

Border Watch 19/4/07

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state with the request that they should select the course of lectures they desired, and as soon as their decisions were made known to the Registrar of the University the Extension Lecture Committee would endeavour to comply with all requests made. Great interest was being manifested in this extension of university work, and the promoters—the Professors of the Adelaide University—were sanguine that the success which had attended the lectures in the city would also be achieved in the country districts. Much, however, depended upon the activity of the members of the local committees.

In reply to enquiries, Mr. Hodge said he believed Professor Henderson, who is the Professor of Arts and English Literature, would be disengaged and available to deliver a course of lectures during the second university vacation—from August 19th to the 30th; and, on the motion of Mr. Davison, seconded by Mr. Watson, it was resolved that he be asked to visit Mount Gambier then, and give a course of addresses.

The meeting was then adjourned to that evening fortnight, when the Committee will meet again to select one of the four courses offered by Professor Henderson.

MILLICENT CENTRE.

On Thursday of last week Mr. Hodge visited Millicent with the view of forming a local University Centre there. He was met at the Anglican schoolroom by a number of those interested, the Rev. T. Ward presiding, and the question of holding annual local examinations in educational subjects and music on the lines laid down by the University was discussed. The meeting thought well of the proposal, and a working committee was appointed to take action, and also, if thought desirable, to arrange for a course of extension lectures. The committee appointed was as follows:—Revs. T. Ward, R. Nairn, M.A., D. C. Harris, and Father McEvoy, Messdames F. E. Cook and D. Campbell, messrs. D. Campbell, M.P., E. E. Stuckey, W. S. Hobart, J. B. Mitchell, E. J. Harris, and S. C. Tonge, and Mr. D. A. Kennedy (Hon. Secretary). An effort is to be made to hold an examination next September. The election of a Chairman of the Committee was allowed to stand over until the first meeting.

BORDER TOWN CENTRE.

On Tuesday last Mr. Hodge visited Border Town. He was met by a number of leading residents at the Institute Hall, the Rev. W. Hawke in the Chair. As the result a strong working committee was formed to take in hand the arrangements for holding annual examinations and the delivery of extension lectures. The names of the committee appointed were:—The Revs. W. Hawke, F. R. French, and J. T. Houston, Messrs. J. B. Makin, J. Kennedy, W. A. Johnson, W. Ballinger, A. L. Fry, C. S. Wylie, and Messdames Maynard, C. H. Wiese, and John Hay. The Rev. J. T. Houston was appointed Secretary, but the appointment of a chairman was allowed to stand over until the first meeting of the Committee. It was decided that steps should be taken to arrange for a course of extension lectures some time during the present year.

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS IN COUNTRY CENTRES.

The recent establishment of new centres at Bordertown and Millicent in connection with the University of Adelaide public examinations shows that this provision for country students is increasing in popularity. Ten years ago there were no permanent centres in the country, but the following provision was made in the regulations:—"The junior and senior public examinations, as well as the preliminary examination, may be held in other places than the City of Adelaide. Such local examinations shall be held only under the supervision of persons appointed by the council. No such examination shall be held unless a sum sufficient to meet all expenses, including the statutory fees, be lodged with the registrar." Occasionally one or two candidates applied to be examined in a country town, and wherever possible the council complied with these requests; but difficulty was experienced in providing for supervision and securing the use of a suitable room. The candidates were required to pay, in addition to the usual fees, all the expenses incurred by the examination. This arrangement was obviously not wholly satisfactory, and the policy of establishing permanent centres was adopted. That this course was fully justified subsequent experience has proved, for there are now 21 centres in active operation. Wherever requests have been made they have been complied with. The practice is to convene a public meeting, at which an influential committee is appointed. This committee, having the confidence of the townspeople and the University Council, elects its own Chairman and secretary, and carries out the whole of the work incidental to the examination under the regulations provided by the University. The local secretary is supplied with copies of the calendar, the public examinations manual, and pamphlets containing full information respecting the public examinations in the theory and practice of music, as well as forms of entry for all examinations. Candidates are thus able to obtain in their own neighbourhood all the information they require. As a rule commendable public spirit is shown by granting the use of a room in the local institute or a church schoolroom, and at certain periods of the year University influence is paramount. This practical scheme enables country candidates to present themselves for examination under the most favourable conditions possible, and without any expense beyond the ordinary fees. Thus to a large extent city and country candidates compete on equal terms. The examinations open to candidates in the country are:—The primary, junior, senior, and higher public, the junior and senior commercial, and the public examinations in theory and practice of music, in each division of which there are five grades. A decade ago the number of candidates who sat for examination in the country could have been counted on the fingers of one hand. Last year the number who presented themselves at country centres exceeded 500.

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

The small concert hall of the Elder Conservatorium was well filled on Thursday evening, when an invitation recital was given by Miss Elsie Jefferis, A.R.C.M. (who is acting as locum tenens for Mr. Bryceon Treharne) and Mr. Harold Parsons, the newly appointed 'cellist of the Conservatorium. A well-chosen and representative programme, which contained interesting novelties, was given with general success. As an opening number Miss Jefferis and Mr. Parsons presented the first movement from Beethoven's "Sonata for 'cello and piano, op. 69," a fine specimen of the best work of the Bonn master's middle period. In this the 'cellist displayed a full, rich tone and capital technical powers; while the pianist played with precision, neatness and refinement. The ensemble was excellent throughout, and a perfect balance of power was maintained between the two instruments. Later in the evening Mr. Parsons contributed a group of smaller pieces—Becker's "Minuetto," an effective and melodious salon piece, the adagio from Schumann's 'cello concerto, which he rendered with appropriate breadth and artistic expression, and Van Goens's showy and difficult "Scherzo." The latter displayed the performer's manipulative powers to great advantage, and was received with warm applause. As a concluding item the 'cellist gave a sonata by Valentine arranged by Piatti, a quaint and interesting specimen of the old Italian school, which he interpreted with warmth and taste. Miss Jefferis submitted as her first solo the last three movements from Beethoven's "Sonata in E flat," op. 31, No. 3. These were interpreted with refinement, accuracy, and general finish. Equally good work was done in Brahms's "Intermezzo," which was bracketed with Chopin's "Impromptu in F sharp" and the "Ballade in G minor." Miss Marion Kemp sang with intelligence and clear technique the difficult air "Nobil signor," from Meyerbeer's "Huguenots," and also presented Grieg's "I love thee" and "My love is like a red, red rose" (Brandreis) with intelligence and finish. The piano-forte accompaniments were shared by Misses Guli Hack, A.R.C.M., and Carlien Jurs.