

Register  
May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1914.

The  
Advertiser  
May 6<sup>th</sup> 1914.

HOW TO TALK.

The Register has long advocated the creation of a Chair of Elocution or Rhetoric in connection with the University, as a logical sequel to many of the other achievements of that fine seat of learning. It is, therefore, pleasant to observe the earnestness and zeal with which that policy is urged, in an interview reported to-day, by the Rev. Thomas Tait, who is a practical, as well as a theoretical, authority upon the subject. Mr. Tait's remarks are based upon the soundest reasoning, and they are worthy of the most careful consideration. The eloquent preacher really suggests, doubtless in diplomatic discretion, more than he actually says. In any case, probably, he would hardly, in these days of literary society competitions, endorse the opinion of the cynical man who blurted out in disgust—"More time is spent in this country in teaching parrots and cockatoos to talk words of which they don't understand the meaning, than in telling educated men how to utter properly and without mumbling some of the sense and sentiment of which they are chockful. And so they stay like so many reservoirs of learning without any distributing pipes—their tongues can't tap the contents of their heads—while the world is waiting for the new wisdom which it wants but can't get." He closes by significantly comparing men who have knowledge, and cannot explain it through lack of tongue-control, with "chests full of gold and no key to unlock them!" Mr. Tait, too, expresses essentially the same idea in another way when he refers to the many mute Boanergeses who waste their weight of erudition in isolated areas, solely and simply because they have never been taught how to circulate among others the knowledge they have acquired.

Emerson is doubtless right in saying, as he does in one of his essays, something to the effect that the most eloquent mortal is the street vendor who cries "Oysters!" inspired with the knowledge that his bread-and-butter depend largely upon the appeal which he puts into his voice. Another philosopher also may be perfectly justified in the judgment that even a dumb man can wax eloquent when he smites his thumb with a hammer. But if either should say that oratory is merely a matter of opportunity, and nothing else, neither would find that proposition easily demonstrable. Anyhow, nobody would apply the same reasoning to the case of an untutored cantatrice; and it does seem singular that while the world, as a matter of course, demands the severest training as a means to enable people to utter somebody's great thoughts—or otherwise—in the higher octaves, few folk consider it at all necessary that other people should ever be taught how to express their own reflections with the

speaking voice. An educational institution which has a numerously attended and costly Conservatorium of Music, and yet possesses no Conservatorium of Rhetoric, suggests the simile of a three-wheeled carriage. One part of the net result of such arrangements is that in churches the choir is carefully instructed how to sing the hymns, which were intended to be only incidental to the service, and the chief figure in the whole proceeding is rarely initiated into even the elements of the mechanics of preaching. So that, although—like a certain proverbial parrot—he may be "a beggar to think," he cannot disseminate the effect of his meditations. What would be the practical use of a man who was a complete master of the theory of cricket if he could not bat or bowl? Not far distant is the day when, save in exceptional cases, no aspiring professional preacher will be able to pass his final examination until he shall have gained a certificate of competency in the art of letting others know what he knows himself. Of course, glibness without thought would be so much tiresome and useless prattle, but the holding of thought and knowledge without the power of diffuse them would be no whit better. By all fair means let us have a Chair of Rhetoric.

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DR. MAWSON.  
ARRIVAL IN LONDON.  
LONDON, May 3.  
Dr. and Mrs. Mawson arrived in London to-day, and were welcomed at the Victoria station by several prominent citizens, including Captain R. M. Collins (secretary to the High Commissioner's Department), Sir Ernest Shackleton, Dr. J. Scott Keltie, F.R.G.S., and Sir R. L. Lucas-Tooth, F.R.G.S., formerly of Sydney.

EDUCATION IN VICTORIA.  
INSPECTION OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS.  
Melbourne, May 5.  
Sir Alexander Peacock, the Minister of Education, was approached recently by a deputation from the Melbourne University and urged to institute inspection of secondary education in order to allow the present public examinations to be superseded by a system of leaving certificates. Under the proposals the Minister is asked to appoint a staff of secondary school inspectors, who will furnish the schools board with data, upon which they will decide whether a secondary school is to be classed efficient or not. When a school is classed as efficient its pupils may be awarded a leaving certificate upon a much less elaborate examination than the present public examination, provided that their work as recorded over a series of years has been satisfactory. Under such a scheme there will be less incentive to narrow teaching to limits necessarily prescribed for an examination. There will be less incentive to cram and a greater obligation on the part of the pupil to work systematically throughout his course. In order to enable the University to bring the system into operation it was suggested that a chief inspector of secondary schools and two secondary school inspectors should be appointed, and that in the selection of these officers weight should be given to academic qualifications and to experience in different types of secondary schools. To-day the Cabinet approved the scheme.

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Mr. W. A. Laver arrived in Adelaide on Thursday morning by the Melbourne express. During the afternoon Mr. Laver, representing the Victorian and Queensland Universities, attended the annual conference on public examinations in music, held at the Adelaide University.