

Ado. 7-4-33

ORGAN MUSIC IN THE LUNCH HOUR

Conservatorium Recitals Begin

For the first of a course of twenty midday organ recitals, the Elder Conservatorium Hall was well filled yesterday. To benefit those who lunch early, a recital at 12.20 is being added this year to the customary one an hour later. The organ music is identical on each occasion, the recitalist being assisted at 1.20 by a singer or an instrumentalist.

Organ playing of a high order marked yesterday's performances. Full scope was offered in movements from the Vaughan Williams' music to the masque, "Job." Based on Blake's "Illustrations for the Book of Job," it reveals the great English composer's original, bold style, mystical yet dramatic, and his keen sense of musical beauty. "The Saraband of the Sons of God," a superb study in the dignity of rhythm, is followed by "Elihu's Dance of Youth and Beauty," abounding in quaint melodic charm. "The Pavane and Galliard of the Sons of the Morning" concludes one of the finest works Vaughan Williams has yet written. Mr. John Horner's impeccable technique, felicitous phrasing, and admirable registration resulted in a rendering that brought out in a wonderful way the sublimity of a great composition, and gave hearers an understanding of why it made such a deep impression when first performed at the Norwich Festival in 1930.

Bach was represented by his prelude and fugue in A minor. This is particularly interesting in the contrast between the severe prelude, so aridly academic, and the jolly fugue, which pulsates with the joy of life as understood by the ordinary mortal. Handel's "Otho" overture atoned for its commonplace maetoso and allegro movements by the melodic charm of the final gavotte.

To Miss Gwen Paul's pianoforte accompaniment, "Tomorrow," the composition of Mr. E. E. Mitchell, a local musician, was sung with good effect by Miss Margery Hartley.

At next Thursday's recitals, Mr. Horner's programme will include the Mozart fantasia and fugue in C, and works of Bach and Corelli. Two old English songs will be sung by Miss Kathleen Ashton, accompanied by Miss Joyce Rafe.

Ad News 6-4-33

IS HOMEWORK INJURIOUS?

Prof. Stewart on Abolition of Exam.

STRAIN FOR SOME

"Excessive homework for boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 13 years could easily be harmful. If the effect of homework at that age were proved to be generally injurious, I would be favorable from that point of view, and other things being equal—to the abolition of the intermediate examination," said Prof. McKellar Stewart, chairman of the Public Examinations Board, this afternoon.

In a leading article yesterday "The News" advocated an enquiry into the amount of homework given school children, and its effect on their health and mentality.

"Between 10 and 13, children are growing fast, causing a heavy drain on their energy, and they should have as much relaxation as possible," said Prof. Stewart. "Homework for them should be reduced to a minimum."

"Older students have reached a more settled stage in their physical development, and can stand homework all right."

Prof. Stewart said that if public discussions on the matter warranted it, the examinations board might consider the subject.

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Ado. 8-4-33

On Tasman's Trail

PROFESSOR G. C. Henderson, of the Adelaide University, who is now in London, hopes in the not distant future, to clear up a question of Australian discovery which has been in doubt for nearly 300 years—the actual landfall in Tasmania made by Abel Tasman when he sighted the west coast of Tasmania on November 24, 1642. Tasman, in command of the little vessels Heemskerck and Zeehaen had been ordered by Anthony van Diemen, Governor-General of the Dutch East Indies, to make an extensive exploration of the Great South Land (Australia). He approached Tasmania, according to his own account, a little north of Cape Sorell. But in the fourth volume of "Monumenta Cartographica," a collection of famous maps and charts edited by the well known Dutch scholar, Dr. Wiedner, it is shown that a map, recently discovered in Vienna, drawn by Isaac Gilsemaans, one of Tasman's officers in the Zeehaen, places the landfall nearly 1 1/2 degrees north of that given by Tasman. There appears to have been some dispute on the Zeehaen regarding the actual landfall, for whereas Tasman and his "ship's council" decided that it should be as actually given in the record of his voyage, Gilsemaans, held to his own opinion, and the Vienna map shows that part of the coast which Tasman left blank fully and carefully drawn.

Checking The Landfall

PROFESSOR Henderson explains that the point as to which landfall is correct can be decided only by approaching the coast on the same course and at the same speed as Tasman's vessels. During his investigation of Tasman's voyage to Fiji he was assisted in clearing up points of similar interest by the British Government and local authorities, who lent him vessels and a navigation expert. The professor hopes to obtain similar aid on his projected expedition to Tasmania, on which he may be accompanied by Dr. Wiedner, their joint enquiries later forming the subject of a book. The Dutch are much interested in the subject, for Tasman was one of the most famous of their navigators, and the bare suggestion, contained in Gilsemaans' map, that Tasman faked his records fills their historians with horror.

Mail 8-4-33

LIFTING BURDEN OF HOMEWORK

Should Intermediate be Abolished

"If the University discontinued the intermediate examination, the Education Department would probably institute an examination for an intermediate certificate—perhaps on different lines," said the Director of Education (Mr. Adey) today. Prof. McKellar Stewart, chairman of the Public Examinations Board, had said that if it were proved that homework was injurious to children of from 10 to 13 he would favor, from that viewpoint, the abolition of the intermediate test.

Yesterday Mr. Adey said that excessive homework was due less to the examination bogey than the over-zealousness of teachers.

In a further contribution to the discussion today, Prof. Stewart said that the University could not be blamed for any excessive homework done for the public examinations.

"The board sets syllabuses which are calculated to entail a reasonable amount of work. As the board includes high school head masters, principals of girls and boys' colleges, and teachers, the onus is on them to see that the syllabuses are not excessive," said Prof. Stewart.

"Blame for homework is sometimes placed on the University because of the entrance qualifications which it requires. But this is unfair. Only 10 per cent. of high school pupils come to the University, yet the others have to do the same homework."

"It is difficult to generalise on the subject of homework. But children of 10 to 13 are shooting up like growing plants, and employment at night—when they should be asleep—may be injurious."

"Some children take to homework like ducks to water; others find it wearisome. Children must learn to work and must also learn to relax. The nature of their home surroundings and whether they are away from home are also factors. It may be better for some children if they have plenty of homework to keep them occupied."

Ado. 10-4-33

WAITE INSTITUTE PRAISED

Agricultural Economy Neglected

"The Waite Research is doing fine work in the interests of Australian agriculture," said Dr. Heinz Krause, of Germany, yesterday. He has been studying Australian agricultural conditions for some months, and has been in South Australia for several weeks. He has made a thorough examination of agricultural areas.

"The institute is the only agricultural research institution in Australia, and the soil tests, plant pathology, and other branches of work being carried out there are most useful," he said. "The work of Professor Prescott is of particular value."

"The neglect of agricultural economy in Australia has rendered my investigations somewhat difficult."

"The only work of the kind in South Australia is being carried out at Turretfield, where complete records are kept, and figures are available. No such data is available regarding private farms, because farmers generally do not keep books."

"There are fine areas of agricultural land in the middle and lower north and Yorke Peninsula particularly," said Dr. Krause. "I find costs of production here higher than in most other States, and I think they could be lowered."

Ado. 10-4-33

Mr. Eric William Gray, South Australian Rhodes Scholar for 1931, has obtained a first-class honor in Moderations at Oxford University, according to news received by his father, Mr. J. T. Gray, of Ororoo. Mr. Gray entered Christ Church in October last year, so that his success has been gained after only two terms.

Ado. 11-4-33

FREE USE OF HOSPITALS

"Degradation To Those Able To Pay"

SURGEON OUTSPOKEN

SYDNEY, April 10. Strong criticism of the full use of public hospitals for surgical treatment by persons able to pay for it was made tonight by Professor F. Gordon Bell, Professor of Surgery at the University of Otago, in the course of the George Adlington Syme oration, which he delivered to the sixth annual meeting of the Australian College of Surgeons tonight. He said that a free treatment was a degradation to those able to pay for it. The president (Sir Henry Newland) presided.

The evils of the social hospital were twofold, said Professor Bell. The surgical work was deprived of healthy criticism and of the benefits of consultation. He suggested that hospitals throughout the country should be graded. That would show the people that they could expect better treatment in large hospitals, and would inspire the local bodies to improve the grading of their institutions. Public hospitals had departed from their original function of being for the use of the destitute sick. The system of charitable and free services from the honorary staff was right only under one condition—that it was restricted to the interests of persons who could pay for accommodation, but not for surgical attention.

Speaking of the education of surgeons, he said that there was a danger of breeding a race of surgical practitioners instead of doctors, and of so lowering the standard of surgery. He suggested the establishment of university hospitals. Students should be compelled by law to undertake a five years' course of training in surgery after they had completed their six years' medical course.

Ado. 11-4-33

CHAMBER MUSIC AT CONSERVATORIUM

Brilliant Performance Of Ravel Piano Trio

By Dr. ALEX BURNARD

Considering the weather, there was a very good audience last night to hear the first Conservatorium chamber music concert of this season. Professor Harold Davies made an announcement that the Elder Conservatorium String Quartet would give another series of nine recitals on Tuesdays at 4.30, beginning on May 2. Last year's experiment was a great artistic success, and this year the scheme has been extended to include representative works from the time of C. P. E. Bach to the present day.

How pleasant to return to the pure tones of the string quartet, after an absence of months! Its very limitations make its message more intimate and personal. This was shown in the Beethoven Quartet in E Minor (the second of the Rasoumovsky set). Permeating the slow movement was a settled calm, a spiritual contentment that there was no shaking. A scherzo neat and positive, with its assertive trio, had great point; and by its sheer brilliance, fine definition of rhythm, and sensing of the nuances, the final presto came as a convincing tour de force. The players—Peter Bornstein, Kathleen Meegan, Sylvia Whittington, and Harold Parsons—are to be congratulated on their sensitive exposition of the entire quartet.

One of the most pregnant half-hours any Elder Hall audience has known was that devoted to the Ravel Trio, its first public performance here. These are very deep waters indeed. All the thought is on a grand scale. There is certainly an amazing cleverness of writing technique, but that factor is always subservient and incidental to the sincerity of the matter. As to the playing—I weigh words carefully when I say that to me it was the greatest piece of ensemble I have heard here. On top of the difficulties with which each separate part bristles, there is an extraordinary difficulty of ensemble that would take most players a year to surmount. Verily, the exponents, Miss Maude Pudoy (at the piano), Mr. Bernstein and Mr. Parsons, are a truly great trio, for over and above these other matters, they gave us an interpretation for the gods. I noted down many points as the movements were played, but I now see that it is impossible to do the work, or the playing, justice by this medium. There is something vast and elemental about it all, not to be caught by words, and I know that many of the audience were speechless with emotion at its close.

Miss Hilda Gill's three French songs, "Les Cygnes" (Hahn), "Les Heures" (Chausson), and "Poeme d'un Jour" (Faure), were all full of artistry. The first two (of strikingly similar texture) gave us a lovely sostenuto and feeling for the long phrase. The "hours" song had the right bleakness and monotony, and the Faure was pulsing with dramatic verve, leading in a glorious sweep to the climax. Mr. George Pearce showed a fine sympathy in his accompaniments.

Ado. 14-4-33

Midday Organ Music At Conservatorium

In his lunch hour organ recitals given in the Elder Conservatorium Hall at 12.20 and 1.20 yesterday, Mr. John Horner's programme comprised characteristic compositions of Mozart, Corelli, and Bach. All were played with high artistry.

The Corelli allegro, a thing of sheer joyous beauty, afforded opportunities of felicitous phrasing and judicious tone color of which the recitalist fully availed himself. Bach in a jolly mood was revealed in the gavotte and gigue from the D major orchestral suite. In effective contrast came the chorale prelude, "Valet Will Ich Dir Geben."

Of Miss Kathleen Ashton's two old English songs, "Shepherd Thy Deemeanor Vary" went particularly well. Miss Joyce Rafe's piano accompaniment to both numbers was delightfully done.

At the recitals on April 20, Mr. Horner will play Elgar's "Crown of India" march, a prelude by Gierambault (1678-1742), and the Handel William C minor prelude and fugue, "Silent Moon" (Vaughan Williams) will be sung by Miss Catharine Watson to the pianoforte accompaniment of Miss Topsy Doenau.