

Advertiser, 25th May 1915

Conservatorium Concert.

A pleasing concert was given in the Elder Hall on Monday evening by the students of the Elder Conservatorium, before a large and thoroughly appreciative audience. The programme, which was of a representative character, opened with the vocal quartet, "Un di se ben ramentomi," from "Rigoletto" (Verdi), the vocalists being Misses Myrtle Ingham and Hilda Gill, and Messrs. Leslie Martin and Richard Correll. The number proved very popular, and the artists were loudly applauded. Miss Rosie Spriggs gave a nice rendering of the pianoforte number, "Rondo brilliant," opus 62 (Weber). In the vocal bracket, "Melisande in the wood" (A. Goetz), and "Lullaby" (Sullivan), Miss Daisy Smith sang with taste. A violin solo, "Mazurka" (Zarzycki), by Miss Paula Newkill, made a pleasing item. The songs, "The devout lover" (White), by Mr. R. Correll; "Elizabeth's prayer," from "Tannhauser" (Wagner), by Miss Vera Thrush; "O, vision entrancing" (Thomas), by Mr. H. Gard; "Si tu m'aime" (Pergolesi), and "Without thee" (Gounod), by Miss Gertrude Wood; and "A song of thanksgiving" (F. Allitson), by Miss G. Prosser, were all rendered in a manner which gave evidence of careful training and close study. Miss Lillian Barbour contributed the pianoforte solo, "Capriccio brilliant," opus 22 (Mendelssohn); and Miss Kathleen Meezen played the violin solo, "Romance," from the "Second concerto," opus 22 (Wieniawski); and Mr. A. Bampton gave the last movement of the "Sonata in F sharp" (Rheinberger) as an organ solo. All performers showed distinct talent in their work.

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Captain A. H. Possingham
(Killed).

PREPARING FOR RETURNED SOLDIERS.

MR. BARR SMITH'S GENEROUS OFFER.

Mr. R. Barr Smith has magnanimously offered to the military authorities to place his splendid mansion at Torrens Park, together with the greater part of the large grounds, at their disposal during the progress of the war, to be used as a military hospital for the treatment of wounded, sick, and convalescent soldiers, who are returned home from the front. The house contains about 60 rooms, some of them being of considerable dimensions, and a beautiful and well-equipped theatre. It is proposed that this be used in connection with entertainments which will be organised for the diversion of the convalescent patients. Accommodation can easily be provided for 150 beds, and Mr. Barr Smith has generously offered to bear the expense of whatever alterations may be necessary to the premises in order to adapt them to the purpose for which they are to be devoted. Dr. R. S. Rogers (Acting City Coroner) has been placed in charge of the organising arrangements for the treatment in military hospitals of returned soldiers in need of medical attention.

Daily Herald 25th May/15

TRAINING THE CHILD

IN THE EASIEST POSSIBLE MANNER

NEW SYSTEM FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

An early start is to be made by the Government in connection with the bringing up to date of our education system. During his recent visit to Sydney and Melbourne the Minister of Education (Hon. Crawford Vaughan) paid a visit to several educational institutions, and has come back particularly struck with what he saw. The methods there in vogue he intends to apply to South Australia, and no time will be lost in doing this.

"I might tell you," said Mr. Vaughan to a reporter yesterday, "that while in Sydney I visited the famous Blackfriars School, in company with the New South Wales Director of Education (Mr. P. Board). I was very anxious to see the direct administration of the Montessori method, and there can be no question that this method of imparting knowledge—especially to infant children—has revolutionised the whole educational outlook. The set desks have given way to tables and chairs, and the restrictions imposed upon children under the old-time methods have been replaced by a freedom that brings out the initiative of the child. I propose to take early steps to introduce the Montessori method into our school system. To indicate that freedom does not lead to anarchy, Miss Simpson, of the Blackfriars School, informed me that, on one occasion, word of a teacher's absence failed to reach her. The class, consisting of children between four and six years of age, went on without any one noticing that the teacher was not present. Everything proceeded as usual, the children were at their games, and when Miss Simpson passed through the room she merely thought that the lady in charge was temporarily away from her class. It was not until later in the day that she discovered that no one had been in charge of the class during the morning. The work had gone on without any difficulty, and this in which is, perhaps, one of the worst slum quarters of Sydney."

The Minister also enquired into the question of the establishment of junior technical schools, upon which subject a report has been received from Inspectors McBride and Pavia, who recently visited Victoria. Mr. Vaughan regards the work accomplished by these schools in the eastern States as excellent in every way. The boys, he said, pursued their studies with the same zest as the little children did under the Montessori system. If South Australia desired to have a community of capable industrial workers, the examples set by New South Wales and Victoria would have to be followed, and it would be necessary to link up the technical branch of training with the primary system of education, as recommended by the Education Commission. It was proposed to start, at any rate, one junior technical school immediately, with a view to a general inauguration of a fuller technical training for their boys and girls. It was not yet settled where the school would be established, and he was not quite sure whether it would be necessary to engage an instructor outside the State or not.

ENTERTAINMENTS

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM CONCERT.

The first of the 1915 series of concerts to be held in connection with the Elder Conservatorium of Music took place in the Elder Hall before a large audience last evening. Admission was by invitation, and the friends and relatives of pupils availed themselves of the opportunity to be present at one of the most enjoyable musical functions of the year. The programme carried out by the students was well up to the usual high standard of such entertainments, and in one or two cases promise of rare talent was displayed. Verdi's beautiful quartette from Rigoletto "Un di se Rammentomi" was finely rendered by Misses Myrtle Ingham and Hilda Gill (Brookman scholar) and Messrs. Leslie Martin and Richard Correll, but the finest musical performance of the evening was the clever rendition of Weber's "Rondo Brilliant" for the piano by Miss Rosie Spriggs. Her technique was exceedingly good, and in the allegro passages she was noticeably clever. The number is a favorite one, and the applause with which it was greeted was well deserved. Miss Gertrude Wood possesses a sweet voice, and she was heard to advantage in two bracketted numbers "Se tu m'ami" (Pergolesi) and "Without Thee" (Gounod). This young lady shows promise of becoming a successful concert artiste. The vocal excellence of Mr. Richard Correll was much appreciated, and he was warmly greeted when he finished singing M. V. White's fine song "The Devout Lover." Miss Vera Thrush was loudly applauded for her fine expression and feeling in "Elizabeth's Prayer" (Magnificat) and "Rend' il Sereno al Ciglio" (Handel). Miss Mabel Halliday earned the approval of musical critics. The two songs essayed by Miss Daisy Smith were rendered well, and Miss Florence Price was also in the voice. Though not strong Mr. Harold Gard's notes are sweet and mellow, and his effort "O Vision Entrancing" (Goring Thomas) was enjoyed. Miss Gladys Prosser was heard to advantage in "A Song of Thanksgiving" by Francis Allitsen, and with a little more experience and practice this singer should develop into a fine vocalist. The instrumental items were particularly popular, the best liked perhaps being Miss Lillian Barbour's performance on the pianoforte of Mendelssohn's "Capriccio Brilliant." His touch and time were good. The orchestral accompaniment on a second piano further enhanced the effect of this number. Two violin solos were contributed by Miss Paula Mowkill and Miss Kathleen Meegan respectively. Both were well executed. The final item was the organ "Sonata in F sharp" (last movement) by Rheinberger, which was most convincing. Under the deft fingers of Mr. Alfred Bampton the fine instrument almost found words in which to express the beautiful idea the composer meant to convey. For the first concert the programme presented last evening was most successful.

The Register

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Sydney University's Contribution.

Expressions of patriotic earnestness were intermingled with the jests and sallies which, as usual, marked commemoration night in connection with the Sydney University at the Sydney Town Hall. These proceedings were in the main of the nature of a concert organized by the students in aid of the Belgians. The Chancellor of the University (Sir William Cullen), in the course of a brief address, mentioned that 350 graduates and undergraduates had already left for the front.