

Also in Register
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we have yet to carry out a sympathetic, scientific, and organized study of aboriginal beliefs and customs. Again, what do we know of aboriginal psychology? What do we know of the blackfellow's sensory perceptions? We have no inkling of his physiological reactions. We are ignorant of the phases of his pre-natal development, his birth, his growth process, even of his death. We have numerous partial vocabularies of tribes that are living and of those that have already passed away, but we have no real knowledge of their language as the modern study of linguistics demands it. We have no key to their symbolism, we cannot interpret their sign-writing, we do not even know how ideas are conveyed in the absence of the spoken word. The ordinary physical characters of the aborigine as a zoological type have never been properly studied or recorded: we are ignorant of the range and nature of the variations met with in his structure. In truth, the record of our stewardship needs much special pleading, for it is a desperately bad one.

A Coincidence and a Moral.

In this year of grace, 1926, there is another anniversary that all of us will be asked to bear in mind. Again it is a jubilee, and one we will be glad to celebrate. In 1876 the University of Adelaide had birth. In this coincidence there is a moral. Every university that has evolved beyond the stage of being a mere glorified continuation school (and in the space of half a century that evolution must surely take place), has two main functions to fulfil. It must be responsible for education, it must teach and train the student; but it must also take its part in the general advancement of knowledge. If it fails in either sphere, it fails as a university. In its function of adding to the world's store of knowledge it is well that the University should devote itself to the problems most readily lying to its hand. It is in this way that a university serves the community in which it has its place. In this year of jubilee it may be well that, in addition to lauding our half-century of past utility, we look ahead to that time when we may be asked to give an account of our stewardship in regard to the study of that wonderful human document with which we have been entrusted. We may feel some satisfaction that, at the end of our 50 years as a centre of learning, no one is likely to ask us, "What have you done for the study of the aborigine?" But it may well happen that we shall be asked, "What are you going to do?" and, if we are to justify our half-century of existence as a university, our answer must be no uncertain one.

CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION.

The first meeting for the year of the Classical Association was held at the University on Thursday, when Dr. Lendon presided. A paper was read by Mr. D. H. Hollidge, in which a review was given of a recently issued book on The Catilinarian Conspiracy, by Dr. E. G. Hardy, principal of Jesus College, Oxford. The book was a re-study of the evidence as supplied in the original authorities—Sallust, Cicero, Plutarch, Appian, and Dio Cassius. No allusion was made to any modern account or reconstruction of the conspiracy. Much useful knowledge was gained from the comments of Asconius on Cicero's speeches. The work showed that in the year 63 B.C. Cicero was acting on the defensive, and though he prided himself on having saved the republic, and claimed the title of father of his country, the real power was in the hands of the popular leaders, Crassus and Caesar. The reasons why these two kept so much in the background were discussed, and an intelligible explanation given of their attitude. Dr. Hardy thought that Sallust deliberately ante-dated the meeting of the conspirators with Catiline so as to exonerate Caesar from all blame in connection with the events of the latter half of 63. There were three possible methods of giving effect to the policy of Crassus and Caesar—(1) To attempt to secure adequate executive agents at the elections, (2) to effect a coup d'état, and (3) to arrive at a modus vivendi with Pompey. The first plan failed in the year 64 when Catiline was defeated at the consular elections, and the second could not be carried out because a favorable moment had not arrived. The attempt to come to terms with Pompey probably dated from the arrival in Rome in the first half of the year 63 of Metellus Nepos, fresh from the Eastern camp of the victorious general. Caesar had defeated Pompey previously when a strategical position against his power had been sought in Egypt, but early in January, 62, Caesar was obviously showing his desire to unite with his rival. Catiline's extravagant promises and rash actions had proved him an unsuitable agent, and the first definite information of the conspiracy given to the consul came from Crassus. Then followed the report of Fulvia, the mistress of Curlius, one of the conspirators. These two, Dr. Hardy believed, to be agents of Caesar. The apparent inactivity of Caesar and Crassus during the latter half of the year 63 was easily understood if they were conscious of the strength of an alliance with Pompey, and Dr. Hardy, in summing up, said that it was perhaps not the least of Caesar's claims to statesmanship that he knew at this critical period of his career how to play a waiting game. He was checked at the beginning of 63, but merely to proceed along fresh lines. He was checked again at the beginning of 62, but, with the praetorship in his hands, a provincial governorship in prospect, financial support from Crassus, and an understanding with Pompey, he could endure passing mortifications, feeling confident that the goal for himself and his party was already within measurable distance of achievement.

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A DOCTOR ABROAD.

DR. L. J. PELLEW'S IMPRESSIONS. AMAZED BY AMERICA.

The thing that created the deepest impression on the mind of Dr. L. J. Pellew, who has just returned from a six months' tour of the world, was the enormous wealth of America. Dr. Pellew is a keen observer of people and events, and made a close study of all the countries he visited, especially in relation to improved methods of surgery. "It must be remembered," he said, "that the United States is rich in natural resources and can produce practically everything the world wants, but the abnormal prosperity it is enjoying at present is due to another cause. For three years America stood out of the war, supplying the needs of other countries. As a result, from England alone she is receiving £100,000 a day, and will continue to draw that sum daily for the next three generations. The country is overflowing with money, all classes getting their share of it. Commodities, however, are tremendously expensive owing to the high standard of wages. When you know that the man sweeping the floor in Ford's factory at Detroit get £1 a day you can understand why £2 a day is not an uncommon charge for a room only in an hotel. According to report Henry Ford employs 125,000 men in Detroit and is now building another factory there that will absorb 250,000 hands. I think Detroit is destined to become the biggest city in the world within the next 25 or 30 years.

Colored New York.

"New York is, of course, impressive, but the thing that surprised me there was the absence of the familiar Anglo-Saxon face. In a population variously estimated at between 7,000,000 and 10,000,000, there are 3,000,000 Jews. The rest are drawn largely from Southern Europe—Italians, Greeks, Bulgarians, Roumanians, Serbs, Maltese, Spaniards, and Portuguese. In the main these immigrants have been

Americanized rapidly, although there is a tendency to retain their institutions, and newspapers in foreign languages are printed by the score. The absorption is made easy by far better conditions than they were accustomed to in the old world, and a ready market for labor at a high wage.

"While in New York I witnessed the reception given to the captain and officers of the American steamer Roosevelt after their rescue of the British tramp steamer Antioch in the Atlantic. Four thousand school children marched down Broadway, each carrying a pocket handkerchief colored with the stars and stripes. In all the four thousand I did not see a really white face. For a whole week these seamen were solemnly introduced to theatre audiences and made to bow their acknowledgements from the stage. Only one of the men bore an Anglo-Saxon name. The most astounding thing about America is the development of the motor traffic. It is incredible. In the depth of winter, with the roads covered in snow, I stood at the window of a Chicago hotel and counted cars passing at the rate of 110 a minute."

Referring to prohibition, Dr. Pellew said the campaign was so bitter on both sides that it was difficult for the traveller to secure reliable evidence of its effects. His own opinion was that eventually the law would be modified to allow the sale of beer and light wines.

Industrious Czecho-Slovaks.

Turning to Europe Dr. Pellew painted a very different picture. In England the industrial position appeared to be very bad. Although there was a general opinion that things were improving, statistics showed the betterment was due to increased trade with the Dominions. British manufacturers once did a good trade with Germany and Austria, but those markets were now non-existent. Further, overseas markets, such as the Argentine, Brazil, and Guatemala, had been seized by the pushing Americans. Germany seemed to be quite ruined from an industrial aspect. Depression sat heavily on every town, and even in big manufacturing centres such as Dresden there were literally forests of idle chimney stacks.

Matters were very different in Czecho-Slovakia, which Dr. Pellew found to be intensely interesting. Formerly it was known as Bohemia, and for several hundred years was part of the Austro-Hungarian empire. This state now has all the mines once attached to Austria, and has been able to make great progress with the help, Dr. Pellew suspects, of American capital. He attended an exhibition at Prague, where the products ranged from pins to locomotives. Prices for everything were ridiculously low, good boots being procurable for a few shillings.

Italy's Bid for Power.

"Italy," said Dr. Pellew, "struck me as being the best governed country in the world, and considering the natural poverty of the place the prosperity is wonderful. To compensate for low wages, the cost of living is low. Agriculturally the last ounce is dragged from the soil. When a fruit tree is planted a vine is placed at the root of it and trolled over the branches. A climbing bean is then induced to creep along the vine stems, and a beehive placed adjacent so the flowers of the three can be turned to the best account. In this manner the Italian gets four crops. The industry of these Latins is found to make itself felt.

"I also visited Spain, a country that is very expensive to the traveller and deficient in English foods. Spain, like Italy, is governed by a dictator, General Primo de Rivera. Its houses of Parliament, containing some of the world's greatest art treasures and historic documents, such as the original map drawn by Columbus after his return from the West Indies in 1492, are untenanted. I would like specially to mention the Art Gallery of Madrid. We are usually told that Florence possesses the finest collection of paintings, but personally I prefer Madrid's. The Spanish capital is looked upon as somewhat in the backwash of civilisation, yet its Art Gallery contains 30 or 40 canvases by the world's greatest painter, Raphael. Most galleries are lucky if they possess one or two. Added to this there are whole galleries devoted to Velasquez, Murillo, Goya, Lopez, Tintoratto, Veronese, and other great ones of the art world. The Australian abroad interested in art should visit Madrid."

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THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORCHESTRA.

ANOTHER SPLENDID PERFORMANCE.

The second concert of the season by the South Australian Orchestra was given in the Town Hall on Saturday night. There was a large audience, and the seats in the organ gallery were well filled, a striking tribute to the clever band of artists who have so deservedly won an abiding place in the musical affections of the people of

Adelaide. This is the seventh year of the existence of the orchestra, and the high standard of excellence attained in previous concerts is not only maintained, but if anything, more brilliant than it has hitherto been. Adelaide can, indeed, be counted fortunate in possessing such a remarkable aggregation of orchestral talent, and a syllabus, issued by the management may well say, "We have every reason to be proud of the orchestra, and of the conspicuous ability of our own players and students who form its personnel." The public support accorded is sufficient justification for the orchestra to embark upon the wider fields which have already been mapped out, and the future concerts, which include a special Tchaikowsky night, are already being looked forward to with interest. Saturday night's programme opened with Mozart's famous Symphony in G, "The Jupiter," which is justly regarded as the greatest and noblest of the composer's works in this category. It was also the last he wrote, and with two others, took Mozart only six weeks to compose. There were four items in it, the first being "Allegro Vivace," which was a charming prelude, the concerted action of the players being very notable. "Andante Cantabile" was also a wonderful orchestral effort, and "Menuetto" brought out some of the best qualities. The triumph came with "Molto Allegro," in which the orchestra rose to great heights. It was rendered with marked precision and beauty of expression, and when the last notes had died away the members of the audience were generous in their applause. Gungl's waltz, "Amoretten," was softness and sweetness personified, the work of the violins being delightful. All this composer's work is characterised by charming melody and marked rhythm, and the orchestra, with such a ground work had no apparent difficulty in giving an artistic characterisation which met with great admiration.

A notable feature of the ninety-minutes' feast of music was a group of wind ensemble pieces which were played for the first time in Adelaide. This pleasing innovation had been eagerly looked forward to by the numerous friends and admirers of the orchestra, and the results justified in every detail the most sanguine expectations. The flute, oboe and bassoon were conspicuous in "Les petits moussins a vent" ("Allegretto Vivace") by Couperin; two clarinets and two bassoons figured in "Canone" ("Gravus and Parnassus") by Clementi; and the flute two oboes, two clarinets, two bassoons and the French horn were prominent in "Allegro" in B flat from Suite VIII. by Scarlatti. These delightful numbers were selected and arranged for wind instruments from the works of three old world piano masters. They lend themselves admirably in the transcriptions, losing none of their charm by the change, which really reveals a rich tone color impossible to produce on the piano. Miss C. Pether, the flute soloist, received a flattering and well-merited ovation for one of her selections which she was compelled to repeat. The other soloists who met with similar success were Oboes, Miss M. Weston and Mr. A. M. McIntyre; clarinets, Messrs. R. S. Kitson and W. Reynolds; bassoons, Messrs. H. Grabin and W. Honam; horn, Mr. P. Gray. The work of the orchestra in general was of surpassing excellence in time, tune, and expression, and whether it was in the lighter and finer passages in the more forceful parts, they worthily maintained their great reputation, or even enhanced it. The ensemble marked quite an important epoch in the history of the society, and it would seem that there is nothing too great or difficult for the orchestra to accomplish satisfactorily.

Ballet music, "Coppelia" by Delibes, provided another elegant item which the orchestra invested with the acme of skill and ability. It comprised three items all of great musical charm, "Czardas-Dance Hongroise" being particularly fine, and giving the members of the orchestra a signal opportunity to display their talent and cohesion, which they did with conspicuous success. "Barcarolle" from "Tales of Hoffmann" by Offenbach, is always an extremely popular item, and it was brilliantly rendered on this occasion. The concluding item was the overture "Don Giovanni" by Mozart, and it provided a glorious musical finish, the orchestra playing with almost added zest in a charming piece which abounded in delightful passages. The audience paid the players a very generous and worthy tribute at its conclusion. There were few encores, but this did not denote any lack of appreciation. It was out of consideration for the hard work which such a continuous performance necessarily entails, Mr. W. H. Foote, A.B.C.M., was as usual, an able conductor, whose task was rendered less difficult by reason of the proficiency of the players under his charge. The ovation he received at the conclusion of the concert was a spontaneous appreciation of his work in connection with the orchestra.