

AFTERNOON CHAMBER MUSIC

Opening Of Season

By Dr. ALEX BURNARD

Yesterday afternoon the annual chamber music season opened at the Elder Hall, before an audience not as large as it should be, or as future audiences undoubtedly will be. This year the syllabus has reverted to works by the patriarchs of the craft—Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven, the idea primarily being to include several of the later Beethoven works as the series progresses. The players were the Conservatorium Quartet—Peter Bornstein, Kathleen Meegan, Sylvia Whittington, and Harold Parsons. They gave very sincere, frank treatment to the Haydn work, the C major, op. 74, No. 1, simple in structure and the essence of directness. The clean texture of both the opening Vivace and the Minuet was carefully preserved, and their unanimity of phrasing, and especially the "bite" of the Minuet, were delightful to hear. The Adagio, short but pregnant, consisted of impassioned spans for first violin over the simplest of chord bases for the others. In this and the Finale, again an Adagio with a tiny presto interlude, the balance and mutual understanding were of a very high order.

The first of the Beethoven Rasoumofskys (op. 59, No. 1) was the other item. The sunny principal tune and its clever development, together with the graceful dovetailing of each subsequent episode, formed a wonderfully unified first movement. The glorified minuet had a touch of "fate" about it. There was something macabre and ghostly in those iterated staccati. It was all very interestingly done—full of contrast, the cross-rhythms skilfully negotiated. Long movement though it is, with, moreover, rather unpromising material at the outset, all the available "juice" has been extracted by the composer, seconded in masterly manner by the players. After this flash of genius came another long span, the slow movement, whose interest was exhausted (for me) at one-third of its journey. Two or three poignant tunes are discussed with all the Beethovenian naïveté of harmony and harped upon to a most inordinate length, so that, despite the decidedly mature handling it received, the glide into the Finale's assertiveness was a huge relief.

The next afternoon recital will be given at 4.30 p.m. on May 29.

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MUSIC IN SCHOOLS

VIEWS OF AUSTRALIAN MUSIC EXAMINATIONS BOARD

To the Editor

Sir—Following upon Mr. Frank Gratton's timely article in "The Advertiser," it will interest all who have at heart the furtherance of music in our schools, to read the following resolution, which was carried at the conference of the Australian Music Examinations Board recently held in Perth:—

"Realising the urgent necessity for that education for leisure envisaged by the foremost educationists of the world, this board urges upon the various educational authorities of Australia the desirability of giving music its due place in their curricula, both primary and secondary. Action in this direction will involve the giving of expression to the fundamental principle that a modern curriculum should make provision for individual differences in children.

"The board expresses its regret that in the midst of all the discussions, suggestions, and schemes of work drawn up to help the music teacher in the elementary school, the work in the secondary school seems to have been passed over almost completely.

"This conference of the A.M.E.B. expresses its keen appreciation of the resolution relating to music in State high schools, passed by the recent conference of Directors of Education in Hobart. In this connection it is most encouraging to note that the directors unanimously agree that every encouragement should be given to high school pupils desirous of continuing their musical education during their period of study at such schools, and also that music should be ranked equal in value with that of other subjects in the curriculum. It, therefore, urges upon the State Departments of Education, and upon non-State secondary schools, the desirability of taking advantage of the scheme of examinations set up by the A.M.E.B. in order that (a) pupils of secondary schools may be prepared for intermediate and leaving examinations in music; (b) that steps be taken to provide teachers specially trained to give tuition in music in its various

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branches of school work, viz., (1) choral training, (2) musical perception and appreciation, (3) singing of staff notation at sight, (4) theory of music, (5) history of music, (6) organization of school orchestras, &c. It is not suggested that the instructor of music on the staff of the school shall do any teaching of piano or violin, but it is hoped that every encouragement will be given to those who are receiving instruction from private teachers of music.

"Further, it is urged that the Directors of Education and members of the A.M.E.B. in each State should very strongly request their respective universities to fall into line with many universities in the British Isles and Western Australia by permitting music to be taken as a matriculation subject. The board also with respect offers willingly its service in implementing these proposals to such authorities as may feel the need of them."—I am, Sir, &c.,

E. HAROLD DAVIES.

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Executive Council yesterday appointed the following to be members of the Adelaide Hospital advisory committee:—Dr. F. S. Hone (nominated by the Council of the Adelaide University), Dr. W. Ray (Faculty of Medicine at the University), Mr. H. Gill Williams (Faculty of Dentistry at the University), Dr. E. Angus Johnson and Mr. Nicholls, M.P. (board of management of the Adelaide Hospital), and Drs. C. T. C. de Crespigny and J. B. Jose (honorary medical staff of the Adelaide Hospital).

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Dr. F. N. LeMessurier was appointed by Executive Council yesterday to be a member of the advisory committee of the Mareeba Babies' Hospital in succession to Miss L. Waterhouse, who has resigned.

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Professor E. O. G. Shann, who will take the Chair of Economics vacated by Professor Melville at the Adelaide University, and who arrived from Perth by aeroplane on Wednesday, will leave for Western Australia today. During his stay he consulted with the Vice-Chancellor of the University (Sir William Mitchell) regarding his duties, which he will take up next year.

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PLEA FOR UNIVERSITY MEN IN PUBLIC LIFE

First Annual Dinner Of University Men's Union

A representative gathering of professors and students of the University of Adelaide was present at the first annual dinner given by the University Men's Union on Saturday night at the Victoria Hotel, Hindley street. The chairman of the union (Mr. Gavin Walkley) presided.

In proposing the toast of the union, Professor R. W. Chapman, professor of engineering, said that if democracy were to exist the best educated and trained men must not refrain from taking a part in the government of this country. He hoped that before long there would be a large proportion of Adelaide University graduates in Parliament. So far few University men had taken a part in the government of this State. They were faced with problems that were new. In the question of unemployment, Parliament and politicians were acting as though they were not trying to solve the problem to any great extent. Science had presented us with inventions, but somehow or other we did not seem to share the benefits. Some were thrown out of work.

Referring to the proposed war memorial at the University, Professor Chapman remarked that nothing had been done about it. More than 400 men went to the war from the University, and 60 did not return. He hoped that it would not be long before the University got the bronze tablets placed on the western side of the Union Building cloisters.

Replying to the welcome given him by the Union, Professor Portus, the recently appointed professor of political science and history, said that education did not begin and end in the classroom; there was just as much to be learned outside the classroom.

Responding to the toast of "Our Guests," proposed by Mr. C. T. Moodie, Professor Campbell stressed the need for the interest of students in public affairs.

Professor H. J. Wilkinson, the new president of the union, said that the union should provide the ground where men could express themselves in leadership. "We ought to obtain the Men's Union building as quickly as possible,

with a student as president, added Professor Wilkinson.

Mr. R. R. P. Barbour, president of the Sports Association, said that student athletes were prominent in any intellectual movement at a University. There was a risk of too little rather than too much importance being attached to sport by some students.

The chairman emphasized that the union was a means of exhilarating the University spirit and good fellowship. A programme of musical entertainment was given by Messrs. Mostyn Skinner, F. D. Hay, and R. Dawe.

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University Expedition.—Sir Douglas Mawson, professor of geology and mineralogy at the University of Adelaide, left during the week-end leading a party of advanced students, who will be engaged in higher grade field work in the north-eastern part of the State.

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ADELAIDE: TUESDAY, MAY 22, 1934.

PARLIAMENT AND THE UNIVERSITIES

Professor R. W. Chapman, who, at the first annual dinner of the University Men's Union on Saturday night, expressed the hope that before long there would be a large proportion of Adelaide University graduates in Parliament, is not alone in the belief that the public affairs of a democratic community should be ordered by the best brains that the community can supply. "The best educated and trained men must not refrain from taking a part in the government of this country," said the Professor, as though acknowledging the justice of the complaint not infrequently heard in recent years, that the path from University to Parliament is very little used, in this country especially. An intensive training in the mysteries of law or medicine, or in the intricacies of the arts, does not always engender any conspicuous degree of public spiritedness; and relatively few men seem willing to endanger a professional career by taking a practical interest in politics. To this extent, every party's choice of legislative aspirants is restricted; and it is very possible that the community as a whole is thus condemned to make shift without certain special talents which could be used with the greatest advantage in its service. But although it is to be regretted that University graduates do not more often grace the hustings, it would be a sad blunder to suppose that a scholastic training, however eminent the teacher, and however brilliant the scholar, is necessarily productive of the aptitude and qualities required of a public administrator. The average Australian Parliament, as at present constituted, leaves a great deal to be desired; but no reasonable man can be easily persuaded that a Parliament comprising only representatives of the University-trained section of the community would necessarily be an improvement. Professor Chapman obviously does not propose this. He wants to introduce only the leaven that leavens the whole. The ideal Parliament will accurately represent a cross-section of the society which elects it; but a University training, as tending to broaden the outlook, and to give the necessary perspective, must obviously make the scholar a better legislator, all other things being equal, than the man who has not shared his educational advantages.

In this connection, an interesting experiment was recently urged in Western Australia. The Vice-Chancellor of the Western Australian University suggested that, after each State election, two graduates in political and constitutional history and economics should be selected by the Government

to sit in Parliament, with the right to speak but not to vote. Some young graduates, he said, were eminently suited for training for Parliament. This is probably true; but the Professor's proposal was received without enthusiasm. The path between University and Parliament, as has already been remarked, is not traversed as often as it should be; but there are practical difficulties in the way of any scheme intended to make it shorter or smoother. Special privileges for University graduates, other than those assured them upon their entry to one or other of the learned professions, are not to be reconciled with the sentiment of present-day democracy, as was very clearly indicated the other day, when it was announced from Canberra that a number of youths from the Universities would be appointed to the Federal Civil Service. The Government felt constrained to say with special emphasis that no favoritism or preference whatever would be enjoyed by these learned recruits. They would enter the departments as junior clerks, and would be "promoted according to the ordinary procedure of the service." So it is with the would-be politician who boasts a University degree. There is no Parliamentary back door through which he can be admitted, eminently fitted though he may seem for a Parliamentary career. In some cases, perhaps, this is a pity. The services of some potential genius in public administration have possibly been denied us, because the way into Parliament is hard, and the whole outlook not particularly inviting to a sensitive man; but genius and public spirit combined are an almost certain passport; and these, after all, are qualities which are not confined to University graduates, or to any other section of society.

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Mr. Justice Angus Parsons, senior puisne judge of this State, will be 62 tomorrow. He is the eldest son of the late Mr. J. Langdon Parsons, who was Minister of Education for many years, Government Resident of the Northern Territory, and served in both Houses of the South Australian Legislature. Mr. Justice Angus Parsons was educated at Prince Alfred College, Roseworthy Agricultural College, and the University of Adelaide, where he graduated in law. In 1897 he was called to the Bar, and he was appointed a judge in 1921. He sat in the House of Assembly as member for Torrens from 1912 to 1915, and for Murray from 1918 to 1921. In 1915 he was Attorney-General and Minister of Education. He is a member of the Council of the University, and Warden of the Senate. In 1900 he married the eldest daughter of Sir Langdon Bonython.



Mr. Justice Angus Parsons

The Vice-Chancellor of the Adelaide University (Sir William Mitchell), has gone to Melbourne to attend the annual congress of the Australian Association of Psychology and Philosophy.

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"Australian Rhodes Review" (Melbourne).—The Australian secretary of the Rhodes Trust (Dr. J. C. V. Behan) has received from the Marquis of Lothian, the London secretary of the trust, a cable message expressing warm appreciation of the enterprise of the Association of Rhodes Scholars in Australia in publishing the first number of the "Australian Rhodes Review" and of the quality of its contents. The review was published at the end of March by the Melbourne University Press.

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