

The Discontent in New Zealand.

The grievance of the South Canterbury (New Zealand) teachers concerning the regulation for the payment of salaries on average attendance was recently ventilated at a meeting of teachers in that district. In a paper read by one of the teachers it was shown that of the 126 adult teachers in that division, 18 would have their salaries reduced this year owing to the falling off in the average attendance. Specific instances of this injustice were given. It was stated that one teacher of 20 years' standing had received varying amounts as annual salary. In 1906-7 he received £180, but in 1907-8, because the average attendance at his school had fallen from 56 to 46, he was only paid

£165. Another teacher with 30 years' experience was shown to have been in receipt of £150 a year 20 years ago, but now, because his average attendance had fallen off, he was getting only £120 a year. Last year his salary was £144, and his house allowance £20, but this year, in addition to a drop of £24 in salary, his house allowance also went down to £10. Several other similar cases were cited. In a summary of the position of the teachers, it was shown (1) that the average salary of the adult teachers was £135 a year; (2) that out of the 126 teachers 5 received under 30/ a week, 20 received 30/ to 35/ a week, 23 received between 35/ and 45/ a week, 92 received less than £3 a week, and only 6 received over £5 a week. The teachers claim that the remedy for this falling off in average attendance is not to reduce the teacher's salary but to move him to a school with a higher average attendance.

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STRATHALBYN, April 24.—At the Institute Hall on Thursday evening last a large attendance assembled to hear the third of the "Hamlet" series of lectures given by Professor Henderson, of the Adelaide University. Prior to the arrival of the professor the president of the institute (Mr. C. L. A. Wyatt) said that at the last meeting of the committee Mr. E. J. Tucker had made the suggestion that as this series of lectures had been so well attended it would be well to ascertain whether the residents entertained any desire for a second series. He believed that a general wish prevailed that Professor Naylor should be invited, but the committee desired a direct expression of opinion from those present. The attendance at the lectures this year had been more than double than at those held last year, thanks to the appreciation of the lecturer, and the better organisation of the committee. It was unanimously agreed to invite Professor Naylor to Strathalbyn to deliver a course of three lectures. Professor Henderson's subject was "Lessons from Hamlet." Although the professor's two previous lectures on the "language" and "character" of Hamlet had been most interesting, this final effort was conceded to be the best of the series. Professor Henderson afterwards stated that he felt not only pleased but encouraged by the reception given him in Strathalbyn, the increasingly large and attentive audiences testifying to the appreciation, not only of his individual efforts, but of the University scheme to extend its influence to the country districts. The broad organisation the Strathalbyn institute committee had effected, with the gratifying success secured, might well be copied in other parts of the State.

DEATHS UNDER ANÆSTHETICS.

Professor Watson, in discussing on Thursday the proposal of the Melbourne Hospital committee to appoint a special anaesthetist of that institution, said that as far as he knew no such position existed in the Adelaide Hospital. In Melbourne they had in Dr. Embley an anaesthetist who had worked with Professor Martin, the director of the Lister Institute in London. There was no such expert in Adelaide, with the exception of Dr. Angus Johnson. There were very few deaths under anaesthetics in the Adelaide Hospital in comparison with the Melbourne Hospital, because in the latter institution chloroform was much more largely used. "Whenever the Scotch element prevails," he said, "you will find that the use of chloroform predominates. Where the chief element is English or American ether is generally used." It appears that while "any duffer" can administer ether it requires considerable experience and skill to give chloroform. "Chloroform kills much quicker than ether," added the professor. He stated that chloroform was often administered by novices without ill effects; he had heard of cafekeepers in the heart of Germany in touch with medical men and scientists, pulling out a bottle of chloroform and administering the anaesthetic when extracting a tooth, but there were risks attached to such proceedings. He considered that it was desirable that a special anaesthetist should be appointed at the Adelaide Hospital, so that the younger generation of doctors would then be afforded an opportunity of learning this branch of medical science.

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THE CHARACTER OF HAMLET.

There was a large attendance in the Victoria Hall on Monday evening, when Professor Henderson delivered the fourth of his Adelaide University extension lectures on "Hamlet." He took as his subject the character of Hamlet, and for over an hour held the undivided attention of his hearers. There was a great variety of opinion, he said, regarding the character of Hamlet, and, strange as it might appear, the Germans knew more about Shakespeare than the English. The best of Shakespearean scholars were not English, but Germans, and if he wanted to find the best that had been said or thought about Hamlet he had to turn to the German writers. Carl Rohrbach caused a little flutter in the Shakespearean world when he declared that the key to the play was to be found in the last act and the last scene, in which he suggested that Hamlet was merely an actor. On the other hand, Carl Werder held that Hamlet was too impulsive and prone to action, and according to Goethe, Hamlet was a highly-gifted, noble nature, but unequal to the performance of a great task. The lecturer pointed out that the tragic fault in Hamlet's character lay in the fact that he failed in the highest form of action, based on the union of the intelligence and will. Dealing then with the emotional side of Hamlet's character, the lecturer showed him to be endowed with a strong æsthetic feeling, but said his tenderness had been exaggerated and his language was that of a disappointed idealist. The play also contained evidence sufficient to throw doubt on the sincerity of his love for Ophelia. Hamlet was excitable, his passions were violent, and were not always under control. He was endowed with that feeling which was closely allied to hysteria, and what he lacked was strength and force.

CONSERVATORIUM CONCERT.

The 1908 series of concerts in connection with the Conservatorium was inaugurated at the Elder Hall on Monday evening, when a capital programme was efficiently carried out by a number of students, assisted by Mr. H. S. Parsons. His Excellency (the Governor and Lady Le Hunte) were present, and there was a large audience. Most of the performers have previously been heard in public, and in each instance there were evidences of progress and careful study. The meritorious standard both of the vocal and instrumental contributions was a gratifying feature of the concert, and if it may be taken as an indication of the amount of young talent which is steadily developing there is every reason to look forward to the musical future of the State with confidence. Mr. Arthur B. Williamson, who for some time past has demonstrated a considerable aptitude for the organ, opened the programme with a satisfactory rendering of "Fantasie sonata," op. 65 (Rheinberger). The writing gave him sufficient opportunity of displaying his skill with fingers and on the pedals. Sure execution, together with a nice sense of effect, won for him well-merited applause. The cavatina, "Be thou faithful unto death," from Mendelssohn's "St. Paul," was tastefully sung by Mr. S. A. Cooper, the violoncello obligato being played by Mr. Parsons. Mr. F. Bevan acted as piano accompanist. Miss Edith Hoche, a young lady of great promise, gave a capital rendering of the piano solos "Sonnette de Petrarca" (Liszt) and "Valse caprice" (Rubinstein). A violin solo (the first movement from Rode's "Concerto in E minor"), by Mr. Samuel Kollosche, did great credit to the gifted student and to his instructor. Mr. Kollosche has consistently progressed since he first took part in these concerts, and his fingering in difficult passages was commendable. Miss Elizabeth Rodgers, a young soprano, with a flexible voice, sang with good expression, in "Who is Sylvia?" and "The post" (Schumann), Miss Hack being the accompanist. During the last two or three years Mr. Gordon Short has been regarded as one of the pianists of the future. His interpretation of "Scherzo in B minor" (Chopin) was perhaps the best effort he has yet publically made. With an exceptionally well-developed technique he united artistic feeling, and the performance was greeted with applause. Miss Olive Bassett's singing in the charming songs, "Caro mio ben" (Giordani) and "Melisande in the wood" (Alma Goetz) was pleasing. Mr. Bevan was the accompanist, and the item was amongst the best of the evening. "Barcarolle" (Chopin) was selected by the young pianist, Miss Carlien Jurs, and the playing was excellent. Miss Mary Roach, who has for some time given promise as a violinist, played with fluency and skill in "Romanes" from "Second concerto" (Wieniawski), Herr H. Heinicke being the accompanist. "One thing befalleth," one of the four last serious songs by Brahms, was particularly well adapted to the fine baritone voice of Mr. Stanley May, and his interpretation showed that he had caught the spirit of the composition. Mr. May already ranks high amongst the young vocalists of the State, and his singing on this occasion should add to his reputation. Miss Hack was the accompanist. The first movement of the "Trio in C minor" (Mendelssohn) was effectively rendered by Miss Edith Hoche (piano), Miss Sylvia Whittington (violin), and Mr. H. S. Parsons (cello).