NEWS. 3.8.26.

STUDENT CONCERT

Young Players Applauded

A most creditable programme of work was presented by the Student Orchestra last night at the Conservatorium, when the eighth concert of the session was given. Appreciation of the musicianly work of the young players was amply demonstrated.

Mr. W. H. Foote conducted. The programme opened with the overture "Raymond" by Ambrose Thomas, which was tuneful and spirited. Opening boldly, it passed into a delightful theme, which gave opportunity for strings and wood wind to demonstrate their facility. The oboes, flutes and clarinets gave their solo passages to good effect, and the number closed in brilliant fashion.

Grieg's seldom heard No. 2 "Peer Gynt Suite" was listened to with interest. The suite includes "Ingrid's Lament," "Arab Dance," "Peer Gynt's Journey Home" and "Solveg's Song," and the movements were highly distinctive of their various quality. Brightness and color mingled with fantasy and tragedy and portrayed the spirit of northern legend.

Two movements of Mendelssohn's Scotch Symphony, "No. 3 A Minor," included the bright andante, and the vigorous vivace, given with fine volume of tone. "The Chinese War March" by Michaelis concluded the programme, and proved a characteristic sketch of the music of the Orient, the orchestration being vivid and rhythmic.

Applause was accorded Mr. Foote and his youthful orchestra, who were supported in the wind section by one or two more experienced players. During the five years the orchestra has been in existence more than 200 students have passed through it to augment the ranks of professional players. Considering that its personnel is consequently always changing, wonderful results have been attained.

As vocal interludes, Miss Jean Catt sang Eva dell' Acqua's "Villanelle" in a fresh young soprano voice of much promise. Miss Gladys Michie gave the old Irish air "Danny Boy." She possesses a contralto voice of good quality. Mr. Ronald Moss contributed William James' "The Sun God" in a pleasing baritone voice. Miss Alice Meegan, A.M.U.A., and Miss Muriel Prince, A.M.U.A., shared the honors as accompanists, and did sympathetic work.

Attention was called to the fact that two performances of Student Opera will be given at the Conservatorium on Wednesday and Thursday, August 11 and 12, when the opera class will give in costume acts 2 and 3 of "Carmen," act 2 of "Figaro," and a scene from Pickwick set to music by Dr. Charles Wood.

once there were among such great men as our benefactor, and the two broadminded men, James Lyall and James Jefferis, who rendered such a distinctive service to the cause of education in this State.—I am, Sir, &c.,

LEONARD ROBJOHNS.

Sir—In one of Mr. J. R. Lyall's letters in The Register of Monday, he says:—"In reading the intensely interesting account in last week's Register by Canon Poole, I noticed a slight inaccuracy, in which he put in the Methodist and left out the Congregational Church in giving the combination that composed Union College. The former were not in it, as they differed in their several methods from the other three bodies, and now have a training institution of their own." The Rev. T. Piper or the Rev. O. Lake and I were members of the Union College committee, representing the Bible scion denomination, and one or two of the candidates for the ministry of this denomination were students at Union College. The Rev. T. Hope was the secretary of the committee. The ministers of the committee would confirm my statement.—I am, Sir, &c.,

ALBERT PUDDY.

Sir—A paragraph concerning the University in last Thursday's Register raises the question, how any intelligent, fair-minded man could give any other than the one man credit for having suggested the diversion of Capt. Hughes's promised donation of £20,000 from its intended destination, the foundation of Union College, in the direction of the establishment of a University, i.e., from a denominational to a national ideal. The writer (Mr. Fred Johns) says:—"The Rev. James Lyall, whose memory those that knew him revere, may have had something to do with the business, but as a matter of fact it was the Rev. Dr. Jefferis who should be given credit for the diversion which represented a substantial endowment to the University." This is absolutely incorrect. The suggestion came from my father, and from him alone, as Dr. Jefferis hadn't even thought of it, though he was quick enough to seize and act upon the suggestion. Further, he had no influence whatever with Capt. Hughes, while my father had great influence, and was, moreover, his pastor. Lastly, I have in my possession a letter from the late Dr. Jefferis in which he truly and frankly acknowledges my father as the author of the suggestion. This, taken in conjunction with a public acknowledgment by the late Sir Samuel Way, who, as Chancellor of the University, naturally knew what he was talking about, should settle the matter. The writer quotes from his own "Notable Australians." I trust that he will make the "amende honourable." Let me briefly thank Principal Kiek for his most courteous reply to my letter on the question of the origin of our University, and for his graceful acknowledgment of a circumstance that actually occurred.—I am, Sir, &c.,

J. R. LYALL.

trated the peculiarities of the soils of different countries, and stated that it was in 1862 that Pasteur had suggested the process of nitrification to be found as the result of the activities of micro-organisms. In 1890 a scientist of the Pasteur Institute had solved the problem of separating nitrifying organisms. The requirements for abundant nitrification of the soil were a summer-like temperature, a supply of moisture and air, and he found that a nice crumbly soil condition was also ideal. He gave the details of the nitrates found in soils at the Waite Institute, and then dealt with the fixation of nitrogen. Referring to the losses of nitrogen, he said that when the soil was continually cropped or alternately cropped and fallowed, the accumulated fertility of virgin ground was bound to run down much more rapidly than the requirements of the crops justified. This phase was occupying the attention of experts.

The lecturer next dealt with the changes effected in the carbon compounds. Referring to synthetic farmyard manure, he said a process had been worked out and patented whereby straw or similar material, kept suitably moist at the right temperature, could be mixed with a commercial nitrogenous fertilizer and allowed to ferment, with the result that a product was obtained indistinguishable from, and yet superior to, the ordinary manure and rubbish which the gardener had to purchase in these days, when there were more motor cars and fewer horses. In developing this discovery, a syndicate had decided to return the profits to the laboratory for the development of further research. Tests were being made in Australia with a proprietary mixture turned out by this syndicate under the name of "Adco," which appeared to consist of a mixture of calcium cyanamide and rock phosphate. He thought this should be of great service to breaking down cuttings, and pruning and garden rubbish generally. He was looking forward to the day not far distant when every suburban gardener in Adelaide would be making his own farmyard manure.

In conclusion, the lecturer stated that they began by considering the soil as an inert mass of powdered rock. They had been able to see that even in the physical realm soil was no longer inert, but possessed many startling and unexpected properties of movement. In the chemical sphere they had observed an equally interesting series of properties and constant changes, and finally, in the biological realm, they had now seen that the soil was the home of millions of micro-organisms with constantly changing mutual relationships fluctuating according to the weather and the presence of higher plants. For centuries they had been inclined to regard the soil as the last home of stability, but it had turned out to be as a Russian chemist had said, "The kingdom of mutability."

and a supply of moisture and air, and he had found that a nice crumbly soil condition was also ideal for nitrification. Details were given of nitrates found in soils at the Waite Institute. The lecturer next dealt with the fixation of nitrogen, and referring to the losses of that agency in the course of production, said in soil continually cropped, or alternately cropped and fallowed, the accumulated fertility of the virgin ground was bound to run down much more rapidly than the requirements of the crops justified. This phase was occupying the attention of experts. He next explained the changes effected in the carbon compounds. Referring to synthetic farmyard manure, he said a process had been worked out and patented whereby straw or similar material kept suitably moist at the right temperature could be mixed with a commercial nitrogenous fertiliser and allowed to ferment, with the result they could obtain a product indistinguishable from, and yet superior to, the ordinary manure and the rubbish which the gardener had to purchase in these days when there were more motor cars and fewer horses. It was interesting to note that in developing this discovery a syndicate had decided to return the profits to the laboratory for the development of further research. Tests were being made in Australia with a proprietary mixture turned out by this syndicate under the name of "Adco," which appeared to consist of a mixture of calcium cyanide and rock phosphate. He thought this should be of great service in breaking down cuttings, and pruning and garden rubbish generally. He was looking forward to the day, not far distant, when every suburban gardener in Adelaide would be making his own farmyard manure.

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ADV. 5.8.26

QUEEN'S SCHOOL PURCHASED.

Since the recent death of Mr. R. G. Jacomb-Hood, who for 30 years was proprietor and headmaster of Queen's School, North Adelaide, there has been considerable interest in educational circles regarding his successor. It has now been announced that Mr. Edward Stokes (master-in-charge of the Preparatory School, St. Peter's College) has bought the school, and that he will take charge on the establishment at the expiration of the current term on August 27. It is generally considered that Mr. Stokes will prove a worthy successor to Mr. Jacomb-Hood, and will uphold the traditions of the school. Mr. Stokes, who is the eldest son of the Rev. F. H. Stokes, was educated at St. Peter's College, the University of Adelaide, and Magdalen College, Oxford. He has had a long experience of teaching in various parts of the world, and has been headmaster-in-charge of the preparatory section of St. Peter's College since 1923.

REG. 4.8.26.

MAN ON THE LAND

Continued from Page 5.

LECTURES ON "THE SOIL."

EXTENSION SERIES CONCLUDED.

The third of a series of lectures on "The soil, from the physical, chemical, and biological points of view" was delivered at the University on Tuesday evening by Professor J. A. Prescott, in connection with the Adelaide University extension lectures.

The lecturer, who illustrated his subject with a fine series of lantern slides, and exhibited a number of samples, said that, in the preceding lectures the soil had been treated as a mass of finely divided material, possessing certain interesting and important chemical properties, while the relationship to human labour and to the needs of plants had been their main contacts with the phenomena of life. The soil, however, was teeming with various microscopic forms of life, which played an important part in problems of soil fertility. While it was generally known that the soil carried lowly forms of life, it was not until the close of the century that it had been discovered that the micro-organisms filled important functions in the soil, and there was still much to learn. They had been so accustomed to regard bacteria and similar organisms as the carriers of diseases that they were apt to overlook the fact there were large classes of these organisms playing a beneficial role in primary production. Of the elements involved mainly in effecting the changes in soil organic matter, carbon and nitrogen were, of course, most prominent. The compounds of nitrogen in such materials as albumen, gelatine, meat, and the gluten of wheat, decomposed very quickly in the soil, only to appear eventually as ammonia of nitrate. Referring to bacteria, the lecturers dealt in detail with the chemical changes brought about by this agency, and explained the food requirements and sources of energy. He illustrated in an interesting way the many peculiarities of the soils of different countries, and stated that it was in 1862 that Pasteur had suggested the process of nitrification to be found as the result of the activities of micro-organisms. In 1890 a scientist in the Pasteur Institute had solved the problem of separating nitrifying organisms. The requirements for abundant nitrification of the soil were a summer-like temperature,

ADV. 4.8.26

THE SOIL.

LECTURE BY PROFESSOR PRESCOTT.

The third of a series of University extension lectures on "The Soil, from the Physical, Chemical, and Biological Points of View," was delivered by Professor Prescott at the University on Tuesday evening. There was a good attendance, and the lecturer illustrated his subject with a fine series of lantern slides, and displayed a number of interesting specimens.

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REG. 4.8.26

UNIVERSITY JUBILEE.

To the Editor.

Sir—My name has been mentioned as an authority for the statement that it was as the outcome of a suggestion made by the late Dr. Jefferis, that Capt. Watson Hughes was persuaded to devote his munificent gift of £20,000 to the foundation of a university. I had the privilege of being acquainted with both the Rev. James Lyall and Dr. Jefferis, though the events in question happened, of course, long before I came to live in Adelaide. Each of these great ministers was intensely interested in the cause of education, and was associated with the Union College, from its commencement. Naturally I came into close intimacy with Dr. Jefferis. He often told me how, when the offer came from Capt. Hughes to endow Union College, he saw at once that the wider scheme would be of much greater benefit to the State, than that of endowing an educational institution which had been called into existence merely for a specific purpose. He saw that it was essential to a well-educated ministry that students should have the wider outlook which a university education would give them. He knew Union College was doing an excellent work, but regarded that work as being quite inadequate unless men could go to a university previous to entering a theological college. That he was right, Mr. William Parkin saw, for, after the university had been established, he created our own Parkin Trust. The chancellor's tribute to the worth of Dr. Jefferis's work in Adelaide confirms what we had gathered from our friend of the part he played in these negotiations. Capt. Watson Hughes was a member of Mr. Lyall's congregation. I can quite believe that J. R. Lyall is correct when he says that his father made the suggestion personally to Capt. Hughes. I am, however, quite certain that the suggestion came from Union College, and that the idea originated in Dr. Jefferis's mind. As a community we may well be proud that

ADV. 5.8.26.

THE PERTH SCIENCE CONGRESS.

The programme for the eighteenth annual meeting in Perth, on August 23, of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, has been issued, giving the titles and times for delivery of the various lectures, as well as the arrangements for the entertainment of the visitors. The meetings are to be held at the Perth Modern School, Subiaco, and will continue from August 23 to August 28. There are now over 100 South Australian members of the association, and it is expected that about 80 of these will journey to the West to attend the gathering. In addition to the Science Congress, meetings will be held of the Pharmaceutical and Statistical sections. Some of the eastern travellers attending the congress are expected to break their journey in Adelaide, so as to attend the jubilee celebrations of the Adelaide University.