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Some importance attaches to the Provisional Syllabus of the Elder Conservatorium, which Professor Ives courteously forwards from the Adelaide University. Therein is announced the establishment—in connection with the Adelaide University—of a school providing a complete system of instruction in the art and science of music, at a moderate cost to the student. The school will open next March, and will be housed in temporary quarters, pending the construction of a large concert hall, and teaching and lecture rooms, fully equipped with a grand organ, etc. Reference has already been made to the professorial staff in process of selection, and we may now refer to other aspects interesting to professional and amateur students, especially in view of the fact that four out of eight scholarships will be open to the ~~who~~ who have resided in some part of Australasia for at least two years prior to the date of examination. Of these, one for singing and one for musical competition, will be competed for next March. The age limit for the former will be 17 to 24, and for the latter 12 to 25. The "Principal" subjects at present provided for are harmony and musical composition, pianoforte, singing, organ, harp, violin, violoncello, and other ~~con~~ central instruments; and, as "Secondary" subjects, elements of music, sight-singing and musical dictation, history of music, chamber music, concerted music, orchestral playing, elocution, Italian, French, and German. The course of instruction will be divided into three grades, and for the three terms of 12 weeks which will constitute the ~~academic~~ year, the fee will be respectively 10, 12, and 14 guineas per annum. When it is considered that each fee will secure the student tuition in one principal and in one secondary subject, and that there will be opportunity for orchestral practice, a library of classical composition, and full scores for reference, a musical atmosphere, and the Mecca of an examination (after three years) for the Diploma of Associate in Music, the Elder Conservatorium should start with a long roll of students. Certainly were such an opportunity offered in Sydney, it could be eagerly rushed. The question is, can it be done for the money, and where is the £20,000 start to come from?

Register  
3<sup>rd</sup> March 1898.

## THE ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BUILDING.

The new Conservatorium of Music, which the University authorities propose to build, is to be erected on the vacant land at the eastern side of the University; there will be a space of about 60 ft. between the two buildings. As will be seen by the accompanying sketch of the front elevation, the general design of the proposed new structure is in harmony with that of the existing building. The gross measurement of the Conservatorium will be about 175 ft. long by 60 ft. broad. Its principal feature is to be a spacious Concert Hall, which will occupy the whole of the main floor. This hall is to be 132 ft. long by 50 ft. wide, and to the apex of its ceiling will be 60 ft. high. The main walls themselves will rise 35 ft. above the floor level. It is to be seated with Cathedral chairs, and will accommodate an audience of 1,000 persons.

On the stage or platform, which is at the north end of the hall, room is provided for at least 150 performers, and at the back of the stage a receptacle is planned of sufficient dimensions for a large organ. At each side of the stage will be two dressing-rooms 14 ft. by 12 ft., and on each side of the entrance-hall will be cloak-rooms and lavatories. The cloak-rooms are to be fitted up so that they may also be used as teaching-rooms. Three entrances are to be provided to this Concert Hall, one at the front and one on each side. All of these will be approached by a short flight of steps, since this floor is to be raised some feet above the ground level in order to give room for the basement apartments. Ample light is provided by four large windows on either side, and the ceiling of the hall is to be an open-timbered one of a plain Gothic design.

On the basement floor are to be six class or teaching rooms, the smallest of which will measure 12 ft. by 19 ft. 6 in., while the largest will be 20 ft. by 19 ft. 6 in.; each will be 12 ft. high. There are also to be provided on this level a Director's room, and Professor's common room, of good dimensions; a smaller concert-room, 49 ft. by 24 ft., and 15 ft. high at the north end of the building; and at the south end a similar room, 49 ft. by 25 ft., which will provide accommodation for one of the University lecturers, who at present is without a special classroom. This smaller concert-room will seat about 150 persons, and accompanying it are to be lavatories, and a large room to accommodate the blowing engines of the organ, and any other machinery which may at some future time be required. Hollow brick walls are to be used for the partitions of all these rooms, which with double doors should render them thoroughly sound-proof. The ceilings are to be constructed of silicate cotton, a mineral substance which has the triple merit of being soundproof, fireproof, and waterproof. The entrance to this lower floor will be from each side of the main building only.

Froestone is to be used in the construction of this building, which is to be plain and substantial rather than ornamental, and the roofs are to be of galvanized iron. The design has been prepared by Mr. F. J. Naish, who is now drawing up detailed specifications for the new structure. Tenders are to be called for immediately, and we understand that the University authorities are prepared to spend about £10,000 on the new building.