

BLONDES AND BRUNETTES.

LECTURE BY PROFESSOR DARNLEY NAYLOR.

In a lecture before the Classical Association last night, Professor H. Darnley Naylor said Professor Griffith Taylor, of Sydney, had lately expressed the view that eye and hair color were of minor importance in deciding the question of race. Negligible, however, they could never be, and one might still, with due caution, follow Madison Grant and his school in tracing the "blond beast" through the middle ages to dim antiquity. It was permissible to see in the Adelphe drama some glimpses of ethnological truths. Was not the hero tall and fair, and, if epithet black-haired was used only of anything, rather stupid? Was not the villain dark and slight and extremely unbecomingly? Then, in the aeval tapestries, were not the earls and ladies golden-haired, while behind their chargers walked the black-haired churls and knaves? Again, in the paintings of Italy, the tendency was to give light hair to the noble and good, and dark hair to the disreputable. A blond Christ was usually set between two brunet thieves, and anything but a black Judas would be unthinkable. For all that there were examples which suggested that the type each artist saw about him exercised some influence in the choice of hair and eye color. Thus Raphael in the "Madonna of the Pinch" painted a blonde virgin, but this picture was done in northern Italy, where Nordic blood predominated. On the other hand, the "Madonna Della Sedia," painted in Rome, was dark; doubtless because the brunette type grew more and more frequent as one went further south.

It was significant that the very word "fair" expressed not color only, but those ethical qualities also which were supposed to distinguish the Nordic all down the ages. Pope Gregory's cry of "Non Angli sed angeli," when first he saw English slaves had helped, perhaps, to stereotype the appearance of celestial beings. Certainly all good angels had golden hair, and he would be a bold painter indeed who should depict them otherwise. Nothing better illustrated the bias of patriotism than the impossibility, for "Anglo-Saxons," of conceiving Japanese or Zulu inhabitants of heaven. Only respectable Nordics could be allowed to wear white robes and play upon harps of gold.

So far, one was on fairly firm ground; but when the times of the Romans and Greeks were reached the evidence was scantier, and the conclusions became more and more dubious. They might provisionally follow Sergi, and assume that somewhat mixed races, led by aristocratic Nordics formed that first settlement on the Tiber. The endless quarrels between aristocrats and plebeians were therefore racial and not political only. Rights of commerce (commercium) were more easily settled than rights of intermarriage (connubium); and for many centuries it was impossible for the dark plebeian to enjoy the highest offices. If one might judge by literature, the Romans had no great liking for brunettes. Virgil made even Dido have golden hair, but then he came from the north, and, naturally, no heroine for him could be dark-haired. Such epithets as flavus, and aureus, were almost universally applied to the hair of high-born ladies. Horace perhaps stood alone in expressing admiration for black hair and black eyes. But he was a southerner, and at heart, rather resisted the assumption that no good could come out of a brunet race. When one did hear of a dark heroine, the explanation was usually made that the father was from Egypt or India. If a slave was born in the palace with red hair, the scandal was hushed up by averring a miracle: the hair had burst into flames and the water-jug had extinguished the marvellous fire. As time went on, the Romans, doubtless, became reconciled to dark traits. Julius Caesar, they were told, had black piercing eyes. That might account for his democratic sympathies, which only ceased when the possibility presented itself of becoming "il duce" over a people who talked liberty but never understood it. Suetonius drew lively pictures of the emperors, and it was interesting to observe how more and more the Nordic color became prevalent, but by no means the Nordic virtues, if they might trust that interesting old scandal-monger.

Dr. Peter Giles, followed by Professor Bury, in the Cambridge Ancient History, had rather despaired of drawing any safe deductions from Greek literature. The old view had been that the Achaeans of Homer were warlords of Nordic ancestry, who, like the English barons, lived in castles and ruled the brunet aborigines with an iron hand. Much turned on the epithet "Xanthos" (yellow), applied to Menelaos and to many other Homeric heroes and heroines, not to mention gods and goddesses. Dr. Giles pointed out that "xanthos" in modern Greek signified almost any color short of absolute black. The modern use, however, should not be allowed to carry too much weight. Though we might not know precisely what Homer

meant by "xanthos," they did know what Plato and Aristotle intended by the word. They asserted clearly that the color was "red, mixed with white," that it lay "between red and green in the rainbow" (i.e., orange and yellow), that it was "the color of fire or of the sun"; and while "auburn," as Giles held, might be a fair description on occasions, there seemed no reason to believe that "yellow" should be excluded. It was true that the derivative verb was used of the color which was presented by cooked meat, but the passages cited were not decisive in the lecturer's opinion. The important fact was that no normal aristocrats of the Homeric age were described as black. The epithet "xanthos" was actually used of the Chief Justice in Hell, Rhadamanthus. This important official, who in life sat at the gate and administered the law, continued his admirable work in the stuffy courts of Hades. It was to be hoped that he spent a well-earned vacation among the fields of asphodel.

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It was to be observed that both men and women of the 5th century B.C., used to "yellow" their tresses in order to prevent themselves from being confused with the lower classes, just as in Roman time the ladies were accustomed to import from North Germany yellow "toupees" with which to conceal the tell-tale black of their natural hair. Pindar called the Danae (i.e., Achaeans) "yellow-headed," and thus followed the Homeric tradition. The late Greek painters who adorned the walls of Pompeian houses, rarely used any color save yellowish red for the heroines' hair. One curious exception, however, was to be made, and that was in a rough picture of the twelve gods, of whom all but Venus had black hair or no hair.

Madison Grant saw in the appearance of Alexander the Great an epitome of racial fusion, an example of the combined Mediterranean and Nordic type; for Alexander possessed one eye black and one eye blue, while golden hair graced the head of that much over-rated leader of men. Up to the 2nd century B.C., the admiration for "yellow" persisted, and Asclepiades, in a charming lyric, asked the petals, wet with a lover's tears, to fall upon the "golden head" of the beloved object. Thus one was driven to the belief that this admiration was not founded on some mysterious intuitional choice, but merely arose from a desire to imitate the superior families who, coming down from the north to harry and rob, settled to dominate the countries they had "annexed."

One thing, however, it would be perilous to forget, and that was that history recorded no valuable contributions to art and literature made by races of pure Nordic blood. The Spartans were splendid homicides, and no more. It was the mixed race which made Athens great; and it was the same fusion of Nordic and Mediterranean which had produced the British Commonwealth of Nations.

MID-DAY ORGAN RECITAL.

Another enjoyable recital was given by Professor Harold Davies, Mus. Doc., at mid-day on Thursday on the Elder Conservatorium organ, before a large and appreciative audience. The programme opened with a brilliant interpretation of Bach's "Fantasia and Fugue in G minor." The splendid harmonies of the difficult composition were well displayed, and the rapid passages, and clean distinct enunciation showed Dr. Davies' masterly execution to advantage. Of an entirely different school were the two well-known writings by Wolstenholme, "The question" and "The answer." In each item the series of color effects introduced as the composition developed from one phase to another added to the appealing character of the music, and awakened sympathy with the ideas expressed by the composer. "Romance sans paroles" (Van Goens), a bassoon solo, was played by Mr. W. H. Foote, A.R.C.M., in his usual artistic style. It is only in the hands of a master that the bassoon lends itself with distinction to solo work, but Mr. Foote demonstrated, as he has done on previous occasions, that the instrument has great expressive resources. The tonal quality was excellent, and blended admirably with the organ accompaniment. A "Pastoral song" by Guilmont made a charming contribution, and it was followed by "March on a Handel theme," by the same composer. The presentation was in Dr. Davies' usual tasteful style. The treatment gave adequate expression of the pleasing melody and rhythms.

THE PHARMACY ACT.

From "UNREGISTERED CHEMIST." Fullarton:—The letters of those who have taken up the cudgels on behalf of the Pharmacy Board are full of spite and venom, making it easily understood why the unregistered men objected to the Pharmacy Board as sole examiners of their competency, especially when a member of such board who has not passed any standard examination calls them derelicts. If they are, Mr. Fisk should have realised that they are not Mr. Howard's derelicts, but the Pharmacy Board's, and the master chemists, who had the destinies of these youths in their hands. If so many have failed to pass or sit for their examinations, surely it is a poor advertisement for the masters that they have been unable to produce competent and qualified men during an apprenticeship of four years. What other trade or profession can show such poor results at the end of an apprenticeship of four years? This alone proves that there has been something radically wrong in conditions under which these unfortunate youths have worked. There is obviously truth in their statement that they had no opportunity of study. Imagine, 8 a.m. until 10 p.m. daily, Sundays work days, except four hours in the afternoon off. Two nights a week after nine hours' mental fag, to study if you wished and were able. Certainly one afternoon a week off was given, for study, I suppose! There was no outdoor recreation after continual indoor work, no specified hours for attending lectures, and 2/6 a week to pay for them and the books, &c. That is the first year, and the same hours continued with a rise of 10/ each succeeding year, until the last year, when the apprentice was considered fit to take complete charge of the business, with a splendid remuneration of 30/ to £2 a week. In fact, many assistants were left in complete charge of registered pharmacies during their masters' pleasure, after two years' experience. This latter is carried on even to-day. After 4 years' experience under such conditions, they became derelicts, according to Mr. Fisk's ideas, as they did not receive any better conditions or hours; in fact, matters were worse, as they had greater responsibilities, and were expected to shoulder many of the general business worries. And so the slave days of these derelicts went on until they were too old and brain-fogged to study, when the law stepped in and forced the registered men to give better working conditions. Many members of the Pharmacy Board gained their diplomas without any test whatever, and others were fortunate enough to have masters who were able and willing to give their assistants help and opportunity to pass the examinations in theory. If the Pharmacy Board had any sense of fairness it would at least have asked Parliament to give it power to register those who could prove themselves competent and had worked under conditions they knew impossible for study.

REG. 3-7-26

Archdeacon Whittington, who is visiting Adelaide, has been asked by the Council of the University of Tasmania to act as co-delegate with the Tasmanian chancellor, Sir Elliott Lewis, K.C.M.G., at the jubilee of the University of Adelaide, of which the Archdeacon is a graduate in laws, next month.

REG. 3-7-26

Dr. Eric F. Gartrell and Mrs. Gartrell are expected to arrive at the Outer Harbour to-day by the Ormonde.

NEWS. 2-7-26

Organ Recitals

"A. B. M." Kirkealdy:—The free organ recitals by Dr. Harold Davies were thronged by music lovers of both sexes. All who are interested in good music will desire to thank heartily the talented musician who so worthily upheld the banner of the divine art. He selected judiciously his richly varied programmes and spared us the banalities of turgid-bombast called "storm fantasias!" We were fortunate in having in Adelaide musicians of the calibre of Dr. Davies and Mr. Harold Wyld, F.R.C.O. The recitals by the latter last year were also masterly. In these days of much meretricious music the value of their work is enhanced. The large attendances of our younger folk augur well for the future of music in our midst.

REGISTRATION OF ENGINEERS.

From "NON SIBI SED OMNIBUS." Woodville:—Engineering, broadly viewed, does not permit of any sectionalisation. For one branch to vaunt their claims to public notice and favor of Government implies a disparagement of the other, whether civil, mechanical, electrical, hydraulic, or architectural, which, though each is a specialised department, are merged and inter-related under the heading of science as applied to engineering practice. The highest ideals of social service imply that each will know his work and do it efficiently, and national greatness and security are only assured when the pulsations of national activity find expression in common service. This is the spirit in which we approach the issue raised by a deputation from the Institution of Engineers which recently waited on the Premier and asked that for the protection of the public registration should be made of engineers on lines prescribed by the institution, an organisation as yet exclusive and ignoring a great and important body of engineers who are not university products. We are anxious to know on what grounds registration is sought. Have the public suffered grievously in any way because there is no registration of engineers along the lines contended for by the Institution of Engineers? Are we to understand that responsible Government departments are incapable, despite their expert advisers, of determining whether an engineer is fitted for a position, and that he must have the approval and blessing of the institution, and all things will be right, where heretofore they have been wrong? Is it to be understood that henceforth the cloistered halls of a university are to be the open sesame to a recognised classification by the State? It is common knowledge that many of the great inventions in engineering have been made by men who have never graduated at a university. Many men conspicuously successful, not only in engineering, but in all avenues of life, can boast no alma mater. Does the wonderful advance of engineering owe nothing to that great, intelligent, and highly skilled body of men who, not having the advantage of social and influential position, have notwithstanding acquired technical education that has enabled them to submit a record of achievement in engineering of which any country may be proud? We hope that the Premier, in his laudable ambition to promote efficiency in industry, will not accept any classification of engineers for registration purposes before insisting, with his usual broad outlook, that the licensed Board of Trade engineers shall be represented.

REG. 5-7-26

EDUCATION SOCIETY CONFERENCE

The third conference of the Education Society will be held at the Institute Hall, North terrace, from Wednesday to Saturday next. The first session will be opened on Wednesday evening, and the following agenda has been arranged:—Subject, "Education for citizenship"; speakers, the Lord Mayor (Mr. Wallace Bruce) and the Director of Education (Mr. W. T. McCoy, B.A.); Chairman, Professor J. McKellar Stewart. Thursday.—Afternoon session, "Health and citizenship," Dr. F. S. Hone and Mrs. T. G. B. Osborn, M.S.; in the chair, Dr. Helen Mayo; evening, "Vocation and citizenship," Professor Chapman and Mr. A. E. Clarkson; Chairman, the Hon. L. L. Hill. Friday.—Afternoon, "The past and citizenship," Professor Hancock; Mr. D. H. Hollidge, M.A., Chairman; evening, "Culture and citizenship," Professor Darnley Naylor and Professor Sir Archibald Strong; Mr. W. R. Bayly, B.A., B.Sc. Saturday.—Morning, "The preparation of boys and girls for citizenship," Mr. W. J. Adey and Miss A. Miethke, B.A.; in the chair, Miss D. Gillam, M.A.; evening, "Politics and citizenship," Mr. J. G. Duncan-Hughes, M.H.R., LL.B.; Chairman, Professor Stewart.