

TRENDS OF MUSICAL TASTE IN ADELAIDE

Dr. A. Williams Says It Has Changed Direction

(By Arthur Williams, President of the Musical Association of South Australia.)

I HARDLY agree with Mr. John Dempster when he says, "Musical life in Adelaide is at a standstill," for his own activities with the Adelaide array of music provide sufficient recreation surely. Nor do I think it is marking time. It has merely changed direction.

Orchestral and choral societies, church choirs, and musical bodies generally, with few exceptions, are finding great difficulty in maintaining strength, balance, and efficiency. This is not a local manifestation only, but a reaction in the face of the world's changing conditions. It exists in almost every country. Adelaide no doubt is a difficult city musically, consequently our troubles arise in aggravated form.

On the individual side it is questionable if at any time during the past 10 years Adelaide could show a greater tendency of young talent so well equipped technically than at present. Whether musicianship runs parallel with technical proficiency is a matter that is certain that the gifted youngsters of today frequently tackle things with an ease that is somewhat surprising.

The explanation is obvious, apart from evolutionary considerations. The young are an excellent imitators; familiarity bred by repeated listening renders learning easier. Radio is perhaps the greatest contributing cause, followed closely by the gramophone. Some singers present quite good reproductions of a well-studied piece.

SIGNS UNDERNEATH

Now these are some of the things that lie on the surface, so are readily apparent. But underneath there are signs that many folk of refined tastes, both amateur and professional, are finding outlets in a manner almost Elizabethan in spirit. It is not confined to the one hand, a solitary recitalist, or, on the other, a highly massed effect, the tendency seems to be in the direction of the formation of small groups and study circles where performers and listeners co-operate in producing the things that immediately interest them. The urge to perform is satisfied, and no doubt much music is fostered and kept burning by a few individuals in seclusion.

The fact emerges that the best music, apart from notable broadcasts, is being produced mainly in an exclusive, in private and semi-private surroundings.

The Musical Association, the Adelaide Study Salons of Each Society, the Elder String Quartet, the Twentieth Five Club, the Adelaide Music Club, the Adelaide Organists' Association, the Lydian Singers, the Glee Club, the Orpheus Society, the Bank Officers' Male Voice Choir, and many other bodies, the vast number of small study circles devoted to chamber music, are all more or less examples of a tendency to seek the pleasure of making for its own sake. Regarding an artistic aspect all this is distinctly gratifying to the professional musician since no silver lining is in the dark cloud of depression. For him recovery is always just around the corner—and remains here.

With regard to Mr. Dempster's main theme it may be quite true that the generally-Conservatory system does not give unalloyed satisfaction to all engaged in the teaching of music. It is difficult to estimate the extent to which the Conservatorium of Music actually competes with the private teacher. Certainly in former days it was essential that a person desirous of entering the institution should obtain an entrance fee. The standard being reasonably high ensured that only advanced students appeared on its roll.

This exclusive policy gave the Conservatorium a very high prestige; it also encouraged the outside teacher to take advantage of the opportunities for further study in the higher branches of music. Many gladly availed themselves of this, knowing full well that no loss of dignity was entailed. It also encouraged teachers to persuade their own advanced students to enter the Conservatorium for the sake of the many extra advantages not offered for in private practice. It is perhaps inevitable that the majority of gifted musicians destined for a profession should sooner or later gravitate to the Conservatorium.

A very advanced student requires a proper conception of his own many ramifications. No reasonable person here will deny that some accomplished in this ideal is to be fulfilled.

Only a very biased person would not contribute to the Conservatorium has not contributed to the musical progress of this State. The evidence to the contrary is overwhelming.

WORTH-WHILE MUSIC

The number of first performances of worth-while music has been tremendous. A perusal of past programmes is sufficient to confirm the following are taken at random:—"Wotan's Farewell" (Walkyrs, circa 1907. Finale to "Tristan and Isolde," 1908. Elgar's "Cello" of St. George. Piano sonata (Scriabine, 1906. Debussy's "Blessed Damozel," 1906. The Schubert, Mendelssohn, Brahms, and Julius Weis. Reubke's organ sonata. Many pieces by Karg-Elert. Piano sonata by Easton (Glauxton, 1906. Feu d'Etou (Bavel, 1906. A wide range of chamber music is shown embracing Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Mendelssohn, Schumann, Franck, Strauss, Borzini, Thuille, Arensky, Schuck, Elgar, Cyril Scott, Ravel, and others. Grieg, Faure, Brahms, Dvořak, and others too numerous to mention.

Apart from the above, said, it is interesting to note the number of gifted performers and teachers in our midst today who received most or part of their musical training in the Conservatorium. I think this is a fair statement. Finally, as president of the Musical Association, I would like to say that our members desire nothing better than the maintenance of friendly relations with the Conservatorium and Conservatorium. We believe that most of our problems can be solved by frank approach and amicable discussion. Some returns in Sydney, which we are undoubtedly overdue. It is hoped that the proposed music teachers' conference will be held in Easter week, provide an opportunity for formulating some concrete proposals to this end.

Women At Science Congress

SEA slugs and fossils, insects and entomology, trees, education, and economic themes are few of the attractions for Australia's clever women who are in Melbourne to attend the Science Congress, which opened today. Few of these women, however, are as formidable to meet as their interests might imply.

Miss Joyce Allan, the sea slug expert, is a handsome woman, who might be more interested in dress than her little sea slugs. She is assistant in conchology at the Australian Museum, and is well known among all scientists in Australia for her clever drawing.

She has published booklets about the sea slugs, and has become the foremost authority in the Southern Hemisphere. Suitable weather—for sea slugs—finds her with bucket and spade and the seashore. Her other hobby is golf.

Miss Nell Woods, M.A., from South Australia, is a pretty little woman. In official life she is a paleontologist, and does most of her work with earth from bones put down in likely places in South Australia. She has discovered many new fossils, although none, she says, is important.

Among the wives who are scientists as well as their husbands is Mrs. M. G. G. away, formerly Miss Nell Macklin, one of the first women to become a Master of Science at Adelaide University. Her work is with cadaverous.

A New Zealand visitor is Mrs. L. C. Webb, another wife who has a mutual interest with her husband in the congress. Her hobby is historical research and she will read a paper on "Democracy in New Zealand."

News. 16-1-35

S.A. OFFICIAL ON OIL COMMITTEE

Honor for Dr. Ward

In the selection of the personnel of the Geological Advisory Committee which will assist in the systematic oil survey of Australia, Mr. W. G. Guinness is to be sponsored by Commonwealth Oil Refiners Ltd., South Australia has been paid a high compliment. The Director of Mines for South Australia (Dr. Keith Ward) is one of the select group of experts chosen for the work.

The Minister of Mines (Mr. Ritchie), in referring to this today, said that the South Australian Government was approached some time ago and asked whether it would allow Dr. Ward to be nominated for the committee. Dr. Ward had since been appointed.

The other members of the committee were—The Commonwealth Geological Adviser (Dr. W. G. Woodnough), Prof. H. Payne, and Prof. E. W. Skeates. Dr. Ward is at present on annual leave. He is in Melbourne, and will attend a meeting of the advisory committee next week.

The committee will prepare data as a basis of a comprehensive oil survey. A prominent British geologist will be brought out from England to supervise the search.

Refer next Page.
Adv. 16-1-35
Sir D. Houston

EXPERIMENTS TO CONQUER TETANUS

Work of Former S.A. Rhodes Scholar

POISON TREATMENT

IN medical circles in Adelaide today it was revealed that an Adelaide medical graduate and former South Australian Rhodes Scholar is conducting important experiments in the hope of conquering tetanus.

A feature of the experiments is the injection of curare, an extract from the bark of a poisonous South American tree. This is used as an arrow poison by natives of South America.

The leader in the experimental work is Prof. Howard Walter Florey, who graduated his experiment at the Adelaide University in 1921, and was South Australian Rhodes Scholar for that year.

In his latest statement sent from England he has reported on his experiments. Prof. Florey says—"No one will deny that the death rate from tetanus is extremely high. The disease is in many cases peculiarly tragic, often being associated with the most trivial injury. The number of deaths a year is sufficiently great to warrant the serious pursuit of all possible methods of treatment."

An Adelaide doctor, who drew attention to the work of Prof. Florey, said that to understand his statements it was necessary to remember that the trouble caused by the tetanus germ was due to a deadly poison or toxin which spread through the nerve cells and induced violent spasms.

Prof. Florey said that if a person recovered from tetanus he recovered completely—there was no residual impairment of the muscular system. This was because the toxin could be eliminated completely and leave the nerve cells intact.

TOXIN OXIDISES

Antitoxin even in very large doses was apparently incapable of removing tetanus toxin spread to the nerve cells. With the passing of time the toxin, however, slowly became oxidised, and was harmless.

"If the patient can be saved from exhaustion by prolonged spasms and kept supplied with sufficient water and food, it is possible to keep him alive long enough to enable this oxidation to occur.

Two ways of doing this have been considered—prolonged anaesthesia either by inhalation or injection of drugs, or alternatively, the use of urethane to paralyse the muscular mechanism, and keep the fits in check, being kept alive by an artificial respirator.

"Experiments have been used for experiments because of the susceptibility to tetanus toxin. The results of the experiments encourage us to hope that some improvement can be effected in the treatment of tetanus," concluded Prof. Florey.

Adv. 17-1-35
Settled At Rothamsted

PROFESSOR J. A. PROSCOTT, OF THE Waite Research Institute, who has

just returned from the University of Cambridge, tells me that he saw quite a lot of Samuels, who were getting on very well indeed, and his family are comfortably settled in the house at Rothamsted. Professor Prescott told me "He is expecting to have a new research house at his official quarters. He is very busy getting into touch with district inspectors, and practical farmers in the plant before he left London. Professor Prescott saw Dr. L. B. Bull, who is working on animal diseases at Cambridge and London."

News. 16-1-35

MR. C. HARDING BROWNE RESIGNS

Taxpayers' Secretary

Mr. C. Harding Browne, who has been secretary of the Taxpayers' Association since its inception 12 years ago, has resigned that position.

The question of his resignation was considered at the next meeting of the executive, a date for which has not been fixed. The absence of Browne in Melbourne next week of the present Mr. Norman H. Taylor, who is to take the place of Browne at the annual meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce, it is unlikely that the meeting will be held so early in February.

The report of the council submitted at the recent annual meeting of the Association, stated—"Mr. Browne, acting

assumed leave of absence recently. We do most sincerely trust that on his return he will be fully restored to health, and able to take up with his accustomed zeal and efficiency the secretarial duties of the association, in which he has long and closely identified."

Mr. Browne has been absent several months, and it is said that he will not return to Adelaide. He was replaced on the Farmers' Association by Mr. K. W. Neill. The reason given was that Mr. Browne had advised the Premier that because of altered busi-

ness arrangements he would not be able to continue as a member of the council of the Adelaide Chamber of Commerce and is lecturer on commercial practice at the University. It is stated that it is unlikely that he will be re-nominated for the former position. Last year the appointment of trade representatives of the Federal Government, it was freely rumored that he was in the final list of candidates for one of the big posts.

Mr. Browne is also a member of the council of the Adelaide Chamber of Commerce and is lecturer on commercial practice at the University. It is stated that it is unlikely that he will be re-nominated for the former position. Last year the appointment of trade representatives of the Federal Government, it was freely rumored that he was in the final list of candidates for one of the big posts.