

Advertiser
6th December 1898.

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THE RECENT MUSIC EXAMINATIONS.

To the Editor.

Sir—Please allow me to state the following facts, which I can prove if necessary. One pupil is prepared to swear she was not asked a single question re signs, &c. Yet I am informed she was weak in knowledge of signs. Candidates passed in sight reading who acknowledge they could not read at all, ditto theory, and failed for their strongest points. The same in theory papers. I am informed that two of my candidates failed to get any marks in questions 6 and 7, junior division. I simply defy the examiners to prove this unless they have changed their numbers of candidates, papers, and names. One girl in the senior division was asked to play the melodic minor in thirds and sixths. Another girl was not asked to do this. I should like to see the theory papers overhauled by some independent authority. The sooner the University can prove their bona fides the better for themselves. What right have the examiners to ask candidates their ages? How long they have learnt, &c.? We simply want a given standard, without fear or favor. If the University examiners are incompetent to do this they are not wanted. Many complaints of previous years have been all stifled. I quote a few:—1897, Primary—Young lady in charge allowed candidates to go in any order; candidates over two hours ahead of their time; and I can prove they never gave their card, or were asked their number by anybody. Primary, 1898—A local secretary generally interfered and gave Professor Ives (I have no doubt good) advice at a country examination. Country candidates have been forwarded cards without dates or hours of attendance. Practical musicians have allowed themselves to be put on one side for years by faddists, who are incompetent to play the accompaniments of a christy minstrel company. We have no guarantee that the professors from home are worth their salt. Parents do not want fads; they want a little pleasant, practical music at home. Let the teachers subject the practical and theory lists to the closest scrutiny. An association of South Australian teachers would enter into an income of over £500 a year. Melbourne and Sydney teachers would soon do the same, and exchange examiners. We should have a society having at least £2,000 annually, and the British organist could stop at home and theorize to his amateur choir. Can the University authorities definitely deny that the Conservatorium candidates were told of the new demands in the syllabus?—I am, &c.,

CAULFIELD BARTON.
Port Pirie, December 2, 1898.

THE JUNIOR EXAMINATION.

To the Editor.

Sir—"Fairplay" deserves the thanks of the interested public for expressing through your valuable paper the general dissatisfaction felt at some of the questions given at the recent junior examination. Some of the candidates wasted precious time wondering whether an outline map only was meant, fearing to fully fill one in case they lost marks for attempting too much. One or two ventured to ask the attendant nearest at hand what was meant, only to receive the reply, "Not allowed to tell," with a smile at the expense of the puzzled candidate. Many did not attempt the physical question at all, for the reason already given by "Fairplay." These have but a gloomy outlook as to the result of the examination. To those who go up merely for the sake of gaining the certificate, or to gratify the ambition of their parents, or the principal of the high school they attend, it is not of much concern, but to those who wish to earn their living by teaching, it is a serious matter, for to gain anything like a remunerative position they must pass these examinations. Some who went up are pupil teachers, and have had to study in the early morning and far into the night after teaching all day. They have given up every pleasure, and by dint of much self-denial have managed to pay their entrance-fee and have a coach for the last few months prior to the examination, which finds them over-anxious, and in some cases physically and mentally overstrung. Their first glance at the papers reveals some such question as those to which exception has been taken. They lose heart directly, and the result is failure; not through want of application or lack of ability. They find that many hours of study have been simply thrown away, because many of the questions are outside their course of study. It is for this class I ask the leniency of the examiners, and would suggest that some arrangement be made by which those who fail might be allowed to go up again in March by paying, say half fee, simply taking those subjects in which they have failed, as I suppose few fail in all subjects. Otherwise it means another year of hard study, with probably a like result. This is for some the second time of failing and unless some such arrangement is made, and the candidates have some idea of the ground they ought to cover in their studies and those who set the questions keep within the limits, I venture to say that the number of entrants will be less, and there will be a falling off in the receipts of the University. Trusting that you will find space for this, and that some friend of the overworked and underpaid pupil teacher will take the subject up—I am, &c.,

NOT A CANDIDATE.

THE RECENT MUSIC EXAMINATIONS.

To the Editor.

Sir—General dissatisfaction is being expressed at the results of the late musical examinations, but why do not those teachers, who are in a position to do so give publicity to some of the individual instances which are being freely discussed amongst themselves and their friends? Some curious cases have come under my own notice—one in which a candidate lent a helping hand to another in her preparations (theory). To the surprise of both the amateur "coach" found her name in the second class list, whilst her co-devant pupil was given a first-class place. In another instance a teacher tried to dissuade a pupil from entering, thinking she stood no chance of getting through; judge her astonishment when she found that her well-prepared and capable pupils had taken second-class places, while the "aspiring incompetent" came out in the first class. In a previous exam. a candidate on being presented with the sight-reading test exclaimed, "It's no use, I can't read music at sight a bit." To which the examiner good naturedly replied, "Oh, never mind, then." To her own surprise this candidate was given a first-class certificate. Something ought to be done.—I am, &c.,

L. C.
December 5, 1898.

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UNIVERSITY COMMEMORATION.

The annual Commemoration of the University of Adelaide will be held at the University this afternoon. Until 3 o'clock only ticketholders will be admitted; after then the general public may enter. Sharp at 3 the members of the Senate and of the Council will walk in procession to the library. Arrived there the Chancellor, His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, will take the chair, and the proceedings will begin. The Deans of the Faculties will present the candidates in their respective Faculties to the Chancellor, who will confer degrees. Amongst those who recently passed the qualifying examination, and are to receive degrees, are three ladies. Graduates of other Universities who are to be admitted ad eundem gradum are the Right Hon. Charles Cameron Kingston, D.C.L., University of Oxford; the Rev. Frederick John Jervis-Smith, F.R.S., M.A., University of Oxford; the Rev. Thomas Worthington, M.A., University of Cambridge; Bazett David Colvin, M.A., University of Cambridge; the Rev. George Davidson, M.A., University of St. Andrew's; Patrick MacMahon Glynn, J.L.B., University of Dublin; Francis John Douglas, M.B., Ch.B., University of Melbourne; Frederic John Chapple, M.B., Ch.B., University of Melbourne. The students who have won special prizes and scholarships will then be presented to the Chancellor. Finally Professor Salmond will deliver the annual address.

Register
9th Dec. 1898.

MUSICAL GRADUATES.

MRS. KELLY AND MR. HOLE.

At the University commemoration to-day the degree of Bachelor of Music will be conferred upon Mrs. Franziska H. M. Kelly (née and Mr. W. M. Hole. Both have the course of study for their University, and have written a have been approved by ainers, consisting of Sir Frederic Herbert Oakley, and Prof. Kelly owes her success in a mainly to the musical spirit of her father, Mr. Puttmann, in the practice and theory of the usual degree course with a, and studied composition with Mr. Davies, as Puttmann inherited musical the very early age of she beat time to her father's five years played an accompaniment on the violin. Her first appearance place when she was eight years of age, and she played a successful Concert, and she played "Les Huguenots." As a performer at concerts before Governor's Jervois, Robinson, Loch, and Kintore. Her last, as well as first, concert appearance was with the Adelaide Liedertafel, but she never received a fee for any performance, as her father wished her to play merely for the love of the art. She won the Elder Scholarship at the age of fifteen, but Mr. Otto Fischer took it because her parents considered that she was too young to proceed to England, so far from home, as the conditions required. Later on her pupil, Miss Porter, gained the same scholarship, also at the age of fifteen. When seventeen Miss Puttmann was offered a senior scholarship for the Melbourne School of Music by Mr. Russell, the Principal, but declined it. She started with the first set of students for the Mus. Bac. degree, about fifty, of whom Mr. T. H. Jones, who graduated, was one. For some years after her marriage to Mr. Kelly Mrs. Kelly resided in Melbourne.

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The Advertiser
7th December 1898.

THE MUSICAL EXAMINATIONS.

To the Editor.

Sir—The professional musicians are deserving of high praise for the music their pupils give us, both publicly and in private. I respectfully submit as a solution of the examination problem that there should be only one Board of Examiners, the representatives of Trinity College. In fairness to the University Professor it must be said that the examination of Mus. Bac. students by him gives universal satisfaction, and if this is so with one class of students why is it not so with the other class? I am pleased with the proposal to establish an Association—not, I hope, to widen the present breach, but to protect the best interest of the profession—which would also protect the public—to guard against abuses and to make a better feeling all around.

I am, Sir, &c.,

H. W. MATTHEWS.

To the Editor.

Sir—Mr. Mitchell's letter certainly demands an answer, and it will be interesting to hear from Professor Ives. I hope his will be a short reply, as the public cannot wade through columns of argument between angry musicians. The whole trend of Mr. Mitchell's letter is complaint against the successes enjoyed by Conservatorium pupils and anger at the want of success of private teachers' pupils. We know that bitter invective has been employed in the recent controversy, and if the Professor will categorically answer Mr. Mitchell's present complaints we will be able to form a judgment in the last matter. Apparently at present Mr. Mitchell has made out a very strong case, and, as one interested, I should like to see the fullest publicity.

I am, Sir, &c.,

DADDY.

THE RECENT MUSICAL EXAMINATIONS.

To the Editor.

Sir—I have hitherto had little to complain of about the method in which the public examinations in music have been conducted, my pupils almost invariably securing passes; so I ought to be competent to express an opinion on the subject on which I am writing. If I can believe the statements of three of my pupils—and I have not the slightest reason to doubt the strict accuracy of any one of them—candidates were required to stand tests for which the syllabus certainly did not provide, and for which they had, therefore, not been prepared. In the case of one pupil the tests were more fitted for the advanced course. Of Professor Ives I have the very highest opinion, and of his utter fairness not the shadow of doubt exists. I am inclined to believe that the English examiner came here with a determination to cut down passes, and in carrying out such determination fixed his own standard of excellence, regardless of that which the University pamphlets announced. Of course, one is always ready to find excuses for failures; but, allowing for all the faults and blunders which nervousness will bring about, I cannot reconcile the failure of some of my pupils with the success of my others, and almost believe that one of the examiners must have been in a dyspeptic condition during the early stage of the examinations.—I am, &c.,

J. W. ELLIOTT.
Strathalbyn, December 5, 1898.

and Count Thun-Hohenstein, the Austrian Premier, have recommended for adoption, the Liberals supported the Government in an attempt to impose fresh taxation to enable effect to be given to the new financial agreement with Austria. The Oppositionists, however, resorted to obstructive tactics, and succeeded in postponing a settlement.

Yesterday the Ministry, wearied by delays, and anxious to obtain this additional revenue, induced its followers to carry a resolution praying the Emperor Francis Joseph to impose the new taxes by means of an Imperial decree.

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UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.

EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF MUS. BAC.

Pass List.

First Year.—First class—Arthur Hermann Olo. Second class—None. Third class—Marion Kirkwood Kemp.

Second Year.—First class—None. Second class—Jane Drysdale Ure. Third year—None.

The exercise of the undermentioned candidate has been approved.—Franziska H. M. Kelly (formerly Puttmann).

To the Editor.

Sir—The examiners' report on the violin section states that in the Junior Division there was again evidence of carelessness as to elementary details. This assertion, and the fact that so few candidates offer themselves, seem to indicate that as a first examination the "Junior" is too far advanced. In the London College of Violinists there are three examinations before the standard of the Adelaide "Junior" is reached, and elementary faults have thus a fair chance of being corrected at an early stage—a most necessary thing in violin-playing. I do not advocate lowering the standard of the examinations, but suggest that the Board of Musical Studies consider the advisableness of holding a simpler or "preliminary" examination in addition to the present "Junior" and "Senior." It would lead to many more candidates presenting themselves, and greatly tend to correct elementary faults before the advanced stage of the "Junior" examination was reached.

I am, Sir, &c.,

WM. H. JEFFERSON.
Millicent, December 2.