

Register November 17<sup>th</sup> 1884

UNIVERSITY SENATE.—Several important matters will come before the University Senate at its next meeting. In addition to the election of five representatives to the Council, and the consideration of the remuneration of the Clerk of the Senate, the following motions will be moved:—By Dr. Gosse—"That any member of the Council who shall be absent for six consecutive regular meetings shall be considered to have resigned his seat in the Council, unless he has obtained leave of absence, and such vacancy shall be notified to the Senate." By Mr. J. A. Hartley, B.A.—"That the Warden be respectfully requested to apply to the Council for such information as he may require to enable him to answer any question of which due notice has been given by any member of the Senate." By the Rev. Francis Williams, M.A.—"1. That in the opinion of the Senate it is desirable to alter the first regulation of the Junior Examination by substituting therein the word 'seventeen' for the word 'sixteen.'" 2. "That in the opinion of the Senate it is desirable to alter the second regulation for the Matriculation Examination by substituting therein the word 'four' for the word 'three.'" 3. "That the above resolution be communicated to the Council." By Mr. T. A. Caterer, B.A.—"That, in the opinion of this Senate, the establishment of evening classes at the University of Adelaide is desirable."

*Australian Geography*  
*Advertiser no 25/84*

Professor Tate concluded his series of lectures on "Climate and Distribution of Life in Australia," at the University-hall on Monday evening, November 24. Speaking on the subject of Australian reptiles, he said we only possessed two species of crocodiles, one Oriental and the other peculiar to Australia, and both inhabiting tropical regions. Of the snakes there were 93 species, 58 being venomous and 35 non-venomous, the venomous class being much more common in the southern and cooler part of the continent than in the tropical north. Thus, Tasmania had five species of snake, all venomous; South Australia, nine venomous and one non-venomous; New South Wales, 23 venomous and seven non-venomous; while in Queensland the proportion was 26 to 22, and in the Northern Territory 12 to 8.

Some species of the Australian frog were closely allied to those found in Chili, which which had led to the supposition that at one time South America was connected by a Pacific continent with New Zealand, New Guinea, and Northern Australia, but it was equally probable that the South American frogs, like many of the Alpine plants, reached Australia during the epoch when the southern hemisphere was in a glacial condition. After describing the lizards, the curious *ceratodus fosteri*, or mud-fish, which is supposed to be the connecting link between the amphibians and the fishes, and the molluscs, the lecturer proceeded to summarise the results of his investigation into the subject under consideration. The antiquity and wide diffusion of Australian vegetation over the warm regions of the world were proved by the fossil plant remains found in Victoria, Tasmania, and New South Wales. These indicated that the numerous forms characterising the living Australian fauna had been developed out of pliocene or later tertiary forms of plants as yet unknown to us. Of 83 species of fossil plants determined with some degree of certainty, 48 belonged to Oriental genera, or if to extinct genera, then those genera had close Oriental affinities; 15 were characteristic of the northern hemisphere, either in its living or tertiary forms, such as the birch, alder, oak, willow, and beech; 10 belonged to characteristic Australian genera, and 10 to extinct genera of Australian affinities. On the other hand some forms of the tertiary flora of Europe were only found alive in Australia, such as the eucalyptus, banksia, &c. With regard to the origin of Australian life he believed all the southern types might be traced to one region, and palaeontology taught us that was the north. It was probably far back in the secondary period that some portion of the southern region was in connection with the northern part of the globe, and became stocked with northern plants and animals, but since then no further communi-

cation had taken place, and Australia had gone on developing them into various living and extinct types. Marsupials formerly existed in other parts of the world besides Australasia, for in Great Britain types closely akin lived during the period before the chalk was deposited, in what was known as the purvic epoeh. The disappearance of the diprotodon—a gigantic marsupial sharing the peculiarities of the kangaroo and the wombat and other allied species from Australia—was probably caused by climatic changes narrowing down their pasture-ground, and crowding them into spaces where the climatic conditions would not allow of sufficient herbage to support a large number of them. The animals that preyed on the diprotodon and other large kangaroos would naturally with it. In conclusion, the lecturer thanked those present for their attendance, and was greeted with applause.

*The Register*

*November 29<sup>th</sup> 1884*

**PROFESSOR OF MUSIC FOR THE  
ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY.**

The Committee appointed to select a Professor of Music for the University of Adelaide met yesterday, and after carefully considering the large number of applications sent in, finally chose Mr. Joshua Ives, graduate in music of Cambridge University.

THE CHAIR OF MUSIC.—Our English telegrams announce the appointment of Mr. Joshua Ives as Professor of Music for the Adelaide University. To Sir William Robinson is due the credit of having initiated and given practical effect to the scheme for the foundation of the Chair. His Excellency immediately upon his arrival here noticed that while the University was authorized by its Statutes to grant degrees in music as well as in other subjects no action had been taken to carry out the provisions of the law. Knowing that the great stumbling-block was the absence of funds, the revenue of the University up to that date having been devoted to imparting a knowledge of the classics and practical sciences, he in the most public-spirited manner set to work to obtain subscriptions for the purpose of supplying this lack. His enthusiasm carried the day, for in a short period he was able to announce that he could guarantee subscriptions representing an annual contribution of £500 for five years. Having brought the scheme to this stage, he handed his list over to the University on the understanding that the Council should obtain from England a qualified Professor, and this they have succeeded in doing. So far no particulars have come to hand in reference to any of the applicants for the Professorship, and nothing is known here of Mr. Ives, the selected candidate, but the fact of his having been approved by the Selecting Committee after being subjected to the prescribed tests may be ac-