

EXPRESSION OF OUR MUSICAL SENSE

Adelaide's Medium is The Elder Conservatorium

FOR several weeks silence has reigned in all the classrooms at the Elder Conservatorium, but with the beginning of the new term this week they have echoed to the sound of piano, violin, violoncello, and the human singing voice. Hundreds of young men and women, boys and girls, are using the conservatorium as a medium for expressing the musical sense they possess.

The director (Prof. E. Harold Davies) said that the Australian child undoubtedly displayed a fine aptitude for music.

"Every student who begins a course at the conservatorium should give evidence of musical promise and a measure of knowledge," he stated. "There is no age limit—if there were, students of exceptional ability would be debarred from enrolment."

Teachers of the piano found that the greatest satisfaction came from the youngest students. This instrument claimed the greatest number of pupils, although singing was a subject which made an almost equal appeal.

Dr. Davies said that from time to time one or two students showed promise of exceptional ability. At present this was most marked in the direction of musical composition and piano playing.

"I wish there were more who chose the violin and the violoncello—the 'cello is to my mind one of the loveliest of musical instruments," continued the doctor.

REFERRING to the examinations conducted every year by the Australian Music Examinations Board, on which are representatives of all Australian univer-

sities, Dr. Davies said that every student and teacher needed three things—a constant incentive to work, a definite objective, and frequent testing.

The examination system, with all its defects, provides those three in a way in which no other system would, he said.

The board examines 25,000 candidates a year, and these examinations are of great value to the teacher as well as to the student. There is a tendency on the part of both to become slack, and the yearly examinations provide the incentive to guard against this.

Dr. Davies spoke of the string quartet as the outstanding feature of the Elder Conservatorium. It had been in existence for 20 years, and therefore had a tradition, he said. Its leadership had changed, but its personnel remained the same. The first leader was Gerald Walenn, who was succeeded by the late Charles Schilsky, and the present leader is Peter Bornstein, who will return in April from a trip abroad.

THE instrumentalists are Kathleen Meegan, Sylvia Whittington, and Harold Parsons, and the quartet comprises first and second violins, viola, and violoncello.

The recitals given by the quartet appeal to the real music-lovers. A string quartet is like a perfect etching, and gives to its hearers the flower of musical composition.

This year the quartet will give eight Tuesday afternoon recitals, four in the second and four in the third term, from 4 to 5 o'clock, in the Elder Hall.

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Mr. J. H. Reynolds, who was acting-master of St. Mark's College from September, 1932, to December, 1933, during the absence abroad of Dr. A. Grenfell Price, has been appointed senior tutor of St. George's College, Perth, and lecturer in history at the University of Western Australia. Mr. Reynolds, who left for Perth last week, was educated at St. Peter's College (where he was later a master). He gained first class honors in history at the Adelaide University and was selected as Rhodes Scholar in 1928.

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are induced to remain in England, or are offered positions elsewhere, and their homeland is poorer for their absence.

The scheme suggested would ensure to the State a succession of brilliant, trained men and women. Expert opinion would be needed to decide whether the scholarships were to be available for any course the successful candidate chose to follow, or whether they would be offered for a specified subject each year. If the latter plan were adopted, ten important subjects could be agreed upon; for example, public administration, law, medicine, political science, economics, chemistry, literature, theology, education, and industrial research, and the scholarship offered for each in rotation. When ten years had elapsed, the State would be sure of entertaining constantly a highly trained exponent of all sciences governing the main departments of its life. This retention in South Australia of knowledge and ability which would otherwise probably be lost to it, could not but increase the efficiency and enhance the prestige of the State. In a growing community there should be room for the services of such people, and the conscience of South Australians would surely not let them suffer by reason of their contract to remain in their home land for a stated period.

The cost of endowing the scholarships would be approximately £30,000. At first sight this may appear to be a large sum of money to be expended on an indirect benefit, but it must be remembered that a State does not live by bread alone. Material improvements in the city or country are valuable assets to the community, but they are, and should be acknowledged to be, only supplementary to the State's man power. Only as our land remains cultured, and keeps abreast of scientific learning, can it be great; and while everything possible should be done at this time to solve the pressing problems which confront us, the longer view of the State's cultural development should not be neglected.

Centenary Suggestions SCHOLARSHIP AT OXFORD

Students To Return To State

INDUSTRIAL COLONY

Suggestions are invited by "The Advertiser" regarding the most suitable means for celebrating the centenary of South Australia two years hence.

By this means it is hoped to provide an opportunity for a full expression of ideas on this important question before actual preparations for the celebrations are begun.

All suggestions accepted will be paid for on publication. As a general rule they should be limited to about 400 or 500 words.

From Miss B. M. Newman, Elizabeth street, Croydon:—An idea which appeals to me as a suitable method of commemorating the centenary of this State, is that of endowing a scholarship for three years' post graduate work at Oxford, to be awarded annually on terms similar to those of the Rhodes' Scholarships, but with the provision that the centenary scholarships are to be open to men and women on an equal footing, and that the recipient, after finishing the course, is to live and practise his or her profession in South Australia for a period of not less than ten years.

At present, a big percentage of South Australia's most talented sons and daughters are lost to the State once they begin their overseas studies, on completing their course, they

ing members of the profession from all parts of the Commonwealth. Public interest in the event is heightened by the fact that this is the first conference held in South Australia by a College whose origin, although recent, was none the less distinguished. The College represents the successful culmination of efforts to create in Australia and New Zealand a tradition and standard of surgery in keeping with that of the rest of the world. It has established itself as an organisation through which surgical practice and research in the two Dominions may contribute to the universal endeavor to lessen mankind's burden of sickness and suffering. Perhaps in no respect are all the countries of the world more sincerely united than in their common desire to advance the art of healing. The history of surgery itself, springing though it does from origins obscured by time, exemplifies its essentially human character, which takes no account of race, color, or language, or of any of the other physical and psychological differences which now divide mankind. In all countries, indeed, it is as old as human needs. Although it can be traced back to the dawn of written history—as Sir Henry Newland reminded his audience last night, in the course of an arresting presidential address—the crude surgery of the ancients seems to have made remarkable progress long before any of its developments were first put on record. We know that it was introduced into Europe by the Greeks, but from whom the Greeks learned it is not so certain. Most commentators, however, incline to the opinion that it was one of the fruits of Alexander's invasion of India, since there is a good deal of evidence that the East enjoyed a reputation for medical and surgical wisdom long before the great Macedonian conqueror led his troops into Asia.

In ancient Egypt, particularly, surgery appears to have reached a relatively high standard. The earliest Greek compendiums on surgery bear witness to a long organic growth of knowledge and skill through many generations, one authority tells us; while another describes two of the treatises in the Hippocratic Collection (age of Pericles) on fractures and dislocations, as being "hardly surpassed in some ways by the writings of the present mechanical age." Surgery probably found its way into Western Europe with the Roman armies, but in a very ill-digested form. By the 10th century a school of surgery had grown up at Salerno, which attracted the nobility from all parts of Europe; but medical and surgical practice appear to have been largely in the hands of the religious orders, particularly the Benedictines. The practice of surgery by the clergy was at length forbidden by the Council of Tours in 1163. During the next 400 years, surgical skill languished, and it was not until the 16th century that it regained much of the dexterity and resource that had distinguished it in the best periods of antiquity. The following century saw a rapid progress in the study of anatomy and physiology, but, on the other hand, surgery itself became more and more the province of charlatans—barbers, so-called dentists, and the like, some of whose revolting practices cause us to wonder how any of their patients ever survived. It is when we remember that it was not until 1860 that Lister, in the face of general scepticism and many disappointments, began his famous experiments in antiseptic surgery, that we realise what a short time separates the old order from the new. Almost from day to day we are presented with some new marvel of surgery, and the gap between the present and the past becomes ever wider. But continuity remains, a thread that links with man's first clumsy efforts to cure, the skilful and enlightened surgery of today. It would be impossible to point to a more noble example of ultimate human progress.

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ART OF THE SURGEON

The seventh annual conference of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, which began in Adelaide yesterday, has brought to this State lead-