

might bring. (Cheers.) But his difficulty was to find a publisher. They hoped that federation would mend many things, and it brought with it hopes for the writer on serious subjects. Hitherto the man who desired a market not in a single colony, but throughout Australia, would, if he were wise, seek his publisher in London, because a book published in Sydney had no chance in Melbourne, and vice versa. Federation would not immediately remove jealousies that were baseless, but it would tend to their removal. Towards such a consummation perhaps few could give better help than those who represented the libraries of Australia. (Cheers.)

A SCHOLAR LIBRARIAN.

Dr. Leeper, M.A., LL.D., President of the Victorian Branch of the Association, read a paper entitled "A Scholar Librarian." Learning was an essential qualification for a librarian, especially for the chief librarian. He would not say it was the only essential, for administrative ability must come before everything else, but as a librarian held an almost unique position for guiding, assisting, and stimulating students it was obvious that he himself should be a student and a lover of books. He believed this view was not universally held by librarians, and he had been told that there was a saying in the profession that the librarian who read his books was lost. But he had no toleration for such an opinion, and such was not the principle upon which the heads of the great libraries of Europe and America were chosen. Therefore in this new country the standard should not be fixed lower than it was in older communities. It was true that the primary duty of the librarian was to cause others to read, but the more learning he had of all kinds the better fitted would he be to carry out the duties of his office. It was only the scholarly librarian who could hope to have in his life any of the romance of library discovery, for literary "finds" came only to those who were able to estimate the value of the documents which came in their way. He then referred to the valuable discovery by Bradshaw of documents of great historical value that had been lying on the shelves of the Cambridge Library unnoticed and forgotten for 200 years, and mentioned several other instances of a similar kind which had been reported during the last few years. It was heartrending to think how many priceless treasures had been lost for ever by the ignorance of those in charge of great libraries in the past. In these days, too, there were steadily increasing demands upon the librarian, and they all necessitated a higher educational standard. The best catalogues of to-day refused to be bound by the antiquated ways of the British Museum, and sought to know more of a book than its title page. An uneducated person could not make a satisfactory catalogue, and although technical skill in all that related to library administration was essential the two must be harmoniously united as in Bradshaw. The possibilities of closer relations between public libraries and educational institutions should be one of the aspirations of the new librarianship. Libraries and Universities should seek to co-operate to a greater extent, and the Australian Universities should honour their librarians more than was now done. A more definite recognition of the place of the public librarian in the educational machinery of the country should be one of the chief aims of the Association.

PRESERVATION OF LOCAL LITERATURE.

A discussion took place on the question "What Local Literature Should be Preserved in a Public Library." Mr. J. R. G. Adams introduced the subject in a brief address. He expressed the opinion that all local literature should be preserved in a national library, and that copies of all the newspapers issued in the colony should be kept, although it might not be necessary to bind them all in the case of small provincial papers. Several delegates took part in the discussion, the majority of whom supported Mr. Adams' views. It was pointed out that the Board of Trustees of the Melbourne Public Library had decided that all newspapers should be preserved, but many of them were stored without being bound. A paper was also read by Mr. J. G. O. Tepper, F.L.S., Librarian of the South Australian Museum Library, on "The Relation of Heating Arrangements in Libraries and Museums to the Conservation of Books and Specimens."

VISIT TO THE TOWN HALL.

In the afternoon the delegates accepted the invitation of the Mayor of Adelaide, Mr. A. W. Ware, to meet him at the Town Hall. The guests were received by the Mayor and Mayoress in the Council Chamber. The visitors were afterwards conducted over the Town Hall building by Mr. Ware, and an inspection was made of the collection of oil-paintings by Mr. Gordon Coutts, which were on view in the Banqueting-room. The main hall was next inspected, and the city organist, Mr. W. R. Pybus, gave a short organ recital, which was much appreciated. An adjournment was then made to the Mayor's Parlour, where light refreshments were served. The Mayor said it gave him great pleasure to receive the members of the Library Association in the name of the citizens of Adelaide. The people of South Australia were noted for their hospitality, and he hoped that the visitors from the other colonies had spent a pleasant as well as a profitable time in the city. On behalf of the citizens he extended to them a hearty welcome. (Cheers.)

The Hon. Edward Langton, in reply, said this was not the first time he had had the pleasure of accepting the hospitality of the Mayor of Adelaide, and he was glad to find that the best traditions of the past were being so well sustained by the present Mayor. (Cheers.) When he was in that building on his previous visit to Adelaide federation was only "in the air," but he was glad to know that it had now been accomplished. He hoped that in the near future travellers from other parts of Australia would not be looked upon as "visitors from the other colonies," but as fellow-citizens from another part of the Commonwealth. On behalf of the visiting delegates he thanked the Mayor for his hospitality. (Cheers.) Before the gathering dispersed the health of the Mayor and Mayoress was drunk with musical honours.

BUSINESS MEETING.

The general business meeting of the Association was held in the Elder Hall on Friday afternoon. The President, the Right Hon. Sir Samuel Way, Bart., presided. The Secretary presented a report, which stated that at a meeting of librarians, held in Melbourne in September, 1899, it was agreed that the indexing of Australian newspapers was not practicable, but each librarian undertook to be responsible for indexing the magazines published in his own colony. Circulars had been sent to all country libraries in New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, inviting them to join the Association, and pointing out that the fate of the "Library Journal" depended upon their support. He was glad to say that most of the replies which had reached him were favourable, but they only represented a small proportion of the Institutes in this colony. On the motion of Mr. A. W. Brazier it was decided that all libraries which received grants from the Government should be asked to subscribe towards the expense of the journal; but, if they refused to do so, that it be a recommendation to the Trustees of the National Libraries of the colonies that they should guarantee a sufficient sum to make good any loss that might be sustained. A committee, consisting of Professor Morris, Dr. Leeper, the Rev. J. Reid, and Messrs. Armstrong, Anderson, Adams, Rowe, Baitye, Meleng, Burgoyne, and Taylor, was appointed to take into consideration all matters relating to the publication of the "Library Journal," to issue a prospectus to the various libraries; and to make provision for the publication of the journal, provided a sufficient sum be guaranteed to cover the cost for one year.—On the motion of Professor Douglas, it was resolved that a letter of congratulation be sent to Dr. Luigi Villari, Librarian of the Bologna Library, Italy, who would celebrate his 80th birthday this year.

The following officers were elected:— Patron, the Governor-General of Australia; Vice-Patrons, the Governors of the Australian States and New Zealand; President, the Hon. E. Langton; Vice-Presidents, Professor Morris and Dr. Leeper; Secretary, Mr. E. La T. Armstrong; Treasurer, Mr. H. G. Turner; Assistant Secretaries, Messrs. Bromley, Boys, and Brazier.—Votes of thanks were accorded to the President and Secretary of the Association for the services which they had rendered to the Conference, and to Messrs. W. H. Ifould, S. Plint, K. Freeborn, F. E. Meleng, Lucas, and Rowe, and to the members of the literary staff, for the valuable assistance which they had rendered in classifying and cataloguing the exhibits.—The Chief Justice, in reply, paid a high tribute to Mr. Adams and Mr. Ifould for the invaluable service which they had rendered as organizers. Votes of thanks were also recorded to the University, for the use of the Elder Hall, to those who had forwarded exhibits, and to the Press.

On the invitation of the Victorian delegates, it was decided that the next meeting of the Association should be held in Melbourne in October next year.

Reg 13th Oct. 1900.

THE LIBRARY CONVENTION.

The sessions of the Library Association of Australasia were concluded on Friday afternoon. The delegates were fully occupied the whole day. At the morning session four subjects were discussed, and by insisting strictly upon the time limit for speeches the Chairman, Dr. Leeper, succeeded in completing the programme before the adjournment hour. A visit was paid to the University library, and in the afternoon the members of the Association were entertained by the Mayor of Adelaide, Mr. A. W. Ware, at the Town Hall. The sessions of the Conference were resumed at 3.30, and the next two hours were devoted to business matters. Important resolutions were carried relating to the publication of a "Library Journal," and it was decided that the next Conference should be held in Melbourne in October, 1901. The delegates have been invited to a drive through the hills this morning. The exhibition of old books and manuscripts will be open to the public for the last time to-day.

Reg 13th Oct. 1900.

MUSICAL CRITICS AND CRITICISM.

To the Editor. Sir—My attention has been drawn to a letter by one E. Harold Davies in your issue of the 11th inst., which affects to deal with the subject of "Critics and Criticism." Unfortunately there is nothing in the dissertation to warrant comment, and I think it deeply pitious that the writer has taken up the critic's cudgels with such poor material at his command. Until he has something of value and freshness to impart it would be far better for him to refrain from uttering commonplaces. I am, Sir, &c., BRYCESON TREHARNE, University of Adelaide, October 12.

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

The delegates to the Library Conference were given an opportunity of realising the beauty of the Adelaide hills on Saturday. Starting from the Public Library at 10, two drags, containing 40 visitors and prominent local citizens, proceeded to Crafers by way of Norton's Summit. At no time in the year do the hills show to such advantage as in the spring, and it was gratifying to hear visitors from Victoria, Broken Hill, and even New Zealand, testifying their appreciation of the scenery. Most of the delegates walked to the summit of Mount Lofty, and were enabled to have a splendid view of the city and the far-reaching Adelaide Plains, and they fully realised the reasonableness of South Australian pride in Adelaide and its surroundings. Crafers was reached for dinner. The toast of "Our visitors" was honored by the South Australians. The delegates responded, and expressed their hearty appreciation of the hospitality and courtesy with which they had been treated in South Australia. The Hon. E. Langton, of Victoria, and Mr. T. W. Rowe, of New Zealand, took the afternoon train for Melbourne from Mount Lofty, and most of the other delegates will leave for the eastern colonies to-day.

MUSIC AND MUSICAL CRITICS.

To the Editor. Sir—Shades of Polyphemus! "De gustibus non disputandum." Whatever may be the respective mental attitude of Messrs. Treharne and E. Harold Davies, Mus. Rec., towards the much-maligned musical critic, and whatever may be the opinion of the cognoscente or dilettante after reading the literary contributions of the two gentlemen, one would have thought that with such a display of aesthetic perspicuity, and with such a lucid announcement and audacious demonstration of art fundamentals, the more vulgar codes of common courtesy and the elementary formulae of formal—at any rate—politeness would surely have been observed! Unfortunately, these features cannot be said to be apparent in one instance. Proh! pudor! Evidently judging from the spirit of Mr. Bryceson Treharne's letter, which appeared in "The Register" on Saturday in reply to Mr. Davies, one cannot also infer that Mr. T's rhapsodic whiffing gyrations, and his meteoric coruscations of caloric rhetoric, and metaphor, do not permit of a tangential interjection of the so-called eleventh commandment—"Never interrupt." Possibly so. But yet it might probably benefit, or become Mr. Bryceson Treharne, when he is referring to a gentleman of the musical profession, if he were to bestow a little more study to the "morum elegantia," or, failing that, to emulate the daring intrepidity of the historic "felix," who ventured to cast his upturned lachrymose eyelids towards his distinguished but respectful sovereign. I am, Sir, &c., B. CHINNER, Hutt-street, October 13.

Reg 15th Oct. 1900.

Mr. G. Reimann, of the Elder Conservatorium, will leave the colony about the end of December for a six months' holiday in Europe. During this time he proposes to visit London and the principal musical centres on the Continent, including Berlin, Dresden, Leipzig, Vienna, and Paris, and he will enquire into the Conservatorium systems of all these towns. The University Council have assented to an arrangement which Mr. Reimann has made with Miss Elsie Hall, of Sydney, to carry on his work at the Conservatorium until July, 1901, when he expects to return to the colony.

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AN ITALIAN LIBRARIAN.

To the Editor. Sir—Permit me to correct a mistake in your otherwise excellent report of the concluding meeting of the Library Association. The name of the distinguished Italian librarian to whom I proposed that a vote of congratulation should be sent is not Dr. Luigi Villari, but Dr. Luigi Frati. Dr. Frati, who has just completed his 83rd year, is the librarian of the great library of Bologna, and director of the Municipal Museum in that city. Not only is he honored throughout Italy—he has also many friends and admirers in England, and his name is not unfamiliar to the readers of the "Athenaeum." Notwithstanding his great age, Dr. Frati is still full of mental vigor, and continues to give the most generous assistance to foreign scholars who visit the beautiful courts of the old University buildings at Bologna. In his presence his youth-like enthusiasm and vivacity make one forget that he is the Grand Old Man of Italian librarians.—I am, &c., R. L. DOUGLAS, University of Adelaide, October 12.

Reg 15th Oct. 1900. The Phaedrus which this correspondence refers to at pages 491-496.