in chamber music playing, and he considers some of his students show talent of high order in this branch of study. Besides the public concerts, students' concerts are to be given from time to time, to which the public are also to be admitted. A circular just issued announcing the formation of about sixteen classes for different subjects of music study gives some idea of the extensive nature of the work that is being done at the Conservatorium.

THE SCHOOL OF MINES AND INDUSTRIES

The popular cry raised some years ago, and since continued with more or less persistency, but gradually lessening justification, was "Technical education." "We want," said the people, "an institution which shall do for the manual arts what the University does for higher education and the professions." In response to this reasonable demand the School of Mines and Industries was created. Now it is established with increasing stability, and its records show how far it has accomplished its object—to what extent it has diverted the youth of the country from the already over-crowded professions and mercantile offices to industrial and kindred pursuits, and in what measure it has improved the standard of technical work in the colony. And, speaking broadly, the School of Mines has no cause to be ashamed of its achievements, but substantial reasons to be proud of some of them. It may not have done all that was possible, or even as much as was expected from it by its sanguine promoters; but its more practical officers were heavily handicapped at the beginning of their work—and have been more or less throughout its history—by the fantastic notions of the responsible Minister concerning what it ought to accomplish. Its conductors were never required to instruct their pupils in the most economical method of constructing rainbows, but some of the subjects placed on the School curriculum were well calculated to inspire the pen of the writer of caustic humour. But all things have their transitions. Even now the institution aims at undertaking a great deal—far too much, in the opinion of some competent authorities. It seeks to compass the instruction of a blushing miss in the best way to cook a chop, to iron a shirt, and to hem a garment; and at the same time introduces the male students into all the mysteries of chemistry, statics and hydrostatics, assaying and metallurgy, electrical engineering, and so on. The objection is not that a well-cooked chop, a faultlessly glossy shirt, or a well-fitting dress does not play an important part in the happiness or misery of the world; but the objectors think that the School of Mines and Industries—the University of the mining expert, the artisan, and the mechanic—is hardly the best place for instruction in the arts and graces of the kitchen and the millinery shop. Nobody would dream of taking a pannikin and a sandwich to a Lord Mayor's banquet, and few persons would think of looking for a cookery or a dressmaking circle in a high-class educational establishment from which are to issue the competent mining specialists and eminent engineering experts of the future.

We have emphasized more than once the common-sense objections to the ornamental fripperies of the School, and more than twice our position has been misrepresented. We have never sought to discount in even the slightest degree the zeal or the capacity of the Council governing the establishment, though the special qualifications of some of its past members needed demonstration. Now, however, the Counsellors as a whole are good all-round men; and highly creditable to them and their officers is the new publication issued by the "South Australian School of Mines and Industries and Technological Museum." This book contains the latest annual report, an account of the proceedings at the close of the 1897 session, and a mass of valuable information relating to the work of the past and the programme for the future. Accompanying the letter-press are a number of fine illustrations, which not only charm the artistic eye, but also convey an excellent idea of the way in which the various classes are conducted. The volume is comely in every respect, and as an advertisement for the School and an illustration of the creditable standard of technical education attained in South Australia it is well worth whatever it may have cost. The official account of the proceedings of the School for the year ended on December 31, 1897, which as President of the Council Mr. J. L. Bonython has compiled, states that the number of subjects taught was 29, against 27 in the previous year. The students enrolled during 1897 numbered 957, compared with 895 in 1896 and 670 in 1895. One class in chemistry for tanners and

another in wool-sorting were added to the School last year, and if sufficient inducement should be offered the Council is prepared to give instruction in viticulture and navigation. A conference held between representatives of the Councils of the University and the School of Mines resulted in arrangements being made by which students of the University course of mining, engineering, and metallurgy will study assaying, quantitative analysis, and "possibly other subjects" at the School of Mines. This co-operation on the part of the two representative Schools of higher education—which, as the Vice-Chancellor of the Sydney University remarked the other day, should be regarded as the complement of each other, since "together they make a grand machine for the education of the people"—will be recognised in future in the diplomas issued to successful students. The assay department of the School of Mines was kept busy during last year, and 2,452 assays were made against 2,170 for 1896. Of these 1,443 were "free assays for the

public"—a sample of the generosity of the State which those benefited should duly appreciate even if private assayers do not.

In an address at the Sydney Technical College a few days ago Lord Hampden strongly emphasized the importance of technical education, and remarked that he had been told by an Alderman of the City of Manchester that "Lancashire operatives were barbarians compared with the intelligent German artisans." If such criticism be ever deserved by the industrial classes in South Australia it will not be because means have not been devised for giving them the opportunity of obtaining a general as well as a technical education, although the sphere of influence of even so comprehensive an institution as our Schools of Mines is necessarily limited, in the sense that they can be attended only by those residing within easy reach of them. So far as possible, however, the curriculum of the Schools discourages too great a tendency towards centralization; and with reference to such classes as those devoted to the study of mining in all its branches, viticulture, and wool-sorting one may presumably justify the hope that the purely native industries of the country will receive more attention than the exotics which require to be pampered in fiscal hothouses—fostered at the serious expense and to the loss of the community. The popularity of the instruction provided at the School of Mines and the nature of the work done are well illustrated in the reports written by the examiners and instructors. Professor Rennie says:—

Twenty students in all entered the evening classes in chemistry at the University at the beginning of the year, of whom six took the more advanced practical course. The number remained practically the same till the end of the year, though there were a few changes. With few exceptions these students were very regular in their attendance and attentive to their work, and some of them did very well indeed at the annual examinations. The work done in advanced metallurgy and assaying was almost uniformly good. All the examinations convinced me that the students who failed did not owe their failure to imperfect teaching, because all the students who came out well showed distinct evidence of careful training up to the standard required of them.

Regarding tuition in mineralogy, Mr. Turner says:—

This year, owing to the large proportion of regular students, the class has been an exceptionally good one, both with respect to attendance and also to the quality of work done, the latter point being undoubtedly due to the fact that the students had received the necessary chemical training before joining.

In the new class devoted to wool-sorting station work was first considered, and this included the skirting, rolling, and classing of fleeces, with hints in wool-valuing. It is proposed soon to rearrange the Museum, and prepare a guide-book for visitors—reforms which we have frequently advocated. It is a remarkable fact that in no South Australian Government institution devoted to popular instruction and mental recreation have the people been supplied with a catalogue worthy of the name. Altogether, we repeat, the latest annual report of the School of Mines is a complete and interesting account of the work performed by the institution, and a record of general improvement in actuality and in prospect. Its conductors should, however, beware of the danger which besets all energetic people—the risk of trying to do too much—and carefully avoid anything like duplication of work in separate institutions of the State.

CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC.

The tenders received by the council of the Adelaide University for the erection of the Elder Conservatorium of Music buildings were opened on Thursday afternoon. Some time was occupied in considering the various tenders, but ultimately that of Mr. W. C. Torode for £13,625 was accepted. The building when finished will be a very handsome structure, and has been admirably designed for the purposes of the Conservatorium. Large and small concert rooms, sound-proof classrooms, lavatories, and other conveniences have been provided, and everything that experience could suggest or ingenuity devise has been brought into requisition in order to make the building a success. Situated on the eastern side of the University it will form a handsome addition to the parent institution as well as a permanent ornament to North-terrace.

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