ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

CONCLUDING CONCERT OF THE SEASON.

The high musical standard of the Adelaide Conservatorium was demonstrated last night, when the dignified and combined concert of the 1925 season was held in the Elder Hall. The director of the Conservatorium, Mr. E. J. Harold Davies, presented to the vice-Chancellor (Professor W. Mitchell) the associates in music for 1925. The six scholars who will take up the scholarships awarded them in 1926. He introduced the following associates in music, who had taken the pianoforte as their principal subject—Misses Marjorie Messina Adamson, Bessie Francis, and Miss Mabel Morley, and Messrs. David Alexander Burnand, Harold Robert Foale, Joan Alexander Williams, and Miss Hazel Blanche Lillecrapp, who took singing as her principal subject. The Alderman Scholar, Mr. Hartley Williams (violin), and Alexander Clark scholar, Miss Joyce Elizabeth Watson (singing), were also presented, and the public examinations in music scholars, Misses Theodora Allman Rice and Miss Miriam Beatrice Hyde. Professor Mitchell conferred the diplomas earned by the successful candidates, and welcomed the scholarship holders.

The programme was particularly well balanced, and as many teachers of the Conservatorium as possible were represented by their pupils. There was a more remarkable enthusiasm when Miss Margaret Walsh sang "Caro Nome" (Verdi). The brilliance and freshness of her voice led to repeated recalls, and it was some time before the audience was assured that the Conservatorium rule of no encores would be adhered to. The Conservatorium student orchestra did exceptionally well in Komazakbaja," and the true Slavonic atmosphere was well preserved throughout. Precision of attack and balance of tone were outstanding features of this number. Miss Muriel Prince, the Brookman scholar, gave a meaning and thought rendering, and in the first movement of Chopin's famous Concerto in F minor, and there was a scintillating delicacy of touch which was exceptionally charming. There was no lack of depth in interpretation in his more severe passages of the final great work, in which she had the advantage of Miss Maud Puddy at the second piano. Miss Jean Renou and Mr. Alex Burnard gave a brilliant rendering of Julius Franck's Organ Choral in A minor, arranged for two pianos. The first movement of the Max Bruch Concerto in D minor was played by Miss Gladys Gmeiner, and the accomplished violinist delighted everyone with the mobility of her bowing and the rich tone she achieved. All the music filling in of Popper's "Spanish Dance" was brought out by Mr. Carlyle Fenn, and his 'cello solo was one of the most enjoyable numbers of the evening. Puccini aria, "One fine day," was successfully sung by Miss Ruth Naylor, and used to show not only the full range of her voice but her sympathetic understanding. Miss Mary Horgan is a gifted pianist, and her playing of Liszt's Polonaise in E was excellent. The Templar's song, "On the moorflake," was a happy choice for Mr. Sydney Coombe, who sang with taste and sound musical judgment. "Ombra Mai Fu" (Handel) was a stern test for Miss Ada Miekle, but the young singer showed excellent technical equipment and a voice of remarkable range and sympathy. Mr. Gibbons was responsible for the 'cello obligato in this. A Gavotte and Variations (Rameau) showed that Mr. Jack Thomas is a pianist of more than ordinary attainments. He made light of the technical difficulties, and the tempo was exceptionally fine. Moreover, Mr. Williams clarity of tone which preserves the same value of each note of the most brilliant passages. Miss Louise Hahndorf gave a delightful rendering of Wieniawski's Polonaise in D, her bowing being noticeably and Rheinberger's Sonata in E flat minor (second movement) was an impressive organ solo played by Mr. Frederic Finlay with keen appreciation of its values. The concert was a happy conclusion to a successful year, during which the season's conference held at the Conservatorium proved the season of inestimable benefit to teachers and students alike.

Elder Conservatorium

An exceptionally interesting programme has been arranged for the final concert of the 1925 season, to be held in the Elder Hall on Monday night. It will open with an orchestral number by the Russian composer, Michael Glinka, which will be rendered by the student orchestra, under the baton of Mr. W. H. Foote, immediately following this item Prof. Harold Davies (Director of the Conservatorium) will present to Prof. W. Mitchell (Vice-Chancellor of the University) the associates in music for 1925, and the scholars who have been recommended for 1926.

The remaining portion of the programme will be devoted to a specially selected number of vocal and instrumental items, which will be given by students of the Conservatorium. Box-plan and tickets are available at S. Marshall and Sons, Gawler place.

NEW SPENCE SCHOLAR

Study World Social Conditions

PLANS FOR MISS CURTIS

Miss Daisy R. Curtis, who has been adjudged the third Catherine Helen Spence scholar, was chosen from among eight applicants for the honor. Miss Curtis is an officer in charge of the women police at Port Pirie, having been attached to that branch of the Civil Service since January, 1921.

Dr. Dorothea Pavy and Dr. Constance Davey, the first and second Spence scholars, are qualified University women, but the advisory committee, of which Mr. W. J. McCoy is chairman, which has to do with the selection of the holder, did not deem it an essential that the successful applicant should have an academic degree. There is nothing in the regulations which insists on it, and the committee in its decision was influenced by the fact that although several of the applicants were highly qualified University women, Miss Curtis, being actively engaged in social work would be able to give to the State on her return from abroad the benefit of a wider experience in a definite direction.

It is believed that opportunity will be afforded her of pursuing a course of study in psychology, economics, and ethics with the Workers' Educational Association or at the Adelaide University. Through the good offices of some members of the advisory committee Dr. Jethro Brown (president of the Arbitration Court) became interested and he has kindly consented to direct Miss Curtis reading in elementary law and in the laws of South Australia especially relating to women and children.

After 18 months or two years of this preparatory study, Miss Curtis will visit London, Paris, and possibly New York, to study the methods of women police, of children's courts, the white slave traffic, drug habit, and alcoholism. It is also suggested that she shall gain an insight into the work among prostitutes, neglected and deserted children and wives, public entertainments in their relation to morals and censorship and its effects.

Brig.-Gen. R. L. Leane (Commissioner of Police) and Miss Kate Cocks (Superintendent of Women Police) are keenly interested in the work that Miss Curtis is about to undertake, and both speak highly of her qualifications and devotion to duty.

MISS DAISY R. CURTIS

who will stay in Adelaide and later travel abroad to become acquainted with social questions.

AYERS FOREST RESERVE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—We beg to be allowed to give publicity to a course of Government policy which threatens to be of most serious injury to the State generally, and to this Mid-North district in particular. Some years ago, in pursuance of the policy of afforestation, portion of the old Booborowie stock routes, aggregating about 800 acres, was planted with trees of various description, which now represent forests of great value and beauty, and of high potential worth. Quite recently, a bomb shell has been cropped in the shape of a Government edict that these forests are to be cut up and allotted for agricultural purposes, which virtually means their destruction. As soon as the terms of this shock was recovered from, a meeting of district farmers and settlers was hurriedly called and largely attended, and a deputation appointed, consisting of the Mayor of Burra, the chairman of many district councils, and other prominent men, to wait upon

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the Commissioner of Crown Lands and enter strong protest against this form of damage and desecration. The deputation met the Commissioner on the 22nd ultimo and represented its views. His reply was given in candor and brevity, and was that his mind was made up and he would not alter it; that tree planting in the past had been a matter of sentiment; that the Government now intended to conduct it on profitable lines; that the Government did not intend to keep the residents in firewood, and that the best he could promise would be that any district council concerned might apply for a block in the usual way, and take its chance with other applicants. Since then he has made some further public statements of the same tenor. Following this development, a petition to the Legislature is now in course of signature and further indignation meetings have been held, at one of which a resolution was unanimously carried pledging each one present to abstain from applying for the blocks to be offered, and to make a similar appeal to all other intending applicants.

The situation is one of peculiar rarity, inasmuch as there is nothing but wholehearted unanimity in a community of residents occupying an area of over a million acres locally, and we trust and believe over the whole of the agricultural community of the State, that these forests should be preserved. Such a desire redounds to the credit of the intelligence of such communities, for it is in keeping with the far-seeing policy of afforestation adopted by the Governments of all civilised nations. It further shows that they are willing to subordinate the advantages that might accrue to them personally by the allotment of a block rather than be parties to irreparable damage to the district and State. In a recent issue of the Government Gazette, conditions are published in relation to the allotment of certain Government blocks in one of our districts, and one of the conditions laid down is that the successful applicant must set apart and reserve five acres in every 250 acres for the growth of timber, and that no timber trees growing thereon shall be destroyed. This notice is signed by the Commissioner of Crown Lands. The proposals of the Commissioner, which we are now so strenuously combating, mean the destruction of hundreds of acres of growing trees. If the matter were not so serious, the Commissioner's actions might be viewed as burlesque. We do not deny that large sums of public money have perhaps been judiciously expended in these and kindred Government tree plantings, but whatever the cost of these plantations may have been, they have now reached a profitable stage of development, and the money expended cannot be recovered by rushing at them with an axe in blind fury and rage. The best that can be done, and which we wish to be done, is to economise in the present cost of upkeep, and this can be at once achieved, and the Government relieved of all further expenditure, by handing over the control of the forests to the district councils concerned, under conditions that will safeguard their preservation.

The Government may claim, that this course will deprive them of the rent that may accrue to the public revenue by letting the blocks for farming, and that land settlement to the extent of two farms which the forests would provide, will be defeated. Neither of these claims possesses any merit. In the first one, it is more than probable that the forests will produce more revenue under the careful control such as the councils would give, than the rentals under farming allotment would come to. One settler alone in the district has paid £150 to the Forest Department for the removal of surplus wood that has contributed to the welfare of the forest growth, and many similar instances of material revenue could be adduced. As to the second condition, our State must be reduced to pitiable extremes and paucity of lands if its destiny will be in any way affected by withholding from farming occupation some 800 acres of land that is already possessed of far greater remunerative value than what any farming can give. In this connection we might point out that most of the forest lands we are referring to constitutes the roughest portions of the district, and that much of it is utterly unsuited for farming operations. We wish it to be understood that we are only opposing the allotment of the lands now planted with trees, and do not want the issue clouded, for in respect to all other vacant lands in the neighborhood, we have consistently urged that they be allotted. The threatened destruction of the forests has come as a shock to the whole of the residents of this important district. It is no party question; the feeling is unanimous, and we are alarmed that apparently one man, in temporary control of the Crown Lands of the State, should pay so little heed to the wishes and experience of a vast body of people representing the backbone of the State, and ride roughshod over their unselfish aspirations for its welfare. We trust, sir, that you will assist us as far as possible in arresting the deplorable short-sightedness of the Commissioner of Crown Lands.—We are, &c.,

J. COUSINS, Chairman, District Council of Booborowie.
ISAAC J. WARNES, District Council of East Burra.
N. HILSE PEARCE, District Council of Burra.
J. BENTON, District Council of Hanson.
P. E. RICKARDS, District Council of Hallett.
W. J. HAWKES, District Council of Apoinga.

Sir Archibald Strong, who has been abroad on leave for a year, will return to Adelaide in March to resume his

SIR ARCHIBALD STRONG

who will return to Adelaide in March.

duties as Professor of English Literature at the Adelaide University.

Rhodes Scholar Wanted

It appears to be an uncomplimentary reflection on the State that either the Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee had consulted at Government House, they decided that no South Australian applicant had the qualifications for the coveted position in 1926.

Since the inception of the scholarships in 1904, 22 brilliant young men have gone to Oxford from Adelaide, and this is the first occasion that no suitable scholar was available.

The first Rhodes scholar in 1904 was Norman W. Jolly, D.Sc., who was the other day given the position of Director of the Federal School of Forestry.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

November Examination Results.

FACULTY OF SCIENCE.
FOR THE HONOURS DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE.
GEOLOGY 1925.
Second Class.—Howfeld, Paul Samuel, B.Sc.

THE ELDER SCHOLARSHIP.

From EMMIE RONCHETTI.—We read with much pride the news of Richard Watson's success in winning the coveted Elder Scholarship, which he justly deserves. Those who have heard his wonderful voice will agree, while artistry and personality, all assets possessed by Mr. Watson, should win for him a prominent position in the musical world. Mr. Watson handles his work in a most finished and artistic manner, which makes one assured of a brilliant career for him. Many vocalists have gone abroad for further study, but I do not think one has possessed quality of tone quite equal to that Mr. Watson displays.

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

To-night in the Elder Hall the final concert for the 1925 season will be given. An extremely interesting programme has been arranged. The first item will be an orchestral number by the Russian composer, Michael Glinka, rendered by the student orchestra, under the baton of Mr. W. H. Foote. This will be followed by the presentation of the Associates in Music for 1925, and the scholars recommended for 1926 Vice-chancellor of the University by the Director of the Conservatorium. The remaining portion of the programme will be devoted to a specially selected number of vocal and instrumental items by students of the Conservatorium. This concert will not be broadcast. The box-plan and tickets are available at S. Marshall & Sons.