

Register, Feb. 1st 1909.

Register, Feb. 4th 1909.

NEW IRISH UNIVERSITY.

The Senate of the National University of Ireland, at its meeting at Dublin in December, appointed the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin (Dr. Walsh) to the office of Chancellor. The National University of Ireland is the title of the new university created under Mr. Birrell's Act, "to satisfy the reasonable claim of the Roman Catholic population to a university to which their children could be sent with the assurance that they should not spend the most impressionable period of their life in an anti-Catholic atmosphere." Although the measure was received with full approval by the great majority of Irish Roman Catholics, there were a few, including one distinguished prelate, who attacked the new establishment as a sham university, a Nonconformist hostelry, and even as an Agnostic institution. The appointment of Archbishop Walsh is in the circumstances something in the nature of a diplomatic rapier thrust (says The St. James's Budget). It practically kills—at any rate, it scotches—Roman Catholic objection on religious grounds. For who can argue that, with an Archbishop of the church at the head of the new university, its atmosphere will be anti-Catholic? Who among the clergy or the laity can level at it the distinctive charge of being "Godless" or Agnostic? There is another aspect of the case. Archbishop Walsh is an educationist of ripe experience and of wide and tolerant view. He is, too, something of the born administrator. He will see that the new university's affairs are well administered. He will be both tolerant of the views of rival educationists and anxious to maintain the rights of students as of teachers in the new establishment who are not of the household of his faith. A long experience of Dr. Walsh enables Irishmen of other creeds to grant this much, and as in the new university there will be in the early future a substantial number of Protestant students, this latter point is all-important. It would seem, then, that the Senate, in electing Dr. Walsh, has gone a long way towards ensuring the success of the new national university.

STUDY OF TROPICAL DISEASES.

THE TOWNSVILLE HOSPITAL PROJECT.

INTERVIEW WITH BISHOP FRODSHAM

On his return from England by the steamer Commonwealth yesterday (says The Sydney Daily Telegraph of January 30) Dr. Frodsham, the Anglican Bishop of North Queensland, was questioned regarding the movement initiated by himself for the promotion of the study of diseases peculiar to the tropics of Australia. The Bishop gave in reply a brief history of the movement and statement of the present position.

"About three years ago," he said, "it occurred to me that it would be possible to commence the study of tropical diseases in Northern Australia at a comparatively small cost by utilizing existing institutions. The necessity for such study has impressed all who are acquainted with the northern hospitals, and several attempts had been made previously to found an Australian institute of tropical diseases. Such attempts had failed, however, owing to the supposed impossibility of obtaining money to cover the initial cost of an institute similar to that at Manila. I suggested a method of dealing with it to Sir Samuel Way (the Chancellor of the Adelaide University), and subsequently to Professor Allen, of Melbourne, and Professor Anderson Stuart, of Sydney.

—The Scheme.—

"The plan, briefly, was to try to obtain a hospital in the Australian tropics with sufficient accommodation, which would be willing to undertake the charge of patients under special observation for tropical diseases, and which would be able to supply buildings adequate for the commencement of special investigations. The importance of the work, I felt sure, would commend itself to the State and Commonwealth Governments, and induce them to subsidize the actual study of the diseases, even though it might be more difficult to obtain a sum adequate for new buildings. I also thought that such study should be more or less under the direction of the Australian Universities having medical schools.

"The idea was warmly supported, and I subsequently obtained from the Townsville Hospital committee a promise of a wooden building formerly used for Asiatic wards, and the promise that they would undertake the care of the patients under observation free of charge. Townsville Hospital is a very large one, and is specially subsidized by the Queensland Government as a base hospital for the north. It is also situated in the field of Australian tropical diseases, and patients suffering from obscure complaints are brought there, also from New Guinea and the Northern Territory. Applications for subsidies were cordially received by Mr. Deakin and Mr. Kidston, and the Federal and Queensland Governments granted sums of £450 and £250 per annum respectively. A committee was appointed from the three Universities of Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide to take steps for the initiation and management of the hospital, and an agreement was come to.

—Assistance from England.—

"On my arrival in England last February I applied, with the approval of the universities mentioned, to the advisory committee of the Tropical Diseases Research Fund in connection with the Colonial Office for assistance in commencing the institute, and, together with Professor Martin, of the Lyster Institute of Preventive Medicine in London, had an interview with the committee. The result was that the committee gave a sum of £400 for the institute at Townsville, and the money has just been paid over to the Queensland Government. The next step was to provide for the appointment of a superintendent for the hospital, and, acting under instructions from the Melbourne University, Professor Martin and I applied to the London and Liverpool Schools of Tropical Medicine and to the Royal Society, asking that those bodies should appoint a member to act upon a committee of selection. Sir Patrick Manson, Mjr. Ronald Ross, and Professor Bradshaw were, as a consequence, selected to form this committee. Then last October we sent a draft advertisement calling for applications for the post of superintendent to the Melbourne University, and suggested that it be inserted forthwith in the newspapers of Australia

and England. Professor Martin was to receive the applications and refer them to the committee of selection. When I left England on December 8 Professor Martin told me that he had already received several applications from medical men with a knowledge of tropical diseases, three of which came from Australia and one from a man of some European standing. That is where the matter rests, so far as I have actual knowledge."

In explaining his connection with the movement, Dr. Frodsham said he had always been greatly interested in the question of the settlement of white people in Northern Queensland, and he felt that some attention must be paid to the matter of rendering the tropics—which necessarily have peculiar forms of disease—healthy. "There are, of course," he went on, "comparatively few diseases in tropical Australia, but undoubtedly there are some that are not to be found even in Southern Queensland, and there are others, common to temperate climates which obtain new forms in the tropics. I tried to get those of more scientific knowledge than myself to do the work I have done, but they all asked to be excused. I quite realize that, from the scientific point of view, I really carry very little weight, but I am anxious as far as I can to serve the community in North Queensland; and I believe that the Townsville Institute will promote the better education of all medical students who pass through the Australian universities with the idea of taking up work in the Queensland tropics. Lord Chelmsford, who came out to Queensland with the intention of forming an Institute of Tropical Medicine, if it were possible, has backed up the movement throughout ably and enthusiastically, and through him Mr. D'Arcy, of Mount Morgan, gave a donation of £1,000 towards the foundation of the Townsville Institute. I feel now that my work, which has only been of a primary character, is practically finished.

—White Australia Problem.—

"I understand that a commission is likely to be instituted by the Federal Government to find out how far the Australian tropics are suited for a white population. The enormous importance of the work cannot, to my mind, be over-estimated, for the whole question really is in the balance. It seems to me just as rational to say that the Australian tropics are necessarily fit for the white race as to say that they are not fit. We have really very little to guide us. In other tropical parts of the world where the British race is predominant there are black or brown people who are capable of doing the menial work for the white man, who is also able to send his wife and children to cooler climates from time to time. In tropical Australia we are endeavouring to place a white population that is absolutely self-supporting, and has no alien race to do its menial work. Whether or not such an attempt will succeed obviously cannot be settled in a generation or two, but upon its settlement must depend the permanent welfare of the white population of Australia. I have had to considerably modify my opinions with regard to the possibility of white men work-

ing in the canefields of North Queensland. From observation I believe that white men who are healthy, strong, and temperate can do the work if they will. And I have found that, when the conditions of life are improved, the health of the women and children improves also. But still the matter seems to me to be quite in the balance. One thing, at any rate, that is clear, is that whatever our opinions may be, since the Commonwealth has decided in favour of the white Australia, it is the duty of every citizen to do his best to make a white Australia possible. That is one of the reasons that actuated me in attempting the formation of this institute. As a celebrated Frenchman once said, 'If we are to colonize effectually we must make the colonies healthy.'