

Mozart was ably given by Signor Lombardi, although there was rather too much noise at the time to allow the audience to do justice to the delicacy of the rendering. A quartett by Piusenti, "Good night, beloved," was very nicely sung by Misses Stevenson and Schomburgk and Messrs. Ralph and Lawrence; while Miss Rosa Schomburgk obtained merited applause for the way in which she sang a very pretty lullaby, the composition of Miss Whittell, one of the students of the University: Miss Stevenson, who was in excellent voice, rendered a soprano song by Mattei, "Dear heart," in a manner which showed a fine range of voice and careful cultivation. The concluding number was a duet by the late Franz Abt, "Stillest night," which was sung with sympathy and excellent vocalisation by Miss Stevenson and Miss Schomburgk.

On passing through the various lecture-rooms of the University the visitors found in the physiological laboratory Dr. Stirling, assisted by Mr. W. Fuller, busily engaged in explaining to a constant stream of interested visitors the principles and working of a number of instruments and models. Amongst these were Professor Stewart's (Sydney) artificial pulse scheme, Threlfall & Caldwell's serial microtome, Williams's microtome for cutting sections for microscopic slides, Roy's freezing microtome, Ludwig's kymograph, Khune's artificial eye, and various other accessories of the room. Perhaps the things which attracted most attention were the microscopic exhibits. Under one instrument was shown the circulation of the blood in the web of a live frog's foot. Under another instrument were shown the bacilli of tuberculosis magnified a great many times and colored slightly so as to make them more easily distinguished. A small instrument for registering the action of the pulse created much interest, as did another which illustrated the circulation of the blood.

Professor Bragg performed a beautiful experiment in the physical lecture-room, by which he illustrated the polarisation of the sky. He explained that there were two phenomena which had greatly puzzled scientific people. One was the blue color of the sky, and the other the fact that it polarised light. Both these, he said, were due to very fine particles in the air. An artificial sky was exhibited for the benefit of the visitors. It was shown to be blue and to produce all the wonderful color effects which a polarising agent always does. The professor repeated his interesting experiment at times.

On the opposite side of the hall Professor Rennie undertook an equally interesting and instructive experiment, by which he illustrated the nature of oxygen, showing that substances burn very much more brilliantly in oxygen than in air. He also illustrated the formation of moss-like crystals of silver by projecting the image of a glass plate with a solution of nitrate of silver on which some particles of copper had been dropped. The professor, who was assisted by Mr. G. F. Turner, was heartily applauded on both occasions when he went through the little illustrated lecturette.

Mr. Gill, the master of the School of Design, was located in the classics lecture-room. Here he had exhibited a set of drawings showing the course of work done in the school; needlework done from original designs by the students; church needlework designed in the school, and done by St. Peter's Ladies' Guild; a set of building construction models made by the students from their class lectures; other models illustrating the lectures delivered in the school and all the various mechanical apparatus connected with the institution.

In Professor Rennie's private laboratory, which adjoins the lecture-theatre, there were several illustrations of water analysis, the extraction of coloring matter from *Drosera Whittakeri*, and the plant in its natural state with the colors produced from it. In the lavatory were arranged experiments to illustrate the principle of the movement of glaciers by means of a block of ice, over which was placed a wire with weights attached, which gradually cut through the block, the aperture caused by its passage becoming frozen as its movement proceeded. In further connection with geology there were microscopes with sections of rocks, being interesting specimens found in South Australia, showing glaciated surfaces. Minerals found in South Australia were also exhibited, this department being under the charge of Mr. A. W. Fletcher. Other tables were strewn with apparatus illustrating various processes in connection with mathematical work, and these were supervised by Mr. D. H. Lawrence, who was energetic in explaining them to the many visitors.

The arrangements of the physical laboratory were under the charge of Mr. R. W. Chapman, the assistant lecturer on mathematics and physics, and in addition to a general exhibition of physical instruments numerous experiments were shown throughout the evening. A very fine spectroscope was exhibited by Mr. Rogers, and visitors were enabled to see the spectra of various incandescent gases, the gases being contained in tubes and rendered luminous by an electric discharge through them. The light given out by the gas was then split up into its various component colors by the spectroscope, and when so unfolded presented a very brilliant appearance on looking through the instrument. Some pretty experiments were shown in which electric discharges were sent through tubes containing gases in a very rarified state, different effects taking place with the

same gas in different states of tenuity. Some of the tubes contained matter in such a highly attenuated condition that it was in the state known as "radiant matter," which is supposed by some to be as far removed from the gaseous state as the gaseous is from the liquid. A very large electro-magnet was in full going order and rather astonished many of the visitors when they tried to hold a piece of steel near to one of its poles. Very few were strong enough to hold it within an inch of the magnet without its being attracted. A small electro-motor was made to turn a painted disc, which when revolving rapidly appeared white, although it was really colored with all the hues of the rainbow. The peculiarities of the gyroscope and a couple of electrical machines, which were exhibited by students, also occupied a good share of attention. The strange figures formed by dry sand when on a vibrating plate were shown, and some pretty objects were on view under a polariscope. Amongst other instruments exhibited were various laboratory telescopes, an optical bench, and a large spectrometer for measuring the refraction and dispersion of white light when passed through prisms of different substances. In electrical instruments there were various forms of galvanometers and electro-meters, also a large "Holtz" electrical machine, which gives a spark eight inches in length. A very nice model of an hydraulic press was on exhibition, and was made to show its power by breaking pieces of iron.

Not the least interesting of the many objects shown was the ophthalmoscope, which was explained by Dr. Symons and assistants. The back part of the living human eye was shown by means of this instrument.

S. A. "Register"
27th May 1859

TOUCHING BLUE BLOOD.

TO THE EDITOR

Sir—In one of his recent speeches laudatory of the Earl of Kintore, Chief Justice Way referred to the advantages which His Excellency possesses of high rank and long and honoured lineage—"advantages," he added, "which only those who do not possess dare to despise." This sentiment coming from the Chief Justice is of so extraordinary a nature that I trust you will allow me to say a few words about it. In the first place it is noticeable that the Chief Justice's observation supposes himself to be in the happy possession of blue blood. He does not dare to despise the advantages which he describes in such eloquent language, and, therefore, if his reasoning holds good, he is one of the persons who possess them. Upon this point I would say little. Through some mistake or another, possibly through my failure to study the most recent edition of Burke, I was under the impression that, so far as family went, the Chief Justice was not much better than any individual amongst us. I regarded him with admiration as a person who had triumphed over the disadvantages of birth, and had won his way to the front rank in the colony by sheer ability and dexterity. It is now plain that, with many of his fellow-colonists, I had made a mistake, and that the Chief Justice is a bit of an aristocrat after all. Otherwise, as he himself shows us, he would have dared to affect to despise Lord Kintore's nobility of birth.

Of course it does not matter whether the Chief Justice's ancestor was or was not a cobbler or hairdresser or a knight in the army of William the Conqueror. People won't think a bit the better of him even if he could prove that he was the lineal descendant of William the Conqueror's mother. It has fortunately and rightly been our habit in the colonies to reckon a man's value by his own worth, and not by the length of his ancestral tree. Hence one is surprised to find that a man who is not generally credited with blue blood should find it necessary to declare that it is only low-born men who despise high birth. It is rather the other way about. A gentleman is not always insisting about the greatness of gentle birth. He values it, of course, but only in the way that everybody values what he has got. He does not make a fuss about it. He does not say that because a man is a gentleman he must therefore be a particularly excellent person. He would not do this for the simple reason—if for no other—that such a theory might be held to advance his own pretensions, and no gentleman would care to do that. The man who praises birth *per se* as a thing to be admired is, *pace* the Chief Justice, the man who knows nothing about it except by hearsay. He is generally a vulgar person who thinks to make people at home by excessive and impertinent adulation. Thus, when a person of this kind seeks to praise a man, he is misled by his own feelings and extols his victim for something which was not his own workmanship. In the present