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## PERTH UNIVERSITY.

### MEASURE INTRODUCED.

PERTH, January 25.

In the Assembly last night the Premier (Mr. Wilson) moved the second reading of the Bill to establish and endow a university in Western Australia on the lines laid down by the royal commission, which recently submitted its report to Parliament. Most of the other Australian States, he said, had been provided with universities long before they had reached the stages of Western Australia in population, wealth, and State revenue. It was estimated that the university would cost £13,500 per annum, of which £10,000 would be provided by the State. The constitution was one of the broadest and most democratic conceivable. Four professorships were proposed at the outset—one in modern literature and history, one in mathematics and physics, one in chemistry, and the fourth in engineering and mining. There were also to be a number of lectureships, including classical languages and literature. A Chair in agriculture was to be endowed by private benefaction. The main features were necessarily influenced by the immediate requirements of the State, in which science played so important a part. It was the aim of the commission to make the university a free institution, or, as an alternative to the requirement which this would create of abolishing fees in the secondary and technical schools, to impose the fewest and lightest charges possible. In regard to the constitution, there were to be a senate and a convocation. The senate was to be chosen partly by the convocation, and partly nominated by the State. The convocation in its final shape was intended to consist of all the graduates of three years' standing, members and past members of the senate, and a representative of the undergraduates. A guild was to be formed of such societies and industrial unions and other institutions as contributed to the funds of the university. Twelve members of the senate were to be elected by the convocation, and the remaining six to be nominated by the State. If the Bill were passed the financial obligation would begin on July 1 next, shortly after which the senate would be appointed. The Premier held that the Parliamentary buildings were nothing like adequate for the purpose of a university, but thought Parliament would not be backward in finding the necessary funds for erecting the buildings and supplying proper housing accommodation for the university. In the meantime steps would be taken for the provision of temporary accommodation and for the appointment of the officials who were to launch the university on its career. The debate was adjourned.

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### UNIVERSITY EDUCATION.

The House of Assembly last session appointed a select committee to report on the best methods to be adopted to advance the facilities for higher education at the Adelaide University to deserving students, and increase the present grounds of the University. The members chosen were the Minister of Education (Mr. Coneybeer) and Messrs. Green, Peake, Ryan, and Young. The committee took evidence, but did not conclude its deliberations before the prorogation of Parliament. Select committees cannot sit during recess, so Cabinet decided to turn the select committee into a royal commission. The necessary appointment was made by Executive Council on Thursday, when a proclamation was issued appointing the Hons. J. Cowan and A. W. Styles, M.L.C.'s, and Messrs. Coneybeer, Peake, Green, Ryan, and Young, M.P.'s, as members.

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## SOCIALIST'S NOTIONS.

### FINE ARTS CONDEMNED.

PERTH, January 26.

The University Bill passed its second reading and was carried through the committee stage without amendment in the Assembly last night. Mr. Underwood (Labour) urged that the institution should be controlled by the Government, under the Minister of Education, and not by pedantic and arrogant university graduates. He spoke in condemnatory terms of the classics, and said there was not anything in Plato, and Parliament should not waste the people's money on Latin or a Chair of Music, which would accomplish nothing, but should provide a faculty of medicine, and teach agriculture and veterinary science. University men had never been leaders, and it would be easier for a porcupine to go backwards through a canvas hose than for a university man to enter politics. Mr. Nanson (Minister for Education) hoped one result of the University Bill would be the establishment of a State council of educational experts on the lines of Victoria. The measure passed its third reading this afternoon.

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Dr. Mawson will leave for London to-day by the R.M.S. Osterley for the purpose of completing the financial and other arrangements for the Australian expedition to the Antarctic, of which he will be the leader. It is intended that the expedition shall start from Hobart for the south shortly before the end of this year, and Dr. Mawson will be absent from the State on the present occasion for six months. The University authorities have offered every facility to Dr. Mawson in connection with the carrying out of his duties at the institution, and his classes will not suffer by his absence during the first term. When he leaves for Antarctica, where he will spend about two years, a competent substitute will be selected to act for him at the university.

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### ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE UNIVERSITY.

The Select Committee appointed by Parliament last session to enquire into higher education and the University of Adelaide was on Thursday constituted a Royal Commission by the Government. The members of the Royal Commission are:—The Minister of Education (Hon. F. W. Coneybeer), the Hons. J. Cowan, A. W. Styles, A. H. Peake, M.P., and Messrs. T. Green, T. Ryan, and F. W. Young, M.P.'s. The Select Committee was composed only of members of the House of Assembly, but by the addition of two Legislative Councillors both branches of the Legislature will be represented on the Commission.

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### CHANCES FOR MUSICAL STUDENTS.

Boys and girls who are endowed with natural ability and taste as musicians have chances of securing free tuition this year at the Conservatorium such as they have never had before, as owing to a variety of causes the University authorities are able to offer five free scholarships at once. Three scholarships formed the maximum in previous years, because they were not all available for competition at the same time, but during the last week in February examinations will be held to select the most promising aspirants for honors in singing, pianoforte playing, organ playing, violin-cello playing, and in tenor singing. The privileges won will be tenable for three years, and will provide tuition in one principal and one or more secondary subjects. The scholarships are distinct from those given on the results of the public examinations in music.

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## SOUTHWARD HO!

### STILL ANOTHER EXPEDITION.

#### DR. MACKAY'S SCHEME.

LONDON, January 25.

Early this month Dr. Alister Forbes Mackay (who with Professor David, of Sydney, and Dr. Douglas Mawson, of Adelaide, on January 16, 1909, discovered the south magnetic pole) submitted to the Royal Geographical Society a proposal for another British expedition to the south polar regions. His plans provided for the exploration of the coastline from Graham Land to King Edward the Seventh Land, at an estimated cost of £20,000. Dr. Mackay suggested that the expedition might possibly establish a connection with Dr. Bruce's Scottish expedition in the antarctic. He proposed that it should be restricted to six men, who should take with them three sledges and 24 dogs. The idea was to rely upon the Weddell Sea for most of the food and fuel to sustain the expedition while in the antarctic.

Dr. Mackay has now given further details. In the course of a press interview he states that he intends to set out for Graham Land in August. He expects to be absent for two years. A relief ship is to meet the party at the Great Ice Barrier, or at Hut Point, but if the vessel become icebound the party will cross the Ross Ice Barrier for the Shackleton or Scott huts, and there replenish their supplies.

#### DR. MAWSON'S VIEWS.

Dr. Douglas Mawson, who will travel to England by the mail steamer to-day in connection with the arrangements for his forthcoming Australian Antarctic Expedition, was interviewed by a representative of The Register on Thursday. Commenting upon Dr. Mackay's proposed expedition, he said:—"Well, I wish my colleague of the magnetic polar trip every success, but he has set down for himself a herculean task. Why, that £20,000 all might have to go in the establishment of an original base on Graham Land. Such an amount would be swallowed up in no time in such a venture as this, I am afraid. He speaks of six men with sledges doing the work and of their sustaining themselves on what they can catch in Weddell Sea. If they are going to sledge around that unknown coastline there is the likelihood that they will be isolated on the tops of great cliffs from the water and their seal food below. Several times since Dr. Mackay returned from the Shackleton expedition he has mooted further antarctic work, and he was always keen on long coastal sledging journeys. From his proposed point of operations on Graham Land, working around the blank and unknown coastline to King Edward the Seventh Land, would mean a task of over 2,000 miles. Captain Scott's programme includes a wintering party on King Edward the Seventh Land, whose duty it will be to extend geographical exploration from that point eastwards towards Graham Land; so that to some extent these two enterprises may overlap. Cape Adare, you know, is on the western corner of Ross Sea, and about due south of New Zealand. Capt. Scott proposes to centre his energies from Cape Adare to the southward and eastward, while the Australian expedition will work along from Cape Adare into the unknown coastline westward."

#### DR. MAWSON'S EXPEDITION.

A meeting of the council of the South Australian branch of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia was held on Wednesday afternoon to consider the expedition to be led by Dr. Mawson, of the Adelaide University, to the antarctic continent. Dr. Mawson was present by invitation, and after an interesting discussion it was resolved:—"Recognising it to be the valuable right and privilege, as well as the duty, of Australia to take an active part in antarctic exploration while the opportunity remains for her doing so, this council will do all in its power to promote the proposed Australasian Antarctic Expedition, and heartily commends the expedition to public support." The President (Mr. A. W. Piper), Sir Langdon Bonython, and Messrs. W. J. Sowden and W. B. Wilkinson were appointed delegates to act with representatives of other bodies on any committee that may be formed to further the interests of the expedition.

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## TO THE SOUTH.

### DR. MAWSON'S EXPEDITION.

#### TO EXPLORE NEW ANTARCTIC LAND.

Dr. Douglas Mawson returned from Sydney on Thursday morning. He will remain in Adelaide before leaving for Europe, where he has to make final arrangements for a ship for his projected antarctic expedition, and certain equipment which cannot be obtained in Australia. It is the intention of the promoters of the expedition, he says, to equip the vessel with men and such material as can be got in Australia. Even such articles as sledges can be made here. Already several firms had offered to give materials, such as foodstuffs, and he expected that all the food would be presented free of cost, as was the case with the Shackleton expedition. The Australasian Science Congress had indicated its hearty sympathy with the object, and had unanimously voted £1,000 towards the cost. That was not a large amount in proportion to the £40,000 that was required, but it would be a big drain upon the limited resources of the Science Association. That body had also appointed a national committee, consisting of about 25 leading scientists in Australasia, to assist the project financially, and make arrangements for the expedition to conduct scientific work of every kind. Professor Orme Masson, of the Melbourne University, had been appointed chairman of the committee, and it was intended to form local committees in each of the States, whose duty it would be to make the aims of the expedition known. It was important that the whole of the money should be contributed within a short time of his arriving in London, else it would be too late for him to make final arrangements for the vessel to proceed south this year, and to delay another season would be fatal, because so many foreign nations had intimated their intention of proceeding to the Antarctic to test its scientific and economic resources. In the event of the money not being forthcoming in Australia he would be compelled to accept British money, which had been offered, and proceed south with a British expedition.

Dr. Mawson proposes to explore the coast of the Antarctic continent from Cape Adare to Kaiser Wilhelm II. Land, a distance of about 2,000 miles, or equal to the length of the Australian coast between Perth and Sydney. Along that great stretch no ship but one has ever landed a party, and that was for a few hours so long ago as 1840, when men disembarked from the French expedition under Dumont D'Urville. D'Urville published glowing accounts about the land he had visited, and named it Terre Adelie. It lies due south of Adelaide. He was killed with his wife and child in a railway accident near Paris shortly after his return to France.

There is only one season of the year which is favorable for an expedition of this kind to start in, and that is when the polar ice breaks up and allows of navigation at the end of November or beginning of December. Dr. Mawson expects to spend two summers and one winter in the Antarctic regions, and to return to Australia in the autumn of 1913. That will allow sufficient time for working up the scientific results before the meeting of the British Association in Australia in 1914.

Before leaving on the expedition the vessel will call at Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney. The last port of call will be Hobart, and thence the course will be in a south-westerly direction while in the "Roaring forties and fifties"—the latitudes between 40 and 60 degrees, so named because of the strong winds which blow continuously from west to east. About latitude 60 degrees there is a region of polar calms, after crossing which the prevailing winds will carry the ship in a south-westerly direction to Cape Adare. By setting this course Dr. Mawson hopes that hardly any coal will be consumed on the voyage.

There is an area of about five million square miles of the Antarctic Ocean south of Australia, which has been traversed by only three or four vessels, and in that area he considers it possible that the expedition will be able to chart islands at present unknown. It is also possible that the location of the group of islands, known as the Royal Company's Islands, will be fixed. There will be three stations established by the expedition, from which eight sledging parties of three men each will work outward from the centres and explore the

land within reach. The main base will be at Terre Adelie and the others will be at Cape Adare and between Terre Adelie and Kaiser Wilhelm II. Land. Each of the stations will be in continuous wireless telegraphic communication with Australia. Either the expedition will do the fitting up of the telegraph stations itself, or accept a private offer made by a body in Sydney. This body has offered to furnish the expedition throughout with wireless apparatus and hold itself responsible for the dispatch of messages.

Dr. Mawson explains that the land he proposes to examine is situated in the Australian quadrant. There are four quadrants—the Australian, the Pacific, the South American, and the African. The land in the Australian quadrant is far the most important, both scientifically and economically. The eastern margin has been visited by expeditions that have tried to reach the Pole, but the great part of it is unknown. Dr. Mawson has visions of settlements along the shore some day in the near future, and regular steamer communication with Australia. It is a wonderfully rich sealing coast.

A thousand pounds each has been contributed towards the expedition by Messrs. R. Barr Smith (of Adelaide), R. Murchison (of Melbourne), Hugh Dixon, Hugh R. Denison, and Samuel Hordern (of Sydney), and the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Mawson is now hopefully looking for 34 philanthropic Australians to drop £1,000 each into the hands of the committee.

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The British Science Association has decided to hold its next conference in Australia, and among the many prominent scientists who are likely to make the trip to the Commonwealth are two native-born Australians who have gained fame, not only in their own country, but throughout the old world. One is Professor T. Hudson Beare, B.A., B.Sc., Regius Professor of English in the University of Edinburgh, and the other Professor Elliot Smith, M.D., Professor of Anatomy at the Manchester University. Professor Beare was the first South Australian scholar sent to England under an existing scholarship provided by the Government, under which the successful candidate received a bursary of £200 per annum for 4 years. He gained the award in 1879, but several of those who succeeded him met with untimely fates, and the scholarship terminated after 1886. Mr. P. A. Robin, B.A., the second recipient, is living in Victoria, while Mr. A. Donaldson and Mr. G. J. R. Murray, K.C., of Adelaide, who succeeded in 1882 and 1883 respectively, are both alive and well. Messrs. S. E. Holder, J. W. Leitch, W. A. E. Tucker, and J. W. Walker, who won the scholarships at different times, are all dead.

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Miss Stella Churchward, B.Sc., left Adelaide about five years ago to take a position on the staff of the Presbyterian Ladies' College of New South Wales, and supervised the fitting up of the laboratory in that institution. Miss Churchward is returning to Adelaide to join the staff of the Methodist Ladies' College.

Miss May Burgess, B.Sc., has been appointed first female assistant in the Perth Modern School, a new secondary school established by the Government. Miss Burgess accepted a position on the staff of the Methodist Ladies' College, Adelaide, but when the Education Department of Western Australia informed her that her application as senior lady teacher had resulted in her appointment to the Methodist Ladies' College committee generously released her, feeling that the position secured was one of the highest open to a lady in the Commonwealth.

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Dr. Douglas Mawson returned to Adelaide on Thursday from Sydney, where he attended the Congress of Societies for the Advancement of Science. During the sessions Dr. Mawson outlined proposals relative to his expedition to the antarctic regions. He expects to leave for London next week to complete arrangements.

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## STUDENTS' CHRISTIAN UNION.

### CONFERENCE IN SYDNEY.

(From a Special Correspondent.)

Gordon (N.S.W.), January 16.

The conference of the University Students' Christian Union has been most enjoyable. The delegates were under camp conditions at Blackheath. I was in a tent with eight others. They made me tent officer and called me "father." I believe this is the technical term. The shower-bath was most primitive. A small stream was dammed up and a length of piping run along from this reservoir until it reached a height of about 8 ft. It then poured into a bucket. When this bucket was filled by pulling a wire the water was launched down on top of you. The next person waited till the bucket filled again. The women stayed at Dr. Paton's house, and we all had our meals there together. There were nearly 250 of us in all. We had a climb for 10 minutes up to the house of about 700 or 800 ft. The tents had no flies on them and the rain came through ours. We had stretchers and mattresses, and my mattress was wet four times at least by the rain. We had eight severe thunderstorms in the first ten days we were there, and it does know the way to thunder. Then there were tremendously thick mists, which blotted out everything for hours. The food was not bad, though sometimes very cold by the time it arrived. The men were divided off into groups of seven to wait at table in turn and help the hired waitresses. I luckily missed that, as I was an officer of the conference.

The convention, which was held first, is the business part of the Australasian Students' Christian Union, and I got a good insight into the working and organisation. I was the delegate for South Australia on the "Faculty," as it is called. I went to the convention for about four or five hours a day, and to the committees to prepare the business for that convention. I was in charge of the Bible study for over 100 men. I had to help in choosing all the leaders and in apportioning the men among them. There were 11 classes altogether, and in conjunction with three others, we picked three good men for each class. Care has been taken that the different Universities were as much mixed up as possible. I had four Sydney, two Melbourne, one New Zealand, one Tasmania, and one Adelaide man with me, and the whole 100 had a great time. Thirty of them were ordained ministers (one a returned missionary from India, one a Triple Blue of Melbourne 'Varsity); so the company was pretty varied. All the leaders met at 6.30 a.m. to discuss the day's subject. At 7.30 we finished dressing and all the men had camp prayers. Then we toiled up to breakfast. At 9.20 we assembled for mission study. I was in the special class of Mr. Williams for circle leaders. He is representative of the London Missionary Society in Australia, a Congregational minister, and a splendid man. The book we did was a new one by Mott, "The Decisive Hour of Christian Missions." It is a fine study and is well written. At 10.20 we assembled in little groups for Bible study, and I had with my little flock to pass through tortuous discussions on the Holy Spirit. We had a very good time, though, and were all helped considerably. At 11.20 we all assembled for open discussion on some big subject, such as social or missionary problems, or at the last day, "The Corporate Prayer Life." At 12.45 we used to have a few minutes' walk before dinner. In the afternoon an excursion was always arranged. In the evening a devotional meeting was held under the leadership of Dr. MacLaren for half an hour. He is admirably suited for that sort of meeting and they were some of the best at the conference. Then there were technical, or, at least, critical, lectures on the Old and New Testament.

The conference proper finished on the Friday, January 6. The leaders had two days' holiday. On Wednesday and Thursday I slept in the house because my mattress was wet through. All the leaders subsequently moved up there permanently. On Saturday some of us did the National Pass at Wentworth Falls and the Weeping Rock, and walked round to the Valley of the Waters. On Sunday evening I walked to Mount Victoria (just over four miles) and back again. The whole business lasted 100 minutes. It rained all the time and was very misty, but I enjoyed it thoroughly. During the week I visited

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Govell's Leap, the Grand Canon, Blackheath, and the Underground River, Centennial Glen, Blackheath Glen, the Federal Pass, Evans' Look-Out, and Katoomba. "Cramond," where we are stopping, is right over a valley, or succession of valleys, extending for about 12 to 16 miles away. One morning we had a wonderful sight of this filled with clouds from end to end. We watched it for an hour, when the sun got to work and quickly dispersed it. I have met some great men at the conference, two or three of whom stand out especially. Adelaide had a delegation of 59, and everybody is expecting great things from our work this year.

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Mr. J. Dumas, B.Sc., of Mount Barker, has been appointed acting assistant surveyor, and has joined the survey party at Robe which is engaged on the drainage scheme. The position in the Engineer-in-Chief's office vacated by Mr. Dumas has been filled by Mr. C. T. Madigan, this year's Rhodes scholar. Mr. Madigan will hold the office until next August, when he will leave for Oxford.

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The report from the Royal College of Music for the Christmas term ended December 17, 1910, has been received by the Serena Trust on the progress of the Elder scholar (Miss Clara S. Kleinschmidt). Her singing master (Mr. H. Blower) reports that her progress "is excellent in every respect," and the director's remarks are:—"A very creditable report; all the studies seem to be progressing well."

#### TROPICAL MEDICAL RESEARCH.

Among the schemes proposed for the commemoration in London of the late King Edward that of the endowment of a School of Tropical Research finds favour with many eminent citizens. As Mr. A. R. Colquhoun points out in the magazine *United Empire* this work, although of Imperial importance and usefulness, is being conducted chiefly by private effort and under serious disadvantages. Ten years ago a School of Tropical Medicine was started at Liverpool, largely with the support of the late Sir Alfred Jones and the encouragement of Mr. Chamberlain; but the entire expenditure on expeditions and plant hitherto has been less than £75,000. The Royal Society has a Committee for Tropical Medicine, which includes the names of several leading experts, who give their services gratuitously; but this committee is a voluntary organization, and receives no aid from the Government. The London School of Tropical Medicine at the Albert Dock was established by private generosity, and obtains a State grant of £1,300 a year. The total expenditure has been less than £40,000; yet it has imparted valuable training to 1,000 men in ten years, and the number of students is trebled each session. A special bureau, supported by the Government, deals with the African scourge of "sleeping sickness" at an annual cost of £1,200. The Natural History Museum is partly responsible for a committee for African Entomological Research, which includes many well-known authorities, and draws £2,000 a year from the Treasury. The University of London is given £750 a year to assist work bearing on tropical medicine. Thus Great Britain, whose trade interest in tropical countries far exceeds that of any other nation, spends only £5,250 annually in aiding private effort in the war against tropical maladies. In this crusade the United States offers liberal help, and has won notable successes. In six years yellow fever, once considered endemic, was stamped out of Havana. The Panama Canal zone, which was fatal even to negroes, has become a healthy place of residence for whites. Britons have won astonishing victories in Asia and Africa. Malaria has been overcome in the Federated Malay States and Hongkong. In Uganda 200,000 people perished in one district from sleeping sickness, but that mysterious malady is now yielding to scientific methods of prevention, and a cable message to-day shows that special measures are being devised to secure its eradication in regions crossed by the Capt to Cairo Railway. In 1907 the deaths in Uganda were 4,000 and in 1908 they fell to 1,700. The subject of tropical medical research is of increasing consequence to the Empire; and the Commonwealth Government and Australian citizens, in view of the necessity for effectively occupying and developing the Northern Territory and Papua, are deeply concerned in the progress made.

#### WESTERN AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY.

The claim made on behalf of the University about to be established in Western Australia, that it will be broad and democratic in its constitution, appears to be well founded. According to the outline supplied by the Premier, Mr. Wilson, in his speech on the second reading of the Bill in the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday, the scheme in all its parts is to be placed on an exceptionally liberal basis. Whether regard be had to the methods of government, the nature and extent of the proposed academic activities, or the facilities for learning to be extended to aspiring youth, the arrangements are so designed as to make the new institution equally popular and useful. As far as is practicable the lines laid down in the report of the Royal Commission which enquired into the subject will be followed. The free university which in many American states crowns the elaborate educational structure may not yet be practicable in Australia, but this is the ideal of Perth statesmen, and if it cannot be realised at once, at least they are resolved that the fees shall be the fewest and lightest possible. So ambitious a programme could not, of course, be carried out unless the State, whose burden may be lessened by private benefactions, were prepared to accept a considerable measure of financial responsibility. The Western Australian Government do not shrink from the obligation. Of the estimated annual cost of the University, amounting at the outset to £13,500, they are willing to pay no less a sum than £10,000; and if anything like the same proportion is maintained in future developments, the new seat of learning will be in an exceptionally full sense a national institution. Temporary quarters are to be provided, but the Premier is confident that Parliament will not grudge an ample vote for the erection of a permanent home giving all the accommodation needed and adding to the architectural beauties of the capital. Naturally, in the circumstances, the Government propose to take a substantial, though not an inordinate, share in the administration. There is to be a Convocation, consisting of graduates, &c., with a Senate partly chosen by Con-

vocation and partly nominated by the State. An endeavor to establish close relations between the University and the life of the people is apparent not merely from the facilities offered to students, but also from the general plan of work. While the literae humaniores will not be neglected, and may be expected to receive increasing attention with the growth of wealth and leisure, the immediate aim is to give prominence rather to science than to classics. In the words of Mr. Wilson, "the needs of the State have determined the main features" of what may appear to some of the old school an excessively utilitarian scheme. Besides a number of lectureships, there are to be at the beginning four professorships—modern literature and history, mathematics and physics, chemistry, and engineering—and while a chair in agriculture will be endowed by private generosity. The tendency of the time is to emphasise the importance of scientific education, and necessarily it is most pronounced among communities to whom the value of science in its application to industry is especially great. Western Australia is well advised in planning its University on lines which will enable it to render the maximum degree of service to a young and progressive State.