

They had had the advantage, too, of a fairly long course of training under Mr. Upward, and had evidently benefited by it. They pulled in a really good boat, built to order for this race, which seemed to carry the crew to perfection, and was admirably steered. They rowed probably the severest race they have ever contested, and they won. During a portion of it they had a misfortune which might well have settled their chance of success. Their Stroke became exhausted, and for some little distance we believe the boat was in effect rowed by seven oars. At the end of the race he completely collapsed, and it was a considerable time before he came to. Whether, as observed by an experienced oarsman, he was undertrained or had a heart it is not for us to say. But it was a matter of general remark that had the water been rough the short stroke which the Victorian crew row would have been fatal. There is nothing which so severely taxes heart and lungs. The best oars who have rowed alike at Henley and at Putney are unanimous that the former course of one and a quarter miles against stream is more exhausting than the four and a quarter miles of the latter on the tide. Over a short course against stream it is pretty much what is termed by rowing men a case of "jump and bucket." Length of stroke is sacrificed to rate per minute. Hence a light crew will often at Henley beat a crew of heavy men who would pull clean away from them over the longer course. The race on Saturday was certainly one and a quarter miles less than the Putney course, and the tide was on the turn when the boats started. But three miles is a tolerably fair distance to row—we fancy the Port course is over rather than under that distance—and we have no doubt, in fact we are only echoing the opinions of the greatest living judges, that *caeteris paribus* the longer stroke is the only one over a distance of water. It is a pity if Australian University rowing is to depart from that standard which has been proved to be the correct one by those to whom the whole rowing world looks as its highest authority.

The meeting of the crews in the evening at a banquet, countenanced by the presence of the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, and some of the University Professors, was a pleasant way of concluding the event of the day. The University Boat Race should be the leading event of the Rowing Calendar, if for no other reason than that it is rowed for honour only, although by no means barren honour. There is no reason why it should not be to Australia what the parent race is to England. A seat in the University boat should be an object of the highest ambition to every boy at a rowing school and to every undergraduate. Not only is there in it nothing incompatible with obtaining the best places in the class-lists, but at Oxford and Cambridge, at all events, the percentage of rowing men who take honours is higher than that of any other section of the University. As a matter of statistics the average life of the men who have rowed in the Oxford and Cambridge race since 1829 is, as Dr. Morgan has shown in his valuable work on "University Oars," higher than the average which the insurance life-tables calculate for sound lives. As a matter of history the University Boat Race has sent into the service of the State and Church some of their brightest ornaments. In the whole range of athletics there is none which can vie with rowing as a school of discipline—physical and moral—none so well calculated to lay the foundation of habits and character which fit a man to do his duty, and to deserve success in any calling that he may espouse.

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## RETURN OF DR. STIRLING.

By the Messageries Maritime Company's steamer *Oceanien*, which arrived at the Largs Bay anchorage early on Wednesday morning, Dr. E. C. Stirling (lecturer in physiology at the Adelaide University) returned from his visit to Europe. Dr. Stirling left Adelaide early in December last year, proceeded direct to Marseilles by the French liner, and then took steamer to England. The object of the trip was to see what improvements had taken place in physiology and surgery and to gather all the latest information on these subjects, and further to ascertain the modern advantages that had been availed of in the construction and fittings of hospitals and museums in order that they might be introduced as far as possible in Adelaide. The doctor, shortly after the vessel's arrival, was waited upon by an *Advertiser* representative, who was furnished with some particulars regarding the trip. On arriving in England Dr. Stirling immediately set to work. He went down to his old university, Cambridge, where he attended the School of Physiology, gaining much useful knowledge. He then visited most of the universities and hospitals in England, and spent a week in Paris. He visited the hospitals of that city and interviewed some of the most distinguished French surgeons. During his visits to the various hospitals he was present while some serious surgical operations were performed by the most capable professional men, and he expresses himself as very much pleased with the skill of the French surgeons especially. During his absence the doctor gained much physiological information, and he will introduce the latest books and editions bearing upon that subject at the South Australian University. Viewing the principal museums of England took up a great part of the doctor's time, and he states that he has gathered a number of fresh ideas regarding fittings, &c., some of which he hopes to see introduced in the new Adelaide Museum. Dr. Stirling took home with him a number of the mole-like marsupials which he discovered on his journey through the continent of Australia in company with his Excellency the Earl of Kintore early last year. In the interests of science he distributed specimens to the museums at Berlin, Paris, Florence, Stockholm, British Museum, and the Cambridge University. He availed himself of the opportunity while in England of writing another short paper on the subject of marsupials, which he read at Cambridge, and which will be published in a scientific journal in due course. During the tour he has acquired a number of zoological specimens for our museum in exchange for exhibits sent home from this colony from time to time. These include some important mammalia, skeletons, and skins, which in the space of a few months will be placed on exhibition here.

"Were there any very great improvements either in the museums or surgically?" asked the reporter.

“Well,” said the doctor, “I found the changes were not so important as on the last occasion when I visited England, some seven years ago, although of course there are always a number of new discoveries taking place and great advances have undoubtedly been made. So far as hospital construction is concerned, I have every reason to be satisfied with the new building already completed and the additions in course of erection in connection with the Adelaide Hospital. Our Museum bears very favorable comparison with the older museums of Europe so far as the quality of the exhibits go, but of course, as is only natural, we have not yet the number of specimens on show to be found in older institutions, but that will be effected in time. Regarding quality, however, our Museum would hold its own with most of the principal collections in European museums. Now we will be able to arrange for regular exchanges. Of course one difficulty is that although one knows what one wants the specimen is not always obtainable.”

“Did you meet any South Australian citizens at home?”

“Oh yes; I met most of our colonists who are in the old land at present, although, of course, I kept myself hard at work during my tour. At Manchester I had a meeting with Professor Lamb, who some few years ago was professor of mathematics at the Adelaide University. At present he occupies a similar position in connection with the Manchester University. Among others I saw Professor Anderson Stuart, who read a paper upon University education in Australia. I attended the meeting, which was a representative one. The paper was necessarily full of details, and was a very able production.”

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