

Pen Portraits of People

Commonwealth Club Founder

Of commanding presence, tall and dark, and with a charming manner, Mr. S. H. Skipper has for several years been prominently before the public in more than one direction. In the legal line he has won distinction. His masterly grasp of the facts of a case has been a factor which has helped him greatly since he was admitted to the Bar.

But Mr. Skipper has been in the limelight in other branches of public work. He is a founder and president of the Commonwealth Club, a thriving institution and one which has welcomed many distinguished guests since its inception.

On the sporting side Mr. Skipper has taken a deep interest in football, and is president of the Port Adelaide Club. Much of his time is devoted to the interests of the black-and-whites.

Mr. Skipper is also president of the Pulteney Street School Old Scholars' Association, and a governor of the Pulteney Grammar School. He is a member of the council of the Institutes' Association of South Australia.

His early education was obtained at Pulteney Street School and St. Peter's College. He graduated at the University of Adelaide and was admitted to the Bar in 1902. Since that time he has made rapid strides in his profession.

Versatile Scholar

Teacher, agriculturalist, and accountant, Mr. Harry Billingham, B.A. (Adel.), A.F.I.A., has been appointed organizer and secretary of the Hospital Day movement.



Mr. H. Billingham

Born in London in 1864, Mr. Billingham was educated at the City of London School and Keyham College. When he was 20 years of age he came to Australia, and after spending several years here returned to England. He remained there for 10 years and was married.

Returning to Australia in 1897, he decided to take up teaching, and with that object in view entered the Adelaide University at the inception of the present scheme of training teachers. He was one of the first under the new system to obtain the B.A. degree, Mrs. Lushy and he being the first two to graduate. After seven years' teaching in the Education Department in Adelaide and the Crystal Brook district Mr. Billingham decided to give it up and become an accountant.

This was at the beginning of the war, when there was a shortage of accountants in South Australia. Mr. Billingham was unable to go overseas on account of his age, and was offered a position on the Wheat Board by Mr. George Nicholls. While in this position he studied and sat for the Federal Institute of Accountants examination.

"I am used to scooping up exams., so I did not have much difficulty," he says.

Now, although 60 years of age, this energetic Englishman is about to enter a new sphere of activities in connection with the Hospital Day movement, which has proved so effective in Melbourne and Sydney.

Mr. Billingham was closely associated with the Agricultural Bureau in the North-West. He read to members many papers on various subjects. He is a prominent Freemason.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER

Large New Zealand Scheme

ADELAIDE MAN IN CHARGE

Mr. Lawrence Birks, B.Sc. (Adelaide), A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.E.E. (Chief Electrical Engineer of the Public Works Department of New Zealand) is at present in Adelaide. He has been in New Zealand for the past 20 years, but is a native of this city. He took his science degree at the University of Adelaide, and was one of the first to gain the Angas Engineering Scholarship.

"In New Zealand there is a little coterie of Adelaide University men," said Mr. Birks. "We often meet and



Mr. Lawrence Birks

A native of Adelaide, who has charge of the New Zealand hydro-electric power scheme.

talk of old days in Adelaide, which we always think of as home."

Mr. Birks has the oversight and general management of a huge hydro-electric power system which extends over the North and South Islands of the Dominion.

BROAD PRINCIPLES.

"The scheme is being evolved on broad principles," said Mr. Birks. "The pioneering work was done by Mr. Evan Parry, who has now returned to London. It is a public enterprise controlled by the Government. The ultimate idea is to extend stations to make cheap electric power available for industrial and domestic purposes over the whole Dominion."

Mr. Birks explained that such a bountiful rainfall as New Zealand had combined with a great system of rivers and lakes made this gigantic scheme possible. The population was more evenly distributed in New Zealand than in Australia. That was another factor that added to the efficacy of the scheme.

LOCAL BOARDS OPERATE.

Local boards in various towns, he said, purchased the power in bulk from the Government, and dispensed it to ratepayers. Thirty-six boards operated in various centres. Their jurisdiction extended over half the area of the Dominion. In three or four years the whole of New Zealand would come within the ambit of the scheme. One of the largest stations (Lake Waikato) was capable of 160,000 horsepower, but there were many smaller ones such as that at Mangahou, which had a capacity of 24,000. That station supplied Wellington and district.

"The scheme is working satisfactorily," said Mr. Birks. "The amount of capital involved is £6,500,000. The output for the past year was 136,550,000 units, and the gross revenue more than £1,000,000."

Mr. Birks visited the works at Osborne and was favorably impressed with the plant. He considers it will produce power as cheaply as any steam station.

THE AUSTRALIAN MUSIC EXAMINATIONS BOARD.

The Universities of Melbourne, Adelaide, Tasmania, Queensland, and Western Australia, and the State Conservatorium of New South Wales.

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS IN THEORY OF MUSIC.—MAY, 1924.—PASS LIST for South Australia and Broken Hill.

(The name of the school or teacher precedes that of the candidate and is in larger type).

GRADE III.
HONORS.—CONVENTS.—ST. JOSEPH'S, PETERBOROUGH, O'Loughlin, K.; Steinke, E. G.; DOMINICAN, SEMAPHORE, Johns, K. M.; ST. JOSEPH'S, PORT ADELAIDE, Woodall, E. M.; MISS K. MEEGAN, Skuse, V.
CREDIT.—CONVENTS—OF MERCY, ANGAS-STREET, McArthur, J.; ST. JOSEPH'S, JAMESTOWN, Mumme, B.; ST. JOSEPH'S, PETERBOROUGH, Leonard, K.; MISS H. BOCK, Harvey, M. A.; MISS A. M. CONOLE, Harvey, E. E.

GRADE IV.
HONORS.—CONVENTS.—DOMINICAN, GLENELG, Harland, G.; OF MERCY, ANGAS-STREET, Maddeford, S. L.; ST. JOSEPH'S, JAMESTOWN, Foubler, H.; ST. JOSEPH'S, PETERBOROUGH, Cleary, V.; ST. JOSEPH'S, PORT ADELAIDE, Cleary, E. E.; PRIVATE, TUITON, Lyons, E. F.; MISS E. M. TUCKWELL, Williams, N. E.
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PASS.—CONVENTS—ST. JOSEPH'S, PORT ADELAIDE, Lewis, P. B.; McKay, F. C.; DOMINICAN, CABRA, Knowles, W. E.; LORETO, MARRYATVILLE, Leonard, M.; OF MERCY, ANGAS STREET, Reilly, G. M.; ST. DOMINIC'S N.A., Bolton, C. M. M.; ST. JOSEPH'S, PETERBOROUGH, Leonard, K.; MISS A. G. WEBB, Ohmeyer, N. M.; Paterson, M. J.; MISS L. E. SARA, Donovan, L. M.

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CREDIT.—CONVENTS—OF MERCY, ANGAS-STREET, O'Sullivan, D. J.; O'Sullivan, H. M.; ST. JOSEPH'S, JAMESTOWN, Hampton, J.; Fuller, M. H.; DOMINICAN, FRANKLIN-STREET, Carter, H. M.; ST. DOMINIC'S N.A., Knowles, S. M.; ST. JOSEPH'S, CALTOWIE, Seaton, M.; ST. JOSEPH'S, PETERBOROUGH, O'Dea, M.; MISS P. J. TASSIE, Nelson, J. D.; Russell, J. L.; MISS A. DAVIS, Kuhlman, A. O.; MISS K. MEEGAN, Williams, H.; MISS C. M. PRYOR, Snell, B. M.; MRS. C. O. TIPPETT, Lettmann, K. E.

PASS.—CONVENTS—ST. JOSEPH'S, PETERBOROUGH, Buckley, J.; Buckley, L.; Groves, E.; DOMINICAN, KAPUNDA, Kelly, H.; ST. JOSEPH'S, CALTOWIE, Noonan, T.; ST. JOSEPH'S, GLADSTONE, McNamee, M. M. M.; ST. JOSEPH'S, THEBARTON, Commans, V. H.; MISS C. M. PRYOR, Byrne, M. A. T.



Mr. S. H. Skipper

Mr. Skipper is well known to many old identities of Adelaide. His father contributed largely to the press under the name "Hugh Kalyptus." Mr. Skipper's grandfather was one of the oldest pioneers, arriving here on November 6, 1836. He was a noted artist in the early days of the Commonwealth, although like his grandson a solicitor by profession.

Always courteous, Mr. Skipper is one of the most popular men of his profession. He is a busy member of the firm of Scammell & Skipper.

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM

MR. CHARLES SCHILSKY.

FAMOUS VIOLINIST AND TEACHER.

At his first recital, given in the Elder Hall, last night, before a large and demonstrative audience, Mr. Charles Schilsky was accorded a warm welcome. His appointment to the violin and chamber music sections at the Elder Conservatorium carries even more significance than appears on the surface, for it is largely from these sources that orchestral strength is maintained. For many years chamber music has been Mr. Schilsky's greatest joy. The artistic beauties of the famous sonatas, trios, quartets, and quintets have become so familiar to him that in various cities he is considered a noted pedagogue on this subject. The art in Australia is practically in its childhood, but it is expected that Mr. Schilsky's influence will stimulate matters in this important study.

It was as an exponent of the art of Cesar Franck that Mr. Schilsky opened the concert. Franck's violin sonata, dedicated to Ysaie, is considered one of the most beautiful works written. Of the first movement a famous musician has said, "This music should be held up to students as perfection in art; it should be framed and held pride of place in studios as an ideal thing." The second movement gives the pianoforte a tremendously difficult, yet grateful task, with passionate, inspired speech, for the violin. The third movement, in free form, marked "Recitative fantasia," is full of intense suffering and strong individuality, leading to a fourth movement in canon form, full of joy and spontaneous creative power. Mr. Schilsky was completely absorbed in the Franck ideal, from the sweeping opening to the anguish of soul, the

purifying fires, the suffering and struggles, to the hope and victory which are depicted in the finale. The violin, in his hands, ceases to be a mere instrument of wood and strings, and portrays the dignity and power of a human soul with the highest aspirations. Clear, liquid tone, unerring judgment in nuance, interpretation brought to a fine art, and a complete understanding of the composer's thoughts are the signs of Mr. Schilsky's mature musicianship. Mr. William Siver in the exacting pianoforte part of this sonata was quite equal to all demands.

The Bach concerto for two violins, with pianoforte, was played by Mr. Schilsky, Miss Sylvia Whittington, and Mr. George Pearce. Its three movements, especially the "Largo ma non tanto," were listened to with rapt attention. The charm of the contrapuntal writing was so clearly expressed by these performers that unusual enthusiasm was created. It was a just reward and at the same time an indication of the progress of musical appreciation in Adelaide. Two groups of violin solos showed Mr. Schilsky's complete mastery of the violin. Beethoven's Romance in F was played with the utmost delicacy; Lalo's "Andante" was a masterpiece of rich, warm tone; the stirring rhythm of Zarzycki's "Mazurka" evoked an outburst of admiration; the Wagner-Wilhelmj "Preislied" was of much beauty in purity of tone, and the Sarasate "Gipsy dances" captivated the audience. Mr. George Pearce was entrusted with the important position of accompanist, and Mr. Harold Wyld played the National Anthem on the organ. The Elder Hall was booked up in every part, and the Lieutenant-Governor and Miss Murray were present.

MUSIC AND BUSINESS.

A RELIEF TO JADED NERVES

"Not £25,000, but altogether 8,750,000 dollars, of which 2,250,000 dollars represents an endowment fund available for the School of Music only, is the total of Mr. George Eastman's magnificent gifts to Rochester, New York," said Dr. Harold Davies yesterday, connecting a statement that Mr. Eastman had given £25,000 to the Rochester orchestra.

Mr. Eastman's aim is music not for the few, but for the many. There came to him gradually, he recently told an interviewer, a realisation that music, and the power to appreciate its message, were of supreme importance as a means of escape from the highly standardised existence of the present day. Music had brought him relief from business pressure, and a degree of pleasure so poignant that he determined to share his experience with the public. He is eager to have the people of his city "make good use of the increase in the amount of leisure that is theirs as a result of new systems of efficiency that now govern many of the factories and manufacturing plants in the commercial centres of America." So he has established and endowed a School of Music and the Eastman Theatre. The former, though in the same building as the theatre, is really a separate institution, and virtually a college of the University. Mr. Eastman's present task is to create listeners, and as a means towards achieving this end on six days a week he has pictures in the theatre, and each Wednesday night a concert is given by a celebrated artist.

The buildings have been specially designed to meet modern requirements, and the School of Music has been given a staff composed of some of the best brains in the world.