

But, apart from these, the attendance is still miserably meagre. Cannot something be done to afford higher educational advantages to a larger number? It is possible that a judicious system of night lectures would largely increase the number of students for the University courses by attracting young men who are engaged during the day. But this brings us to the second difficulty to which we referred. If a young man has to earn his living by working his six or eight hours per day, he has only a limited time at his disposal either for lectures or for private study. If he be required in his night course to attend as many lectures as a day student does, the result will be that no time will be left for preparation. Every one knows what a lesson without preparation means. Even the elementary music teacher turns away in disgust on learning that a pupil has not given to previous study at least twice or thrice as much time as is occupied in the lesson. In more advanced studies the necessity for preparation is very much greater. To do a creditable University course, a student should be able to devote his mornings to lectures and his afternoons and evenings to private study. One year of [steady determined work in this way is worth three or four years of evening study, and those who can possibly manage to have a year free from the cares of business, in which to give themselves a fair start, should avail themselves of the opportunity by all means. But there are some who cannot do this, and the only alternative is to spread their studies over a longer period of time. In Sydney the course of evening study for a graduate extends over five years. There is, however, no absolutely binding reason why a student should not be allowed to pass in three years if he is able to do so. To leave time for private study is the *sine quâ non*. Perhaps the best way in which the experiment could be tried would be to devote one evening in the week to night lectures, with the object of directing the studies of those who are unable to attend during the day. A simple examination might be held at

short intervals, and the difficulties of the students explained. Probably the day students also would be glad to have this opportunity of testing their progress, and thus the evening students would have a chance of estimating how they were advancing as compared with the others. Elementary classes to compete with the private schools should not be undertaken. But with regard to the studies of those who have already passed the matriculation examination much good might be done by a little timely direction and encouragement.

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THE CHAIR OF MUSIC AND POPULAR PRODUCTIONS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—Thanks to the disinterested exertions of His Excellency Sir William Robinson, the citizens of Adelaide and all the colonists of South Australia are able to boast of the complete establishment of a Chair of Music at their University. This is the more gratifying, inasmuch as the older Universities of Sydney and Melbourne are still without any School of Music, and have had the lead given them in this direction by their much younger sister. The duties of the lately appointed Professor will be for the most part confined to imparting instruction in the theory of music and

the practical technique of the art to those students who are able to pay the fees of the University, and who have sufficient time to devote to the study. Those who will attend Professor Ives's classes will be in the majority of cases persons who intend to make music a profession, and who consequently must devote their whole time and attention to it. Besides these there will probably be some students who will join the Professor's classes from the mere love and passion for music, and from a desire to cultivate their taste in this direction and to attain a more than ordinary state of proficiency. But allowing that the classes for music at the University will be well attended by professional as well as amateur students—and the very fact of Dr. Ives's appointment is in itself a sufficient guarantee that the classes will have a competent instructor—yet outside of this number there must be, and without doubt is, a large number of persons who have a taste for and very fair knowledge of music, but who will not be in a position to devote the time and attention to the study which is to be expected from those attending Professor Ives's classes. This very fact is evidenced by the existence in this city of such Societies as the German Liedertafel, the Quartet Verein, and the String Quartet Society. These Societies, as any one who has attended their concerts is aware, perform in very creditable style, as a rule, music of the highest class, and in every respect "classical." The performing members are almost to a man amateurs, and it is due to them to say that their efforts to foster a taste for good music and the performance of the works of great masters are deserving of the support and co-operation of all lovers of the art. Still it does seem remarkable, and to a stranger utterly unaccountable, that in a city of the size of Adelaide, and that can proudly boast of a Chair of Music at her University, there does not exist a large and flourishing Choral Society capable of producing periodically choral works, oratorios, and cantatas from the souls of the world's greatest and well-known composers.

No one can deny who has had an opportunity of hearing some of the local talent that there exists in Adelaide the material for a Metropolitan Choral Society or Philharmonic Society of the very best kind, and there is very little doubt that such a Society, well conducted under an efficient conductor, would receive the patronage and support of a very large section of the community. A Society such as the one indicated requires as its first essential a thoroughly qualified professional man as conductor, who would of course receive some remuneration for his services, although this would probably be not a very large item, for the position is itself a splendid advertisement, and frequently brings many pupils to the gentleman who fills it. In the next place the membership should not be confined to gentlemen, for there are many choral pieces written which no male voices can fully perform. Further detail is unnecessary, for circumstances must determine these; but the statement that some such Society is a desideratum here, and that there is plenty of material and scope for it, cannot for a moment be denied. The establishment of a large and comprehensive Musical Society does not by any means necessarily imply the termination of those that at present exist in

the city, for these could quite well exist side by side with such a one, inasmuch as none of them appear to fill the place which would be occupied by the more extensive Society proposed. Many of the Societies now in existence are conducted by gentlemen who receive no remuneration, and indeed in some instance by bona-fide amateurs; but it cannot be expected that a professional man will give his services for one evening every week, and, with all respect for the attainments of those conductors who are amateurs, it must be said that the duties of conductor require the knowledge and experience of professional musical men. If a Society such as the Melbourne Philharmonic were established here we should have regularly, say four times a year, concerts of a really good order, in which some oratorio or similar work would be performed by a large chorus, the solo parts being sustained by eminent professionals, and we may expect to turn out of our new School of Music some fitted for this work. We should then also have the "Messiah" to look forward to every Christmas Day, and might expect to hear the grand work performed in a manner worthy of it, instead of trusting to the production of the oratorio by some voluntary choir, who have had little time for practice. If the establishment of the Chair of Music at our University should lead to the organization of a thoroughly good Amateur Choral Society, we should feel satisfied that some real tangible good had resulted.

I am, Sir, &c.,

A LOVER OF MUSIC.