

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Gard to Study Abroad.

One of the striking features of the recent season of South Australian grand opera was the success attained by Miss Vera Thrush (Mrs. Harold Gard) and her husband in "Il Trovatore" and "Cavalleria Rusticana." Mr. and Mrs. Gard intend to sail on Saturday by the Jervis Bay to study grand opera in England and Italy.

The entry of the Gards into grand opera reads a little like a romance. The heights they have reached have not been by any means "attained by sudden flight," for operatic work has always been their aim, and they were to have sailed last March to study in Europe. They certainly never expected, however, to sing in grand opera in Adelaide.

"We were at West's Pictures one evening," said Miss Vera Thrush (to give her the very suitable maiden name under which she first won a musical reputation), "and the manager introduced us to Count



MR. HAROLD GARD.

Filippini. Instead of looking at the pictures we talked opera all the evening, and that was how it all began! South Australian singers owe to Count Filippini a very rare opportunity. His interest and enthusiasm have been wonderful. We should never have had a chance to try grand opera here if it had not been for the S.A. Grand Opera Company."

It is a rare—almost an unknown thing—for a married pair to be able to do their best work in the same operas; but Mr. Gard's voice is a pure dramatic tenor, and Mrs. Gard's a dramatic lyric soprano which make a perfect combination. Such parts as the death scene in "Il Trovatore" they have thus been able to practice and talk over almost continually until, says Mr. Gard, "It has been like one solo."

Musical Families.

Both of them come from remarkable musical families. The Gard family, father, mother, and three sons, toured together with great success, and gave numerous concerts in Adelaide.

"We were particularly fortunate," said Mr. Gard, "in being able to make up a complete male quartet, a most unusual thing in one family. My father had a very deep bass, one brother a baritone,



MISS VERA THRUSH (MRS. HAROLD GARD).

ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

Inter-State Congress in Adelaide.

Leading Officials and Delegates.

is best known to Australians through his journeys into Central and Northern Australia, with Mr. E. J. Gillen and other and his enquiries into aboriginal life and character. He was born in Manchester 64 years ago, and is the son of Mr. Reuben Spencer, partner in one of the most important Manchester houses. He was educated at Owens College, Manchester (Victoria University), and gaining the Dalton prize for botany and comparative anatomy, was elected to an open science scholarship at Exeter College, Oxford, where he graduated with first-class honors in natural science. After serving as assistant to the Linacre professor of comparative anatomy he was elected Fellow of Lincoln College in 1885, and in 1887 received his Australian appointment. In addition to his University duties the professor has gained distinction as a student of the native tribes of Australia. He conducted expeditions through the Northern Territory, and has published a number of works dealing with its fauna, natural history, and ethnology. For some time he acted as special commissioner of aborigines in the Northern Territory for the Commonwealth Government. In 1904 he was created C.M.G. in recognition of his services and was made K.C.M.G. in 1916.



Mr. E. C. Andrews, Permanent Hon. General Secretary.

Professor Sir William Bragg, K.B.E., M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S., Director of the Royal Institution, London, vice-president, was president of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science at the Brisbane meeting in 1909. He was a member of the Council of the University of Adelaide, 1898-1908; of the Council of the South Australian School of Mines and Industries, 1895-1908; Professor at Adelaide University, 1886-1908; Cavendish Professor at Leeds University, 1909-15; Hon. Fellow Trinity College, Cambridge, 1920. He received the 1915 Nobel prize (in conjunction with his son, W. L. Bragg, and the Barnard gold medal (Columbia University) with W. L. Bragg for work on X-rays and crystals; Rumford medals of the Royal Society, 1916; gold medal of Societe Italiana Della Scienze 1917 (in conjunction with W. L. Bragg); Hon. D.Sc., Manchester, 1914, Leeds University, 1919, Trinity College, Dublin, 1920. He is the author of several publications on scientific subjects. He is well remembered by many old friends in Adelaide.

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ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

The director of the Elder Conservatorium is arranging for a song recital by Mr. Clive Carey, the newly-appointed teacher of singing, shortly after his arrival at the end of September. Continental papers speak in glowing terms of the artistry shown by Mr. Carey at his recent recitals in Berlin, Holland, and Scandinavia, and there can be no doubt that the University has been singularly fortunate in securing a teacher who is not only an artist, but a personality. The director desires that those who intend to enrol as students with Mr. Carey will make their applications without delay.

Although all the arrangements for the meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, which opens in Adelaide on Monday next, are well in hand, and everything is working satisfactorily, local officials find that there are more details to be attended to than was at first anticipated. The task of arranging for the reception and accommodation of the distinguished visitors is but one of many details that have to be attended to. As the time approaches for the opening ceremony on Monday, public interest is being aroused, and the fact is being realised that the Conference is of more general importance than most people imagined. It is felt by those who take more than a passing interest in the serious affairs of life that the questions to be discussed by the scientific authorities who are attending the meetings next week enter far more intimately into the welfare of mankind than is usually admitted. The scientists will not discuss abstract and abstruse problems just for the sake of disputation. They have a firm belief that by means of the application of scientific principles to the various problems with which society is confronted, the welfare of the human race will be improved in a manner at present beyond conception. In the battle against the inroads of disease alone, science has performed marvels that a few generations ago were undreamed of. Scientists confidently believe that although so much has already been done in this direction, a great deal more is yet to be done by attacking from the scientific standpoint the question of the preservation of human health. Some critics contend that science has not always been devoted to the cause of human betterment. But scientists reply that this is not the fault of science. It is the fault of those who misapply the teachings of science. How to apply the lessons of science correctly in the cause of humanity is a branch of science itself which might well be studied with advantage.

This second article of the series dealing with personalities associated with the Conference refers to the names of two distinguished men who will not be present, but who, on account of their connection with the early history of the Association, merit mention. These are Professor A. Liversidge and Professor Sir William Bragg, who are still vice-presidents of the Association.

The Vice-Presidents. Professor A. Liversidge, M.A., LL.D., F.S.S., F.R.S.E., vice-president of the

Professor Sir T. W. Edgeworth David, K.B.E., C.M.G., D.S.O., B.A., hon. D.Sc., F.R.S., F.G.S., Professor of Geology in the University of Sydney, was president of the Dunedin meeting in 1904, and the Melbourne meeting in 1913. He has made his name famous as a scientist, scholar, soldier, and explorer. Only a few years after going through the hardships of an Antarctic expedition he "joined up" as a combatant officer of the A.I.F. Sir Edgeworth David has been Professor of Geology at the Sydney University since 1891. In 1897 he led a survey party to the Ellice Islands, but it was only a foretaste of his great work of exploration ten years later. In 1907 he joined Sir Ernest Shackleton's expedition to the South Pole, as a scientific officer, and for two years he endured the rigors of the Antarctic. The crowning achievement of his invaluable work was his leadership of the expedition which reached the magnetic pole in January, 1909. For his services he was created C.M.G., and awarded the Fellowship of the Royal Society. Five years later war broke out, and Sir Edgeworth David, although well over military age, volunteered for active service. Scorning non-combatant work he obtained a commission in the Australian Tunneling Company. He was always in the thick of the fight, and performed great work before Messines. On one occasion he fell down a deep shaft, and was severely wounded. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty, Major T. W. E. David (as he appears in the Army List), was awarded the Distinguished Service Order in 1918—the year in which he celebrated his sixtieth birthday!

Professor Sir David Orme Masson, K.B.E., M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S., F.R.S.E., F.I.C., Emeritus Professor of Biology in the University of Melbourne, Director of

the National Museum, Melbourne (president of the Hobart meeting in 1921), was appointed Professor of Chemistry to the Melbourne University in 1886, when he was 28 years of age. He was formerly assistant to Professor Sir William Ramsay, in University College, Bristol. Sir David has contributed to various scientific journals in England, Germany, and Australia. He was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1903 for his distinguished work in science, and was created a C.B.E. in 1918 for scientific work in connection with the war. In addition to his University duties Sir David has taken a keen interest in the advancement of science. From 1911 to 1913 he was president of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, and in that capacity, was one of the leaders in organising the Australasian Antarctic expedition, which achieved such valuable scientific results under Sir



Professor David.

society was the founder of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science in 1885. He was a trustee of the Australian Museum, 1874-1908; member of the first Board of Technical Education in Sydney; originated the Faculty of Science, 1879, and the School of Mines, Sydney University, 1890; the Sydney section of the Society of Chemical Industry, 1902; and was first chairman, 1903-5; a member of the original board of three of the Technological Museum, Sydney, 1879; hon. sec. of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, 1888-1909; hon. member, 1902; president, 1908-90; vice-president since 1890; a vice-president of the British Association 1890.



Mr. David Carment, Hon. General Treasurer.

Douglas Mawson. During the war he became consulting member of the Federal Munitions Committee, and took an active part in the Universal Service League. Later the Prime Minister (Mr. Hughes) invited him to act as chairman of the committee on the proposed foundation of an Institute of Science and Industry.

Professor Sir W. Baldwin Spencer, K.C.M.G., Litt. D., M.A., M.Sc., F.R.S., Emeritus Professor of Biology in the University of Melbourne, Director of the National Museum, Melbourne, was president of the Hobart meeting in 1921. He