

Ad. 7th July '06

Lovers of the violoncello will regret to hear that Herr H. Kugelberg, the instructor at the Conservatorium of Music, will relinquish his duties at the end of the year. Herr Kugelberg, who is the most accomplished master of the instrument in the city, came to Adelaide from Germany under engagement to Herr Reimann, who was the director of the Adelaide School of Music at the time, and when nine years ago the School of Music was taken over by the University on the establishment of the Conservatorium, Herr Kugelberg moved with the staff of the school to the Conservatorium as 'cello teacher. The 'cello, however, is not an instrument which is patronised by many students, and as the greatest number Herr Kugelberg has had under his control in any year since the opening of the Conservatorium has been under half a dozen, and the present number is only three, the University authorities thought it was not worth while retaining a teacher solely for this branch of study, and therefore decided to abolish the position.

Ad. 9th July 1906

It is understood that Mr. Harold Parsons will succeed Herr Kugelberg as teacher of the violoncello at the Conservatorium of Music. Herr Kugelberg is the teacher of the violoncello at present, and he also takes students in piano playing and ensemble playing, but Mr. Parsons will confine his attention principally to the 'cello. The office of 'cello teacher is not going to be abolished, as stated on Saturday, but Herr Kugelberg intends to engage in private practice as a teacher. He is one of the most accomplished players in the State, and his services will be much missed at the Conservatorium. For the past 18 months Mr. Parsons has been studying the 'cello in Germany.

Req. 9th July '06.

The Conservatorium of Music will lose the services at the end of the present year of Mr. H. Kugelberg, who has earned a reputation throughout South Australia as an accomplished violoncello instructor and teacher of ensemble music. Mr. Kugelberg came to Adelaide from Germany to take a post as 'cello master at the Adelaide School of Music, but when the Conservatorium of Music was established nine years ago he joined the staff of that institution, and has occupied a position there ever since.

Ad. 13th July 1906.

The musical public of Adelaide read with great regret the announcement in "The Advertiser" last Saturday respecting the forthcoming retirement of Herr H. Kugelberg as violoncello master at the Conservatorium. He is to be succeeded by Mr. Harold S. Parsons, who has been a student under Herr Kugelberg, and who has for some time past been pursuing his musical studies in Europe. Mr. Parsons is a native of South Australia, and is the son of Mr. Stephen Parsons, of this city. He began the study of the violoncello eight years ago, his first teacher being Mr. Thomas Gregg. Subsequently he studied at the Conservatorium, where he gained the Elder scholarship, which he held for four years. After leaving the Conservatorium Mr. Parsons proceeded to London, and subsequently to Germany, where for the past twelve months he has been studying at the Hock Conservatorium, Frankfurt-on-Maine, under Herr Hugo Becker. During the next six months Mr. Parsons will continue his studies in London, and will leave for Adelaide in time to enter upon his duties at the Conservatorium on March 1 next.

Ad. 14th July.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURE.

Owing to the fact that the demand for tickets on Tuesday night was too great for the capacity of the hall, Professor Henderson repeated his lecture on "Wordsworth" last evening. The Prince of Wales theatre, in which the lecture was given, was, as on the previous occasion, filled to overflowing, and the professor kept the attention of his hearers from start to finish, as he traced the life story of Wordsworth, concluding with an appeal for a greater appreciation of the beauties of nature. The second of the series of three lectures, entitled "Three nineteenth century poets," will be delivered on Tuesday evening next.

NATURE STUDY.

Professor Henderson is entitled to the gratitude of the community for having in his recent lecture again drawn attention to the gain to be derived from the cultivation of the habit of observation in the world of nature. No form of artificial excitement or entertainment can ever arouse such delightful emotions or be productive of such lasting and pleasant memories as are to be obtained from the careful contemplation of immediate natural phenomena, and no other time can be better than the present for beginning a course of such self-training. A short railway or coach journey in any direction—especially perhaps into the hills about Adelaide—will provide ample material for a wide range of nature study. The grass has already got a good start, and the meadows, tenanted by sleek herds and contented flocks, look grandly picturesque; the indigenous trees and shrubs are beginning to put out their blossom; the glint of golden wattle breaks from depth of varied green, and underfoot the heaths and other plants are flowering. Bird life is to be seen everywhere, and no other charms of this kind can just now excel those in the neighbourhood of Nairne and towards the foot of the Bremer Ranges, where magnificent flocks of rosella and green parrots and parakeets fly from tree to tree, and exhibit their gorgeous plumage. During the next two or three months our delectable ranges—with which not half the inhabitants of Adelaide even are adequately familiar—will offer increasing attractions for the tourist and the excursionist. No one who devotes a little time and money for a first visit to any of the roads that wind through the fertile gullies of the Adelaide hills will fail of ample reward in the landscape revelations disclosed at nearly every turn.

Req. 14th July '06

WORDSWORTH'S MESSAGE TO DEMOCRACY.

"CULTIVATE A LOVE FOR THE BEAUTIFUL."

The popularity of the Adelaide University extension lectures on "Poets of the nineteenth century" by Professor Henderson was again demonstrated on Friday evening, when the first lecture on "Wordsworth" was repeated for the benefit of those who were unable to gain admission on Tuesday evening. The accommodation of the Prince of Wales Theatre was again taxed to seat the large audience.

—The Democratic Point of View.—

Professor Henderson indicated the development of the mind of the Nature-worshipping poet and his power to idealize and "see" invisible things, and then broke new ground by discussing Wordsworth's message to democracy. He felt that Wordsworth, if they would only come in the right attitude of mind and take him frankly and sincerely, could give something to them in democratic South Australia which would make life sweeter and richer, and make them happier and healthier human beings. It was a message to democracy for this reason. In the ancient world the ideal which lay before men had been a comparatively easy one as against theirs. Slavery had been a recognised institution, but it had gone. The ideal they aimed at was the best life for the few. They who lived in a democracy, whether they liked it or not, must try to pursue a different ideal far more difficult to attain—the best life for all. (Applause.) Therefore, if he could refer them to some interest that could make an appeal to all, and if in turning their attention to the priest of Nature and considering his attitude to Nature, he asked them to consider the works of a poet who spoke of that which was within the reach of all, surely it was something worth considering from the democratic point of view. They did not need much money to get in touch with Nature. Nature was about their very doors, and Nature, too, in some of its most beautiful forms. While these beautiful things were open to all he wanted to argue that the interests of Nature were interests of a high order. They had no doubt read of beautiful skies in Umbria and in other parts of the world. Before he left this country for the first time he had longed to go to Umbria to have that experience. He had gone, and enjoyed the splendour of those skies; but he could honestly say they had influenced his life no more than the solemn grandeur of the starlit night, such as that evening. South Australian skies were as beautiful. Sunrise was a subject which had exercised the minds of some of the greatest poets, and he commended those present to go at this season of the year especially to the hills, and there, as they saw the morning sunlight flashing down the valleys, making one side golden, and that golden flash all spangled with glistening dewdrops—when they heard the magpies carolling, and saw the leaves on the trees faintly shimmering, just ask if anything could be more sublime and beautiful. He had stood on the hillside near Burnside and watched the sun set over the gulf, and the clouds with their scarlet edges and mingling tints of green and blue, and had watched the first star come out, flash, and disappear. The sunsets seen from Burnside had been as beautiful as the sunsets he had seen in Cumberland, Switzerland, and Italy. Wordsworth had written:—

For things far off we toil,
While many a good thing sought
Comes too near and is never gained.

They let custom take far too great a grip of them. If the susceptibilities of beautiful, of aesthetic interests became dull, life was impoverished.

Req. 14 July

Safeguard Against Possible Danger.

Were the prismatic colours which flashed from a diamond any more beautiful than the prismatic colours that flashed from a dewdrop in the morning? There were blue, purple, and reds. If the dewdrop was intrinsically as beautiful, it should have the same power to appeal to the sense of beauty. Aesthetic interest did not depend on anything that was "thine or mine." He had known men rave about the beauty of a sunset on canvas, when they were unconscious of a sunset in the west—a sunset they could have for nothing. The best purpose a picture could serve was to make them appreciate the beauty of Nature. In Nature they had the originals, which the painter tried to imitate; and if pictures were a valuable appeal to the higher faculties, they had in Nature itself a valuable appeal to interests of a high order. If they would only cultivate those interests they would be a safeguard against the danger which he saw might be ahead of this democratic country. He was not more afraid of democracy than any other form of government, but few would deny that it had its dangers. It depended a good deal on the ruling principle of democracy; and if in future they were to look forward to a struggle for mere material gain, in which individuals were plunged in individual rivalry, they might have something horrible to contemplate. Aristotle had said "the beginning of reform is not so much to equalize property, as to train the nobler sort of natures not to desire more." If one had an acre of ground, and gave it away as a material thing, it no longer belonged to him. Supposing, however, that the ground contained beautiful flowers, well-proportioned trees, and a few singing birds. An idealistic companion happened to walk along and look upon them, and an idea flashed upon his mind, and a feeling was elicited which made him happy. That feeling passed to his companion, and he lost nothing. In the exercise of the higher faculties the distinction between "mine and thine" was almost lost. One could give away an idea and convey a happy feeling, and instead of being poorer be richer than before. "The beginning of reform is not so much to equalize property as to train the nobler sort of natures not to desire more," and if in the school children they could cultivate a love for beautiful ideas and for refined feelings they would mitigate the sordidness of this struggle, because the children would care more for them than for their "acre of ground." They would probably want their acre of ground as well, but their lives would not be so sordid that that would be made the beginning and end of all. They would have developed those feelings which they could share with other people, and not be poorer, but richer than before, because they had that realm of Nature round about them, that world of beautiful Nature which evoked from Robert Louis Stevenson—

The world is so full of wonderful things,
I am sure we should all be as happy as kings.

—Develop the Faculty of Seeing.—

Their natures had become dull by custom. These wonderful things were too near. They longed for the picture galleries of Italy, and had not eyes to realize the beautiful things about them. One way to learn to see them was by a study of Wordsworth. All he could hope by this lecture was to give them an attitude of mind, to try to stimulate them to read in such a way as to develop the faculty of seeing. None could develop that faculty except by hard work.

Req. 17th July '06

A TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR TATE.

The writer of an article on "Australian Physiography" in The Melbourne Argus on Saturday made this reference to the late Professor Tate, of the Adelaide University:—"It is to the late Professor Ralph Tate that we owe our knowledge of the main facts of the structure of the Lake Eyre basin. Year after year saw him gathering together the pieces of evidence he required, and at last he was able to present us with a clear picture of the past. Here, again, the evidence was the result of the labours of many observers, but Tate's was the hand that fitted the puzzle together, and he supplied many of the missing parts. Tate showed that the cretaceous water-bearing rocks of Central Queensland underlay the greater part of the Lake Eyre basin, and that during their accumulation the sea occupied the whole area over which they are found. Then at a later period, when these rocks had long been above sea level, and in times not very far removed from the present in the geological sense, a humid climate prevailed, and the conditions were suitable for the support of vast numbers of gigantic diprotodons and many other marsupial forms, while the lacustrine origin of the low level deposits is indicated by the presence of crocodiles, turtles, and fish." He showed that neither in cretaceous times, nor at a later period, did the sea divide Australia into two islands, as suggested by Dana and Wallace. Since the bounteous climate of Pliocene times (says Tate), there has been a gradual drying up of the central area, and the vast fresh-water lakes and ever flowing streams have been replaced by dry and sandy desert, which is only temporarily alleviated by stray seasons of heavier rainfall. Nor is he ignorant of the cause, the shifting of the areas of barometric pressure."