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The last report issued by Sir Alexander Mackenzie, principal of the Royal Academy of Music, regarding the progress made by Miss Ethel Hantke, is as follows:—Principal study—A most assiduous and clever student, whose progress is highly satisfactory in every way; second study—An excellent worker; has made good progress; harmony, counterpoint, and composition, satisfactory; sight singing, very satisfactory; diction, very satisfactory; elocution—Should do very well; has made excellent progress; languages, good." Miss Hantke will complete her studies at the Royal Academy this year.

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### A FRENCHMAN ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

M. Maurice-Carton, teacher of French at Melbourne University, in an interview on Thursday on the subject of President Roosevelt's recently-expressed opinion that the English language will one day become universal, remarked:—"President Roosevelt may want it, but I don't think he will get it. The history of the choice of French as a langue d'état or State language, commenced in the reign of Charles V., Emperor of Germany, in the sixteenth century. That choice has been confirmed by history, and French has been accepted by all nations as the language of diplomacy. French is a clear language and does not afford any loopholes for misapprehension as to meanings. A French sentence is easily comprehended, and cannot be misinterpreted, as any English one may be by the misplacing of a full stop or a semi-colon. French will always be the language of refined society and of diplomacy, while English will eventually be the language of commerce and German that of science and philosophy. A knowledge of French will carry you almost anywhere in Europe, if supplemented by a knowledge of English. The President is, doubtless, influenced by his environment. The best move he has made towards the end he wishes for is in the direction of phonetic spelling. If phonetic spelling were adopted the English language would possibly take the lead, but the difficulties of the English language form a series of frightful puzzles. The phonetic system of spelling is making great headway. The International Phonetic Association alone has over 2,000 officers, and nearly all nations are represented on its staff. When people object to phonetic spelling it is a mere matter of sentiment, but we must progress in all things."

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### AUSTRALIAN MUSIC.

#### TWO IMPORTANT NEW WORKS.

#### CONCERT AT THE ELDER HALL.

The performance of two Australian cantatas by the Conservatorium ladies' part singing and orchestral classes, under the direction of Miss Gullie Hack, drew a large and appreciative audience to the Elder Hall on Monday evening, the Governor being amongst those present. The first work presented was "England, my home," a musical setting by Mr. Bryceson Trehearne to Mr. William Watson's fine poem. Mr. Trehearne has won more than local distinction as a pianist, and his previous compositions have given evidence of decided talent as a musical writer. The cantata, with a full orchestral score, is the most ambitious work from his pen which has been performed in Adelaide, and the presentation of it, demonstrated that he possesses considerable powers of construction and a fine sense of the association between musical ideas and poetic thought. The spirit of the poem had been thoroughly caught and expressed. After a brief instrumental prelude the work was introduced with a contralto solo—

England, my mother,  
Wardress of waters,  
Builder of peoples,  
Maker of men:  
Hast thou yet leisure  
Left for the Muses,  
Hood'at thou the songsmith  
Forging the rhyme?

This was pleasantly given by Miss Marian Kemp. With the exception of one other short solo by the same vocalist the rest of the cantata was in chorus. The solo portions were tuneful and chaste, and the instrumentation was effective and full of sentiment and pleasing color. Stately and impressive was the portion beginning "So with the ancients," and in the third section the verse "Nations are mortal" was particularly dignified. The musical ideas followed in fitting sequence, and were nicely worked out. Throughout the entire work the instrumentation was impressive and the vocal score pleasing. The chorus, which numbered well over a hundred voices, sang with splendid intonation, and the rhythms were beautifully illustrated. The orchestra was large and well balanced, both in the string and wind divisions. Altogether the performance was excellent, and Miss Hack had every reason to be gratified with the precision with which chorus and orchestra obeyed her baton. At the conclusion of the cantata, which took all an hour, Mr. Trehearne had to step on to the platform to acknowledge the appreciation expressed by the audience. He was presented with a laurel wreath.

Quite different in style was "The Captive Soul," by Miss E. M. Woolley, of Sydney. In this cantata is told the tale of a Fay who, desiring mortal life as a means to experience human love, by magic captures a soul on its way from earth, and at once becomes a fair maiden. The soul vainly pleads for release, urging the transitory nature of human joys; but the Fay is relentless. The Fay, leaving her woodland haunts, takes up her abode with some weavers, who receive her kindly; but a sinister fate seems to attend her, and misfortunes befall those with whom she comes in contact. She plays with a child and it dies mysteriously; she diverts to herself the affections of a girl's lover, and the girl loses her reason. But, although the Fay has thus attracted human love, she is incapable of returning it; for the soul has a lover in Paradise to whom it is faithful, and without the soul's aid the Fay cannot love. The lover, driven to distraction by the Fay's heartlessness, commits suicide. A party of weavers returning from the burial of the lover, become so incensed against the Fay, to whom they attribute all their misfortunes, that they denounce her as a witch and burn her at the stake. Thus the soul is released. The treatment was for chorus and solos, with a string orchestra and piano and organ. The writing was full of pleasing passages, and a poetic charm runs through the work. A pretty instrumental introduction is followed by the chorus "There is mourning in fairyland to-night." The solos and duet "Farewell, farewell sweet woods and fragrant flowers," and "Unhappy one," by Miss Gladys Edwards and Miss Hilda Klintberg, were pleasing. A bright chorus, with an effective mezzo-soprano solo, "She hath left the wood," was rendered with excellent effect, the solo part being taken by Miss Hilda Cox. The song of the Fay, "Inportune me not," was a beautiful piece of writing, to which Miss Martha Bruggemann did ample justice. The promising young contralto, Miss F. Cowperthwaite, gave a good account of herself in the reply of the soul, "Through me poor Fay, thou mayest not love." In the chorus of women weavers the composer succeeded admirably in imitating the gossiping effect necessary to a true impression of the piece. The parts were well displayed, and the theme was carried out artistically. "I mourn here like the winter wind," was a poetical writing for contralto, with a good deal of feeling in it, and it was rendered with fair success by Miss F. Summerton. The unaccompanied trio for soprano, contralto, and tenor, "Cupid's dart," was charming, and was interpreted with feeling and taste by Misses Bruggemann, Klintberg, and Mr. H. Prime. Miss K. Cheekett took the solo part in the chorus of weavers, "Hast thou heard the heavy news," which made a fine item. Mr. H. Prime and Miss K. Joyce each did good work in the solos and duet of the lover and the Fay, "I come for one last word" and "The earth and sky delight me," and Mr. Prime's refined voice was heard to advantage in "I love thee not," a melodious writing. The instrumental part was pleasing throughout the work, but nowhere was it more effective than in the dirge which preceded the vocal dirge "Hush the spindles," a really fine piece of composition, tuneful, stately, and dignified, in which the chorus acquitted itself admirably. The judicious use made of the organ for the sustaining power and the suitable orchestral passages made this number exceedingly impressive. No less striking, although quite in contrast, was the chorus of villagers, "Away with the witch." The arrangement of the parts and the catchy rhythms gave the true spirit of a crowd in unreasonable clamor. The final portion, in which Miss Bruggemann took the parts of the Fay and Miss Summerton that of the soul, made a suitable finish to a thoroughly pleasing work, artistically written, and rendered with care, taste, and insight.

Miss E. Delprat was leader of the orchestra, Misses C. Jurs and J. Martin were the pianists, and Mr. A. Williamson presided at the organ, and each was satisfactory. Miss Hack was presented with many flowers, as was also Miss Woolley, the composer, at the end of the performance, and both were deservedly applauded.

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### UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.

The entries of candidates for the University examinations, which will be held shortly, have been made available. For the junior commercial examination 61 have entered, for the junior public 705, senior public 420, higher public 114, practice of music 820, rudiments and theory of music 208. In addition to Adelaide, examinations in music will be conducted at the following centres:—Gawler, Clare, Jamestown, Mount Barker, Yorketown, Renmark, Port Pirie, Kapunda, Moonta, Petersburg, Laura, and Mount Gambier.

### THE HIGH COURT AND SIR SAMUEL WAY.

#### RECENT CORRESPONDENCE.

#### WHY AN OFFER WAS DECLINED.

MELBOURNE, October 12.

The Prime Minister to-day laid on the table of the House of Representatives copies of the correspondence between himself and Sir Samuel Way regarding the offer made to Sir Samuel of a position on the High Court Bench. The text of the letters is as follows:—

"My dear Sir Samuel Way—I have the honour on behalf of the Commonwealth Government to cordially invite your acceptance of the position of Justice of the High Court of Australia, created by statute passed this session. Of course my colleagues and I realize that the high offices which you now hold, and have most honourably filled for many years in South Australia, are so distinguished that you may hesitate to appear to sever your association with the State in which your great abilities have always been warmly appreciated. We venture, however, to hope that you may regard a seat upon the highest Australian Court of Appeal as worthy the acceptance of any Judge, even although he may have been a member of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council and Chief Justice of his own State. Our desire is that the High Court should be enlarged by the addition to its already eminent bench of the leading, most experienced, and most learned lawyers in this country; and, actuated by this aim, it is but natural that we should turn to you first. We trust that after fully weighing all your responsibilities you may feel it to be your undoubted duty to accept this offer. It will not involve an entire severance from South Australia, and would, I am sure, be supported, when it is known, by the legal profession and public in that State as well as in every other part of the Commonwealth. Repeating the request for your most earnest consideration of this offer, on my own behalf, as well as for the Ministry, I have the honour to be, Alfred Deakin."

Sir Samuel Way replied on September 28:—"My Dear Prime Minister—This reply to your letter of the 24th inst. has been delayed, as I was unable to consult His Excellency the Governor until this morning. It would be impossible not to be deeply sensible of the honour of receiving from you and your Government the first offer of a seat on the Bench of the High Court under the Act for increasing the number of Justices. Needless to say, I have given this matter most careful consideration, both from the public as well as the personal point of view. The importance of maintaining the strength and prestige of the High Court must be apparent to every one, and I am gratified at its being thought that my accession to it would conduce to this result. Notwithstanding the wrench it would give me to leave the Court over which I have presided for more than 30 years, and the many employments for the benefit of my fellow-citizens in which I have found relaxation, I should probably, if I were 10 years younger, be unable to resist the inducement of enlarged usefulness as a Judge of the supreme tribunal of the Commonwealth. I feel, however, that the long and frequent journeys and absences from home which that office necessitates would not only occasion much discomfort, but would separate me from my library, and prevent the performance of my duties with the same pleasure, and perhaps with as much efficiency, as under present conditions. In these circumstances I think I can serve the public best by remaining where I am. I must therefore ask you and your colleagues to permit me gratefully to decline the invitation with which you have honoured me."