

MUSIC IN THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Music as an element in education has always been considered in the light of an extra, an accomplishment not essential in laying the foundations of the structure for the child's course of training in the acquirement of knowledge. Experience and enlightenment are now removing musical instruction from the rarer atmosphere of what may be called the higher culture, and incorporating it in the ordinary school curriculum.

This is particularly true of singing, which is the line along which the cultivation of music must proceed in schools because of the almost insurmountable difficulties attaching to class work in instrumental instruction.

Mr. F. L. Gratton (Supervisor of Music) told the recent conference arranged by the Educational Society that most children have good voices, and that, as it is as natural for them to sing as it is to talk and play, the teaching of singing should be compulsory in the infant and kindergarten classes.

Australians are naturally a musical people and the climate is particularly adapted to the development of the singing voice. This is essentially a land of song, which will only find adequate and complete expression by the training of the children vocally from their earliest school days. Thus only can the foundations be soundly laid for Australians to attain their destiny as a musical and particularly as a singing people.

This is not only true of Australia as a whole, but particularly of South Australia, where the clear air, equable climate, and long periods of sunshine afford unrivalled conditions for the production and development of singing voices. Many vocalists of great promise have already been produced in this State, and probably there will be many more when the discovery of those who are endowed with more than ordinary vocal gifts is not left to a chance in adult life, but is made possible in early days.

Apart from the phase of singing as an art, Mr. Gratton pointed out that it was a fact that children studying for examinations were mentally and physically refreshed by singing. No greater argument than that need be advanced for the installation of singing as a part of a child's education. Such a mental tonic of a natural order should have frequent use.

Hitherto this result has been achieved by rest and recreation, but if the same end may be attained by the use of singing in the scholastic course a substantial advancement will have been made, and the holiday period will be not so much a restoration of the physically and mentally jaded as a reinvigoration of the perfectly sound with a view to greater and better efforts.

Of course the musical education of children connotes musical training of teachers. That presents many difficulties, notably the fact that the qualifications of a teacher of singing require certain natural gifts which cannot be acquired. Many teachers who are excellent in other respects will not be able to impart musical instruction. That obstacle may be easily overcome in the large centres, though it may become a problem in the one-teacher schools.

Music has an incalculable influence on the finer attributes of mankind, and if fostered from the earliest teachable age must exercise an appreciable uplift in culture and civilisation.

SUCCESSFUL CONCERT.

FAREWELL TO MISS ARIEL SHEARER.

There was a good and appreciative audience at the Town Hall on Wednesday evening, when a farewell benefit concert was tendered to that talented young pianiste Miss Ariel Shearer by a number of the leading musicians of Adelaide. Lady Bridges was present with a party from Government House, also the Lord Mayor of Adelaide and Lady Mayoress, and the director of the Adelaide Conservatorium (Professor Harold Davies, Mus. Doc). The programme was of unusual interest, and, generous as it was at the outset, became considerably augmented through insistent recalls. The concert will be a happy memory to Miss Shearer, who is leaving shortly for London. She will carry with her the warmest good wishes of her many friends in the musical world of Adelaide. Naturally, especial interest centres about Miss Shearer's own performance, in which she proved herself the possessor of a charmingly unaffected style of playing, a pure silvery touch, and both technique and expression. Her opening number was the first movement of the "Concerto in C sharp minor" (Schytte), in which the orchestral part was supplied on a second piano by Mr. William Silver. There is a fine dignity in this composition, the haunting, swaying rhythm suggesting the long roll of the sea, and it affords scope not only for technique but also for descriptive treatment and expression. Miss Shearer gave a charming rendering of the solo part, and Mr. Silver furnished wonderful colour and depth to the orchestral portion. Miss Shearer was recalled several times, and received numbers of bouquets and gifts. She played a delightful additional number in response to an encore. Later she gave a bracket, including two Chopin numbers, the "Nocturne in C sharp minor" and the delightful "Etude in F major, op. 25," and then Ravel's descriptive "Jeux d'eau," this "Waterplay" being rendered with especial effect, the interpretation being full of silvery lightness and liquid tone. Yet other recalls followed. The programme opened with the first movement of Brahms' "Trio in C minor, for piano, violin, and violoncello." It was played by Mr. George Pearce, Charles Schilsky, and Mr. Harold Parsons, Mus. Bac., in a manner which brought out the character of the writing which is markedly individual from the curious fugue-like opening movement. As his solo number Mr. Schilsky gave a brilliant interpretation of Saint Saens' "Rondo Capriccioso" characterised by purity of tone and brilliancy of handling. This was deservedly encored. Mr. Harold Parsons was also enthusiastically recalled for his cello solo "Adagio and allegro" (Bocherini), in which his instrument spoke with wonderful richness and variety of tone and expression. Mr. Harold Wyld, F.R.C.O. gave a beautiful organ solo "Reverie" (Lemare), and as an additional number a markedly contrasting writing. The vocalists of the evening were Miss Vera Thrush, A.M.U.A., who was heard to advantage in the scene and air from *Trovatore* (Verdi), her flexible soprano also telling charmingly in "Dawn." Miss Hilda Gill, A.M.U.A., sang "Weep no more" and "A good child" (Quilter) with her usual expression, her fine contralto telling admirably in both and also in a lullaby given in addition. Mr. P. Stone sang "Apri le tua finestra" (Mascagni) with his usual finish and effect. Mr. Richard Watson's fine bass told effectively in Handel's recit "I rage, I melt, I burn," and "O ruddier than the cherry" from *Aein and Galatea*, for which he was deservedly recalled, and gave an expressive rendering of John Ireland's song "Sea Fever." Mr. C. Cawthorne acted as manager and the grand concert pianofortes were kindly lent by Savery's Pianos Limited. Sweets were sold during the interval, and it is hoped that the results will be satisfactory.

REPORTED CURE FOR DIABETES.

SOUTH AFRICAN PERIWINKLE.

It has been known for many years that the South African herb vinca, commonly known as periwinkle, contained curative properties in the case of digestive troubles, a fact of which the natives were well aware. Their custom was to brew a decoction from the leaves and stem of the plant, and the early Dutch settlers soon learned the value of this herb tea. Lately, however, a claim has been put forward that this "remedy" will cure diabetes. The treatment takes from eight to nine months to complete, and during that time a strict course of dieting must be observed. Under these circumstances, however, it is declared that the sufferer is sure of almost immediate benefit, and in time a cure is said to result.

Hearing of the reported properties of the herb, a South Australian sufferer from diabetes forwarded samples of the periwinkle, which grows freely in the State, to those engaged in the manufacture of the new drug. Reports received concerning the local plant, however, have been discouraging. It is said to bear no resemblance to the South African periwinkle either in appearance, taste, or medicinal value. The properties of vinca in regard to diabetes were accidentally discovered by a Durban lady, who had brewed some of the old-fashioned herb tea for her husband to relieve a stomachic disorder from which he suffered. He was a diabetic subject also, and while taking a course of the tea his health improved to an extent which led his medical man to investigate the cause of the rapid improvement in his patient. Further experiments were tried with the new drug, which was aser all an old "simple," and although, according to the "Natal Mercury," it is too early to state definitely that diabetes will invariably yield to the new treatment, excellent reports have been received, which have justified a project for marketing vinca on a large scale. The drug will probably be available in Australia before long.

Professor Brailford Robertson, whose success in research work in connection with insulin is well known, stated on Wednesday that the alleged curative properties of vinca had not been brought under his notice. He had heard of the remarkable claims advanced on behalf of the South African periwinkle.

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MIDDAY ORGAN RECITAL.

In continuation of the midday series of free organ recitals at the Elder Conservatorium, Mr. Harold Wyld, F.R.C.O., submitted an enjoyable programme on Wednesday, before an appreciative audience. The numbers included "Prelude in C minor" (Bach), "Eventide melody" (Bennett), "Songs my mother taught me" (Dvorak), "Scherzo" (Gigout), "Child's lullaby" (Rekikof), and "Fantasia" (Dubek). Miss Stella Sobels contributed a dainty bracket of vocal items, "When the swan bent low," and "As the gloaming shadows creep" (McDowell).

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ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY.

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A meeting of the University Law Students' Society was held on last Tuesday evening in the Law Library to debate the following question set by Mr. R. N. Finlayson:—The X Company, Limited, has a managing director Y who has full authority to draw and endorse cheques for the company. Y endorses several cheques made payable to the company or order and pays them into his own bank account. Some of the cheques are open, some crossed, and some are marked "not negotiable." For the first few cheques the bank rings the company's office and asks the managing director if the cheques should be paid into his own account, and he replies falsely, "Yes." The bank then credits the proceeds of these cheques to the managing director's account, and, without enquiring, credits the proceeds of the other cheques. The company finds this out, and sues the bank for conversion of the cheques.

Mr. K. N. Jones, with him Mr. H. N. Tucker, appeared for the plaintiff company, and Mr. M. W. Bednall, with Mr. A. Williamson, for the defendant bank. Counsel for the company contended that the bank was liable in respect of all the cheques through their negligence in not making full and proper enquiry as to the account into which the cheques should be paid. For the bank it was contended that all reasonable enquiry in the circumstances, had been made, and that the bank therefore was protected under section 85 (3) and 88 of "The Bills of Exchange Act, 1909." Others who spoke were:—For the bank—Messrs. Draxell, Buttrose, Griff, Whimpress, and Cutlack. For the Company—Messrs. Barry, McCarthy, and Pary. Mr. Kiewahit spoke on behalf of the bank on the question of the open cheques and against the bank with regard to the other cheques. Mr. J. L. Travers, who adjudicated, said that with regard to the open cheques the bank could not be held liable. The position, however, was different in respect of the crossed cheques and those marked "not negotiable." The bank in this case was under a heavy duty to ascertain that everything was in order. It took precautions to enforce that there was no mistake, but did not take sufficient precaution, having had its suspicions aroused, to make sure that Y was not acting fraudulently. Judgment was therefore entered against the bank in respect of the crossed, and the crossed "not negotiable."

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Messrs. J. L. Eustace, B.D.S., A. S. Randell, D.D.S., L. S. Rogers, B.D.S., H. C. D. Taunton, D.D.S., H. G. Williams, L.D.S., A. P. R. Moore, B.D.S., P. R. Newling, D.D.S., and F. M. Swann, L.D.S., were on Wednesday appointed in Executive Council to be honorary dental surgeons at the Adelaide Hospital. Other appointments to the same institution were—Honorary Physicians—Drs. D. R. W. Cowan and C. T. C. De Crespigny; Honorary Dermatologist, Dr. R. E. Harold; Honorary Radiologist, Dr. H. C. Nott; Honorary Gynaecologist, Dr. T. G. Wilson; Official Visitor, Mr. T. P. Howard.

The following have been re-appointed members of the Medical Board of South Australia:—Drs. A. A. Lendon, B. H. Morris, R. S. Rogers, W. A. Verco, and W. T. Hayward.

Dr. E. Angus Johnson was in Executive Council on Wednesday appointed Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals during the temporary absence on leave of the Inspector-General (Dr. B. H. Morris).

Mr. W. K. Hancock, who has been appointed to the Chair of Modern History at the Adelaide University, a position recently vacant by the resignation of Professor G. C. Henderson, has had, although in his twenty-sixth year, a brilliant academic career. In 1914 he won an entrance scholarship to the Melbourne Grammar School, and gained first-class honours in Latin, Greek, history, and English at a senior public examination. He also secured a State senior scholarship (£40 per annum) for the whole of his University course. In 1917 he won the Perry Scholarship (£50 per annum), at Trinity College. His record there was:—First year, first-class honours in classics and history; second year, first-class honours in history; third year, first-class honours and final exhibition in history and political economy, with Cobden Club medal. In 1920 and 1921 he was lecturer in history at the University of Western Australia, and in the latter year became an all-Australian Rhodes scholar. At Balliol College, Oxford, Mr. Hancock took first-class honours in the school of modern history, and won an All Souls' Fellowship, never before gained by an Australian. During his course at the Melbourne University, he was editor of the University magazine, and gained the gold medal for oratory. Mr. Hancock's games are cricket and lawn tennis, and his recreations swimming and walking. At the age of 17 he won the Royal Humane Society's Medal for lifesaving by rescuing a child from drowning in the Mitchell River. He has tramped over much of Victoria and through Italy.