

# MUSICAL NOTES

By E.C.

The tonic sol-fa-ists are not "disheartened by their first reverse, for, believing with a reliable authority that "this system requires more subtle means than mere denunciation to lay it low," they are preparing for a greater fight on behalf of the very young school child. As children attending State schools have so much to learn in the very few years they are compelled to give to their education, the easiest and shortest routes must be adopted. It is in support of this argument that this body asks for the retention or full trial of Curwen's method of teaching infants to sing. In the State schools of Victoria this method prevails, and Mr. Byatt, Director of Music, keeps a teacher to instruct others in the system. It is amusing to learn that at the conference on public education, being held at present in Melbourne, the teaching of music (vocal) in the State schools is a topic which is thought unworthy of discussion.

The programme submitted by the Apollo Club at their concert on Tuesday evening derived peculiar interest from the fact that the principal numbers performed were compositions by the three conductors who have wielded the society's baton since 1885. The cantata, Captain Cook, written by the late J. A. Delaney to the fine verses of Mr. P. E. Quinn, formed the first half of the programme. This revival, after a quarter of a century, proved highly enjoyable. The various nautical choruses and introduction were well sung. Miss Carrie Lanceley sang with much charm. Australia Awakens, in which solo

Miss Carrie Lanceley sang with much charm, Australia Awakens, in which solo the composer has so effectively woven the march and chorus. Events, however, have sadly proved that the author was too optimistic when he wrote in this solo—

No ruddy rain of battle  
Shall make my roses red;  
No long gold spray of wattle  
Shall bloom o'er soldiers dead.

The soloists in the pantata were Miss Carrie Lanceley (Australia) and Messrs. Percy Franch (a sailor), A. E. Y. Benham (Captain Cook), H. Roie (an Hawaiian). Bring Forth the Wine (Arundel Orchard) was the second chorus of interest, and Alfred Hills, who now conducts the club, was represented by his Maori war chorus, Ra-Ha, Ra-Ha (from Hinemoa), which was given with so much barbaric brightness and native atmosphere that though the last item of the programme, a repetition was demanded. Both Miss Lanceley and Mr. Benham gave extra numbers; the chorus contributed two charming items in Malting Airs and Breathe, My Harp, and the Sydney Amateur Orchestral Society gave Aubade Printamiere (Paul Lacombe) so spiritedly that it was encored. Mr. Alfred Hill conducted the successful evening's work.

Hayn's String Quartet, Op 54, No. 1 in G, and Piano Quintet (Schumann) were the two works chosen for Mr. Verbrughen's lecture concert on Wednesday evening. This being the first occasion

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that a work of Schumann has been performed at these chamber music recitals, the director's preliminary remarks were mainly confined to the life and compositions of the composer. Schumann holds an almost unique position among musicians, for his genius had no chance of

... unique position among musicians, for his genius had no chance of developing until he was 18 or 20. Again, his literary contributions on music and his musical criticisms occupy almost as great a position as his compositions. Referring to the quintet, the Director remarked upon certain "novelties" introduced by Schumann in this class of work regarding form. He uses a Funeral March for the theme of the second movement. Then there was a certain awkwardness of writing for the strings in the other movements, but this made for variety, and variety, after all, was the spice of life, the soul of all arts. Both works were, as usual, admirably interpreted, and Miss Myrtle Meggy was responsible for some fine pianoforte playing in the Schumann Quintet.

During his recent visit to Adelaide Mr. Charles Philip gave a pianoforte recital in that city, which drew a crowded house and complimentary criticisms. The Sydney pianist has been invited to play a Chopin concerto with the Conservatorium Orchestra on his next visit to Adelaide.

The Chatswood Orchestral Society (under the baton of Mr. D. Borszcer) gave their second concert (of a series of five) in aid of the Red Cross on June 1. The assisting artists were Miss Varra Latcham (soprano), Messrs. E. L. Davidson (violinist), and O. McIntosh (baritone). Miss Clara Hart contributed pianoforte solos. The next concert is to be given on July 23.

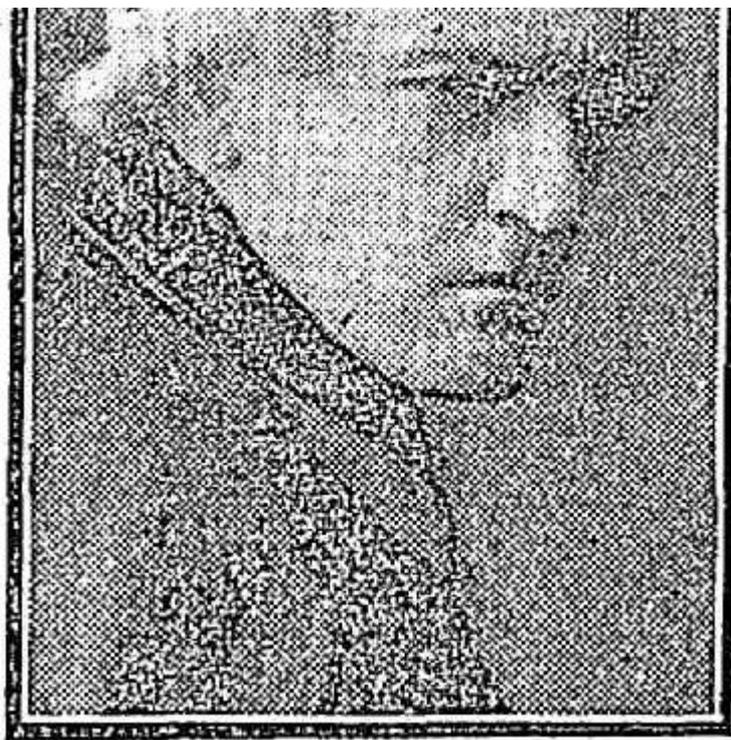
At a social gathering of the Sydney Choral Society on Wednesday evening, Mr. W. Reginald Gooud, the popular conductor, was presented, on behalf of the choristers, by Mr. Clive Teece, president of the Society, with a beautiful gold watch as a mark of their appreciation of his work and interest.

The three farewell concerts given by

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The three farewell concerts given by Private Peter Dawson in the Town Hall were very successful. Naturally the greatest enthusiasm prevailed at the last concert on Thursday night, when the baritone's three programmed numbers lengthened to thirteen. He sang songs classic, sentimental, grave and gay, with a dash of the nautical and military also introduced by A Chip of the Old Block and Kipling's Follow Me 'Ome, and The Race Between a Dingo and a Kangaroo, not forgetting My Old Shacko. Those two fine songs, Invictus and How's My Boy? introduced to Australia by Paul Dufault, were excellently given, though Mr. Dawson's interpretation was more vigorous than that of the French Canadian. Miss Annette George, and Messrs. Bryce Carter, Cyril Monk, Lawrence Campbell, and Laurance Phillip were the assisting artists. At the conclusion of the entertainment Mr. Lawrence Campbell, on behalf of his fellow-artists and the audience, wished Private Dawson a safe return, the short speech being followed by the singing of Auld Lang Syne. In replying, Private Dawson said he had sung to the wounded soldiers in the hospitals in London, now he was going to the other side to get some practical experience.





**SIGNOR YAGO BELLONI,**

Who is singing in La Tosca at the Italian Day Benefit in the Theatre Royal on Friday night. Signor Belloni is leaving on active service in three weeks' time.