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### CHORAL AND ORCHESTRAL CONCERT.

The Elder Hall was taxed beyond its limits on Wednesday night, when the University Choral Class and Conservatorium orchestra, under Mr. Frederick Bevan, gave their annual concert. The works presented were Hofmann's "The legend of the fair Melusina," Bach's cantata, "A stronghold sure," and Mendelssohn's unfinished opera "Loreley." The first two were new to the audience. Generally viewed, the massed productions were highly enjoyable. Mr. Bevan swayed a chorus of 140 voices. Of that number, however, only eight were tenors, and, although they made a valiant octette, they were naturally overborne at times. In respect of quality and discipline, the choir was as fine a body as has been heard at the Conservatorium, and the full orchestra, led by Miss Sylvia Whittington, gave a splendid account of itself. "The legend of the fair Melusina" is dolorous tragedy. She, the Queen of the Naiads of a forest-bowered fountain, has fallen in love with the Count Raymond. Despite warnings of the nymphs, she betroths herself to her huntsman lover; but she requires that on each seventh day she be permitted to disappear and that he should have faith in her and seek not to solve the mystery of her absence. Part the second of the story finds the bride in her Count's castle. Unhappily the curse of famine lies on his lands, and the people declare the bride, with her mysterious absences, a witch. They force Raymond to seek, though with unbroken faith, her hiding place. He intrudes upon the carols of the nymphs. Thus, having broken his oath, he is condemned by the water spirits to death. The work gave musicianly scope, both for singers and instrumentalists, without rising to inspiration. The soprano role of "Melusina" was jointly sustained by Misses Doris James and Eva Close, both of whom made gratifying use of light ranges. Miss Gladys Cilento took the contralto part of "Clotilda." Mr. Francis Halls as "Raymond" gave an expressive interpretation. He was in rich, mellow voice, and invested his declamations and pleadings with genuine feeling; particularly was that the case in the sweetly melodious legato lines. "Since you demand." As "Sinttram" and the king of the water spirits, Mr. Richard Correll employed a striking bass voice, well developed, sure, melodious, and easily produced. The fitting choruses of the water nymphs, and the hursters' chorus were the best ensembles. Mr. Bevan had to acknowledge warm congratulations at the close of the work.

The typically involved contrapuntal choruses of Bach's "E in Feste Burg" were not rendered the more enjoyable by the poor acoustics of the hall. When the choristers, orchestra, and grand organ (played by Mr. Hurtle Coumbe), were joined in issue the masterly whole was unfortunately blurred. The superb orchestration of the chorale, "If all the world" inevitably aroused admiration, however; and so did the grand, harmonious final chorale. "That word shall still in strength abide." The soloists were Misses Gertrude Wood, May Forsaith, and Agnes Healy; and Messrs. Leslie Martin and Frederick Booker. Some of the passages were rather overpowering to the student vocalists, but Mr. Booker soared immediately with his clear, ringing tenor recitative.

Mendelssohn's opera (the composing of which had not been concluded when death overtook the master), was given in the Elder Hall six years ago. Last night Mr. Bevan's forces rendered the "Ave Maria," "Vintage song," and the great finale. Mr. Coumbe again efficiently occupied the organ seat. In the "Ave" Miss Emma Williamson's soprano voice was employed in the solo lines. The male choristers made powerful effect of their lay of the "stave and hoop." In the finale Mrs. Hilda Wheeler was called upon to sustain the heavy soprano role, and she succeeded well. At the conclusion of the last chorus-climax the conductor and his choir and orchestra were accorded sustained applause.

### University Choral Concert.

The seating accommodation at the Elder Hall was taxed to the utmost on Wednesday night, when the University Choral and Orchestral classes, under the baton of Mr. Frederick Bevan, provided the programme. The choral work was very fine, notably in Bach's Cantata "A Stronghold Sure," a work which calls for absolute precision and accuracy. The soloists were Miss Gertrude Wood, Mr. Leslie Martin, Miss May Forsaith, Miss Agnes Healey, and Mr. Frederick Booker. In Hoffman's "The Legend of Melusina," the class did some good dramatic singing and presented some fine tonal effects. The solo parts, were allotted to Miss Doris James, Miss Eva Close, Mr. Francis Halls, Miss Gladys Cilento, and Mr. Richard Correll. Excerpts from Mendelssohn's unfinished opera "Loreley" concluded the programme, in which Miss Emma Williamson sang the opening solo, and Miss Hilda Wheeler the trying soprano themes. The chorus were successful in depicting the passionate character of the score. The accompaniments were played by the Conservatorium Orchestra, which responded to that fine conducting of Mr. Bevan with great discernment. For the solo work, however, a better effect would have been secured had the accompaniment been less overpowering. Mr. Hurtle Coumbe at the organ rendered no inconsiderable assistance. Regarded from an educational point of view, the choice of works showed good judgment, while the performance on the whole was one on which Mr. Bevan may be warmly congratulated.

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### GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

"Is it the intention of the Government to remove the Governor from Government House with the object of utilizing the ground for residential purposes in connection with University students?" This question was put to the Chief Secretary by the Hon. F. S. Wallis, the Leader of the Labour Opposition in the Legislative Council, on Wednesday afternoon. No doubt what Mr. Wallis meant was the removal of Government House, and not the ejection of the viceregal representative. The Minister diplomatically answered that the matter had not yet been brought under the notice of the Government.

### UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.

Candidates are notified by advertisement that October 1 is the last day of entry for University public examinations. Entries from local centres must reach the University by that date. Candidates for degree and diploma examinations must enter not later than October 7.

### LAND FOR UNIVERSITY.

The PREMIER, in reply to Mr. Smeaton, said the Government had not come to a decision regarding the proposal to alienate the land now used by the Royal Agricultural Society for University purposes. In referring to the matter that morning he had said that covetous eyes were being cast at the land, and that when the area was being reallocated the claims of the University would have to be considered. He had meant no discourtesy by his remark. Mr. SMEATON asked whether he had understood the Premier to say he had some ultimate intention with reference to Government House? The PREMIER replied that what he said on the subject of Government House, speaking generally, was that when it became too small to accommodate the Governor of the State properly, he thought it would make a fine residential college in connection with the University, and if

### THE EXHIBITION GROUNDS.

#### WHO IS TO HAVE THEM?

Mr. Smeaton, in the House of Assembly on Wednesday, said the Premier had said the grounds now occupied by the Agricultural Society would probably be devoted to an extension of the University property. Had any determination been come to with respect to that matter? The Premier (Hon. A. H. Peake) replied in the negative. What he had said was that many covetous eyes—and he used the words in no objectionable sense—were cast on the land by institutions, all of which would make good use of the land if they received it, and when that land was to be allotted the claims of the University would have to be considered.

Mr. Smeaton—Does that reply include Government House? Mr. Peake—I said, speaking generally, that when Government House became too small properly to accommodate the Governor of this State I thought it would make a very fine residential college, and supply the want, the provision for which the Right Hon. James Bryce strongly recommended—a residential college.

Mr. Smeaton asked if the Premier anticipated that the Government House was likely to be too small for the Governor.

Mr. Peake said he was not anticipating. He was only imagining the great progress of the State. He did not think there was any early probability of Government House being too small. (Laughter.)

Mr. Smeaton asked if the council of the School of Mines had already made a claim for some of the land which the Agricultural Society was about to vacate.

Mr. Peake—Not that I am aware of. Mr. MacGillivray asked the Commissioner of Crown Lands if the council of the School of Mines had not applied to his department for a certain area of the land.

The Commissioner of Crown Lands (Hon. F. W. Young)—Not to my knowledge.

### UNIVERSITY RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE.

The Hon. F. S. WALLIS asked whether the Government had in contemplation the removal of the viceregal residence from the present Government House with the object of using that building as a residential portion for students at the Adelaide University.

The CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. J. G. Bice) said the matter had not yet been brought under the notice of the Government.

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used for that purpose it would supply what the Right Hon. James Bryce had described as a great need.

Mr. SMEATON enquired whether the Premier anticipated that Government House was likely to be too small for the Governor at an early date.

The PREMIER said he was not anticipating, but only imagining that in keeping with the great progress of the State it might become too small, although he did not expect it would be in the near future.

Mr. SMEATON asked whether the School of Mines and Industries had applied for any section of the land that was to be vacated.

The PREMIER replied not that he was aware of.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY asked the Commissioner of Crown Lands if the authorities of the School of Mines had sent in any application to be allowed a certain quantity of the land now held by the Royal Agricultural Society.

The COMMISSIONER of CROWN LANDS (Hon. F. W. Young)—Not to my knowledge.