

Nov. 26. 1028
 Dr. A. E. V. Richardson (Director of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute) returned by the express on Saturday from Brisbane, where he enquired into the tropical agricultural products in the northern State.

Nov. 24. 10. 28
 THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

ORMOND CHAIR OF MUSIC.
 Salary, £1,100.
 Term of appointment, five years.
 Duties commence about March, 1929.
 APPLICATIONS are invited for this Chair, and should be lodged with the undersigned (from whom conditions of appointment may be obtained), not later than 15th November, 1928.
 J. P. BAINBRIDGE, Registrar.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE.
SENIOR LECTURESHIP IN PHILOSOPHY.
 Salary, £500, rising to £600.
 Term of appointment, five years.
 Duties commence, March, 1929.
 APPLICATIONS are invited for this Lectureship and should be lodged with the undersigned (from whom conditions of appointment may be obtained) not later than 15th November, 1928.
 J. P. BAINBRIDGE, Registrar.

REG. 27. 10. 28
CONSERVATORIUM CONCERT.

STUDENT ORCHESTRA AND ENSEMBLE CLASS.

Pleasing variety was an outstanding feature of the selection of music for the student concert at the Elder Conservatorium on Monday evening. Several important works were performed by the Conservatorium Student Orchestra and by members of the ensemble classes. The work of the former emphasized with striking clarity the wisdom of having provided a valuable reserve of instrumentalists from which to draw when necessary for the more important work of the South Australian Orchestra. The same disciplined control and subtle response which Mr. Foote exacts from the larger body is apparent in the student organization, the balance of which is excellent, and the ensemble most effective. In Plotow's overture to "Stradella" these characteristics were very marked, the result being a wonderfully pleasure-giving interpretation. Soon recovering from a momentary trepidation in the quiet restraint of the opening phrases, the brass and wood-wind introduced the motif which was presently echoed by the strings, working up to a crescendo employing the full strength of the orchestra. This is followed by a broad, dignified measure, which in turn gives place to a somewhat capricious mood, in which the intricate passages for strings were marked by a complete absence of raggedness and indecision. This gradually resolves into a magnificent concluding adagio inspiring in its grandeur and dignity. A movement, "Andante cantabile," from the Tchaikovsky string quartette was also splendidly done. Strongly appealing in its plaintive mood the writing is strangely beautiful, and the players' response to the conductor's demands elicited a warmth of well-merited recognition. The concluding number was Saint Saens "Suite Algerienne" movements 2 ("Rhapsodie mauresque"), and 4 "March militaire Francaise", were magically picturesque and vivid impressions of life in a Moorish cabaret. The composition breathes of all the romance and rich colour of the silken East and the instrumentalists sensed the spirit of the work with rare intuition.

Mr. Stanley Grosser gave evidence of artistic feeling in an interesting version of a "Romance" written for cello by Becker; and a McDowell setting of "Ye banks and braes," entitled "Deserted" was pleasingly sung by Miss Jean Berry (a pupil of Madam Delmar Hall). Brahms' first "Sonata in A major" as presented by Miss Muriel Prince, A.M.U.A., and Miss Alice Meegan, A.M.U.A., made a specially acceptable offering. Miss Esma Roach (Elder scholar), a pupil of Mr. Charles Schilsky, played a concerto in A minor (Accolay) with a discernment that was phenomenal in one so young, and with a command and self-possession that might well be the envy of many older artists. The technical complexity of the concluding passages were handled with an ease and facility that was truly remarkable. An aria from Tosca (Puccini) "E lucevan le stelle" revealed a natural well-produced voice possessed by Mr. Ormond Farley, a pupil of Mr. Clive Carey, and a fine sympathy between three players was evidenced in a performance of the second movement ("Andante con moto tranquillo") from Mendelssohn's D minor trio. The players were the Misses Dorothy Carlow, Mary Lamphie, and Helena Harris.

REG. 26. 10. 28

ELDER HALL STUDENTS' RECITAL.
 To-night in Elder Hall a students' recital will be held in place of the operatic performance placed in the 1925 syllabus. The programme to be given this evening will include the overture to Hotov's "Stradella," Tchaikovsky's "Andante cantabile," opus II., and the second and fourth movement from Saint Saens' "Suite Algerienne." Those numbers will be rendered by the students' orchestra. There will also be many interesting vocal and instrumental items. The concert will not be broadcast. The boxplan is at S. Marshall & Son's, Gawler place.

Nov. 6. 11. 28
THE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD.

Our Labour Government's positive dislike of the large-hearted public spirit which prompts many citizens to render gratuitous and sympathetic service on behalf of public hospitals, the State Children's Department, and other State-aided institutions, and the preference entertained by the Ministry for a salaried bureaucratic system of management, are strongly evident in recent legislative and administrative measures. The public, however, may fairly ask, even with some anxiety, whether, in view of the new expenditure involved in the policy of creating paid positions for duties which have been efficiently performed by boards of patriotic citizens, the Government intends to confine its reforming policy within definite limits, or to seek to apply it to all public institutions as opportunity may be afforded for such a drastic change. This question arises from considerations relating to the singularly cavalier treatment meted out to an esteemed and able member of the Board of Governors of the Public Library, Art Gallery, and Museum, and from the poor character of the regard shown by the Government for the highly important and responsible tasks discharged by that unpaid Board. In ignoring the claims of Mr. W. H. Langham to reappointment to the Board, and in replacing him by Mr. A. A. Edwards, M.P., the Government took a most extraordinary, and to all appearances, utterly unwarranted course. From the very inception of the Board to the present time Governments have wisely sought to ensure for the enormously valuable national treasures contained in the Art Gallery, Public Library, and Museum—treasures which are continually being augmented—the jealous care and oversight of a board of trustees whose individual members should be lovers and students of art and literature, and both capable and ready to preserve and, so far as practicable, further elevate the lofty standard attained by those greatly prized national possessions.

Mr. Langham's qualifications for service on the board have been abundantly demonstrated, and therefore do not call for recapitulation. He has devoted much time and energy to the welfare of the institutions, and—particularly on account of his painstaking researches into South Australian history—promised to perform increasingly valuable work for the State on this board. The Government's action, therefore, is uncommonly like an affront both to him and to those with whom he has been associated, in labour for the institutions. Could it be seriously contended that the gentleman chosen to be his successor was at least as well fitted for a seat on the board, there would be no substantial cause for complaint; but—intimately acquainted with Mr. Edwards as they must be, owing to his prominent activity as a member of the Labour Party—the Ministers would probably be the first to confess, with unrestrained mirth, that they never for a moment supposed he had any special fitness for the office to which they have now appointed him. Certainly, if Mr. Edwards is a devotee of the fine arts and a diligent student of English literature, he has very successfully kept his qualifications in these respects concealed. It is hardly possible that he believes himself suited for duties which, to all appearance, are uncongenial to a gentleman of his temperament and manner of life. Obviously, the appointment is a political one, and attributable to unworthy motives—motives which had never previously actuated a Government in filling positions on the governing board. An intolerable wrong would be done to the present and future generations of South Australians if the Public Library,

Nov. 5. 11. 29
LIFE ON FLINDERS CHASE.

WONDERFUL AUSTRALIAN PLANTS.

Mr. Edgar R. Waite, Director of the Museum, who was one of the party which has just returned from a visit of inspection to Flinders Chase, is firmly convinced that it will not be long before the Chase is entirely self-supporting. "Under protection," he said, "the fur-bearing animals there increase so rapidly that it will soon be necessary, in their own interests, that the numbers should be thinned out. There is a good demand for Australian furs, and with careful marketing no doubt there will be a big return from the Chase in time. It is in connection with this scheme that Professor Wood Jones is visiting London, and he is hopeful that arrangements will be made which will ensure a steady market for supplies."

Mr. Waite said the recent rains had transformed the Chase. The most unobtrusive person could not fail to be struck by the rapid succession of the zones of vegetation, including big gums, malice, and many shrubs and beautiful flowers, the yuccas (grass trees or blackboys), and the swamp plants. The yuccas he considered the most striking, with their bright green spiky leaves, of which the lower ones, having fulfilled their function, turned brown and formed a girdle to the plant, like the petticoats of a New Guinea belle. Describing these peculiar plants, Mr. Waite said, "From the middle rises the wonderful flowering spike, sometimes 16 ft. or more in length, and few more attractive sights can be imagined than a flock of gorgeous rosellas feeding upon the spikes. The grass tree yields a remarkable quantity of hard red gum, which is obtained by shaving off the outer layers of the stem to a depth of 2 or 3 in., and a bare stump, often dead, is all that remains. In my opinion, if Flinders Chase only succeeded in preserving for all time the grass trees alone its isolation would be more than justified. These strange plants are of extremely slow growth, and their diamond-shaped leaf scars and general appearance suggest an origin of great antiquity. They probably do not make more than half an inch of new growth in twelve months."

Regarding the belief commonly held that many Australian plants will not germinate until they have been wasted, and that a bush fire is necessary for the continuance of the species, Mr. Waite said the usual discussions took place in the camp.

"In the case of the grass tree the bush fire advocates seemed to score," he remarked, "for time and again it was pointed out these had sent up their flowering spikes on burnt areas, whereas comparatively few were seen on unburnt ground. It is felt, however, that burning should not be attempted on the Chase unless a break is necessary. The process of flowering and fruition in the grass trees is slow, but it would be better to leave the tree to its natural development. The animal compound has already been divided by fire breaks into two areas, so that in the event of a disastrous fire it is hoped that half, at least, of the fauna will be preserved."

"The enclosure has proved a great success. A visitor may now be certain of seeing kangaroos, wallabies, and their young, not in ones or twos at long range, but in half dozens, so tame and quiet that they may be watched at a few yards distance and without any evidence of 'caging,' for those bred in the enclosure will probably never realise their limitations. The smaller area in which the native bears are enclosed, is of necessity wired on the top, but a scheme is under consideration for enclosing a patch of gum trees with unclimbable galvanized iron, so that the animals may feed themselves, instead of having to be supplied with cut material, a method that is both wasteful and troublesome. The bears, which have now been enclosed for some years, are healthy and tame, and enjoy being scratched and tickled, and scarcely object to being nursed. The babies have grown, and, apart from an infantile appearance, are scarcely distinguishable from their parents."

Nov. 7. 11. 28
ELDER CONSERVATORIUM STUDENT OPERA.

The two performances of student opera will be given by the Elder Conservatorium Opera Class under the direction of Mr. Clive Carey, Mus. Bac., in the Norwood Town Hall, on Friday, November 20, and Monday, November 23. The first scene from Mozart's "Magic Flute" will be given by the class, complete in all detail of scenery and costume. This most beautiful work by Mozart will make an instant appeal to our musical public. The second opera will be Purcell's "Dido and Aeneas," a charming example of early British music. This is the first English opera written, and is considered a masterpiece of its kind. This will also be given in costume and full stage effects. A double cast is working on both these productions, and special attention is being given to gesture and deportment, in addition to thorough musical training. The ballets have been specially arranged by Miss Phyllis Leitch. Plans will be open at Marshall's, Gawler place, on Monday.

Nov. 4. 11. 28
Adelaide Entomologist N. 4.

Born in Sydney Mr. A. M. Lea, entomologist at the Adelaide Museum, began collecting butterflies when he was a boy, even before he went to school. He thus early gave an indication of what was to be his life-work.

His first appointment in an official capacity was assistant to Mr. A. Sidney Olliff (Government Entomologist of New South Wales). Promotion came when he was offered and accepted the position of Government Entomologist of Western Australia, and later he held the same office under the Tasmanian Government.

In 1911, at the invitation of Sir Edward (then Dr.) Stirling, Mr. Lea came to South Australia, and was shortly afterwards appointed to his present position. He is justly proud of the fact that the collection of insects at the Adelaide Museum, of which he has charge, is by far the largest in any museum in Australia. It includes butterflies, beetles, wasps, grasshoppers, and ants. Not only is it a good collection as regards its Australian character, but in it are included many foreign varieties.

Mr. Lea has travelled all over Australia in pursuit of specimens, and on a recent trip to Fiji, Java and the Malay Peninsula, he obtained some additions to the collection. He receives valuable



MR. A. M. LEA

help from Mr. N. B. Tindale (assistant entomologist), who has also made collections in Japan and various parts of Australia. In addition to his work among the insects, Mr. Lea examines the stomachs of birds which are insect-eaters, thus adding to his store of knowledge.

He is a member of the Fauna and Flora Protection Committee, and is on the committee of the Royal Society. At different times he has been leader of excursions conducted by the Field Naturalists' Society in the interests of natural history.

REG. 31. 10. 28

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING

In accordance with the Act of Incorporation five members of the Council of the Adelaide University retire this year. They are Messrs. W. R. Bayly, B.A., B.Sc., J. R. Fowler, M.A., Professor William Mitchell, Messrs. W. J. Isbister, K.C., and S. Talbot Smith, M.A. Mr. Fowler has intimated that he will not be a candidate for re-election. The council has appointed as representatives on the Board of Governors of the Public Library Professor H. Darnley Naylor and Mr. W. J. Isbister, K.C. The council approved of the design of a brass tablet presented by the scholars of the Methodist Ladies' College for the library at the University, to commemorate the late Sarah Elizabeth Jackson, formerly tutor in philosophy at the University, and a member of the Old Scholars' Association at the Methodist Ladies College. The Director of the Waite Research Institute reported that the International Harvester Company of Australia (Melbourne), had presented the institute with a Dunham culti-packer, an implement of special value to the soil in a hard and dry condition; also that the Chilean nitrate committee, Sydney, had offered to supply nitrates to the institute, with respect to nitrate of soda for experimental purposes and topdressing pastures. The council resolved to accept the gifts and thank the donors for their practical interest in the work of the institute.

REG. 31. 10. 28

At the meeting of the Council of the University of Adelaide on Friday, Mr. J. R. Fowler, M.A., intimated that he would not be a candidate for re-election. Mr. Fowler has been a member of the council since 1901.