

give instruction and to grant degrees in music. The effect of the establishment of the Chair of Music has been very observable, not exactly in the direction which was at first expected, but still in a very marked degree. The examinations known as the "Junior" and "Senior" in theory and practice have attracted many more candidates than the classes inside the University, so that the musical school is more an examining institution than a teaching one, although in the latter department of its work it has also been fairly successful. The Junior and Senior Examinations have had the effect of giving a direction to the efforts of scholars and teachers outside the University, and in this way they have done a great amount of good to the cause of music in South Australia.

In Melbourne also, according to the scheme which has now been adopted both by the Council and by the Senate, there will be a system of public examinations, and there will likewise be a complete course for the degree of Bachelor of Music, as in Adelaide. But besides this there will be two features in the musical programme of Melbourne University which have at present no counterparts in that of Adelaide University. These are the course for the "diploma of Musical Associate" and the special prizes which are to be given for the encouragement of excellence in the playing of wind instruments. There is no doubt that, as Professor Hall told the University Senate, the majority of musical students will find more practical advantage from the course for the associateship than from that for the degree of Bachelor of Music. The reason is that while the latter is purely theoretical and may be pursued by a student without any practical knowledge of the playing of any instrument, the former will include executive skill as an essential element of success. It has been contended by some University men that the course for the degree of Bachelor of Music cannot logically be made to include instruction in performing on any kind of instrument, seeing that University degrees generally are intended to be conferred for knowledge, and not for manipulative skill. Taking this view as the basis of his suggestions Professor Hall has thought it necessary, in order to secure the recognition of executive skill by the University, to provide for a course quite distinct from that for the University degree, and it is from this course that he is in hopes that at some future time a real conservatorium of music may take its rise. If, as Sir Charles Hallé contended in his remarks to our reporter on his recent visit, the teaching of the practice of music is the proper field of a conservatorium and not of a University, it will always be possible for the University of Melbourne at some future time to confine its attention solely to the curriculum for the theoretical knowledge of music, and to leave to the other institution, when formed, the task of granting the qualification of the "diploma of Musical Associate."

The prizes for skill in performing upon wind instruments are parts of the Professor's programme, which undoubtedly belong also to the department of the work which at some future time would be better left to a conservatory of music.

But the paramount importance of maintaining a high standard of orchestral music seems to have reconciled the University authorities to the not quite logical position of having to offer special distinctions to the blowers of horns, flutes, and oboes. Melbourne at the present moment is certainly far ahead of any other part of Australia in the matter of the standard of its orchestral music, and it seems to be the fixed intention of the people of that city to maintain the lead in this respect. The reception which the magnificent Melbourne Orchestra was accorded in Adelaide a few months ago was scarcely so satisfactory as might have been expected, and it is to be hoped that if, as is anticipated, the orchestra should again visit Adelaide shortly the support accorded will give evidence that Adelaide is not by any means helplessly behind Melbourne in the matter of appreciation of the highest and most complex form of music. There is much need for a special stimulus to the study of certain instruments which are necessary for the production of orchestral works in Adelaide. Great credit is due to those who have attained a certain measure of success in spite of adverse circumstances. Yet it can scarcely be expected that in the absence of some such encouragement as that which Melbourne University is now offering much attention is likely to be paid to the playing of instruments which are seldom used for solo purposes, but which are, nevertheless, absolutely necessary for the production of complete orchestral effects. Professor Hall's scheme as now adopted not only makes provision for this sort of stimulus, but it aims at inducing all students of music to make themselves acquainted with the special literature of music, and for this purpose the study of the German language is included in the University curriculum. The great majority of the books and magazines devoted to the promotion of enthusiasm in music as an art are published in German, and for many years to come it seems as if all who desire to read much in the domain of musical literature will have to attain their object through the medium of that language. Whether the result of all the efforts which are now being put forth will be, as the new Professor hopes, the inauguration of a distinctive Australian School of Music it would be very difficult to say, but that they will have a refining and elevating effect upon the people of Australia as a whole is practically certain.

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