

eliminate the light from all the other elements. The resultant negative then shows dark patches only where the light has reached it from the areas occupied by iron. In a similar way, by utilizing the light from incandescent hydrogen photographs can also be obtained showing the position of the sun's disc occupied by that element. The spectroheliograph is the most powerful weapon which modern science has placed in the hands of the observer of solar phenomena, and it is hoped that Australia may be enabled to share in the scheme of solar observation carried on with it by the International Union for Co-operation in Solar Research."

Register Aug. 25th 08.

ANOTHER ATTACK ON THE PARK LANDS.

From "Hoxton":—"In the advertising columns of The Register of August 22 I noticed an intimation that the Council of the Adelaide University have applied for a lease of a certain portion of the north park lands for the purpose of establishing a recreation ground for (presumably) the students of that august and conservative institution. Further, the advertisement notifies that the City Fathers have agreed to hand over 6½ acres of the public property, providing that the ratepayers of the City of Adelaide signify in the usual manner that they are also willing to favour a small section of the community. This latter proceeding takes the form of a vote at the corporation headquarters, and the privilege of voting is confined to persons qualified by residence or ownership of property in the City of Adelaide. Past experience in these matters has proved that very little interest is taken by the ratepayers in their own public affairs; but I trust that this occasion, August 27, will be memorable for an earnest and determined effort by all privileged to vote, to put a stop to any more grabbing of their invaluable inheritance. The park lands are not the sole property of the ratepayers of Adelaide. Every man, woman, and child in South Australia has an equal right to free entry to these lands whenever and wherever they choose, and the control of the much curtailed area is vested in the municipal body only as guardians for the public. Already nearly two-thirds of the original reserves are occupied by Government works and institutions, or buildings over which they exercise some control. This may be in the interests of the public generally, but there is also a large area under the control of certain associations and clubs to which only members or the paying public have access, and, although ostensibly held for the purpose of encouraging sports, they are nevertheless run for a profit. Every year there is an addition to the request for more park lands, and at the rate granted by the corporation during the last five years, it is only a question of time before the glorious prerogative of free access to the public parks will be withdrawn, and admittance thereto secured only by payment of a silver coin or membership. There are at present several clubs occupying areas more or less on public grounds which could well afford to lease or purchase sites elsewhere, and this latest attempt to secure for exclusive purposes another slice of the already limited area of north park lands, should be strenuously opposed. The University is not a residential educational institution, and the students thereat can easily become members of any one of the numerous athletic clubs or associations which already possess the right of using either the Adelaide, Jubilee, Sturt, Port Adelaide, Glenelg, Norwood, Kensington, or Hindmarsh Ovals, or the common and proper privilege of using the small area of park lands remaining available. In order to give greater facilities for the introduction of modern means of locomotion, the Adelaide squares are being cut into small sections, about equal in size to residential garden blocks, and in several directions the increase of the railway traffic and convenience of the new tramway service necessitate encroaching on the lands in question. This cannot be avoided; but leasing blocks for purely recreative purposes when there are so many spaces already available is neither just to those unable to become members of the privileged clubs nor advisable in the interests of the public generally. The thin end of the wedge of confiscation was introduced years ago, and is gradually but surely being driven in. Now is the time to stop further encroachment, without inconvenience or hardship to any one. The Adelaide park lands are characterized far and wide as the lungs of the city. Don't let them become congested with any more unsightly and totally unnecessary buildings and galvanized fences."

Register Aug. 20th 15

"ANOTHER ATTACK UPON THE PARK LANDS."

From "Undergrad":—"I was sorry to see a letter in The Register from 'Hoxton' under the above heading. 'Hoxton' is evidently unaware of the true facts of the case, as otherwise the scheme would not have called forth such wholesale condemnation from his pen. He is evidently under the impression that the University authorities wish to obtain a portion of the park lands, which they will then proceed to surround with a galvanized iron fence, in which they will put a gate with a strong padlock, and then charge admission to all those of the public who do not happen to be connected with the University. Were this the case we could hardly blame him for the stand he has taken, but it is not so. When the University was founded the founders placed it where it now is, which—considering its central position and its accessibility, was a nice thing to do; but, unfortunately, while they took into account the bookish aspect of the question, they seem to have overlooked the fact that students may need the means for physical recreation. At present the spare land within the precincts of the University grounds consists of, roughly, a couple of tennis courts and the lawn in front of the Conservatorium. Obviously this is not sufficient for recreation purposes for between 300 and 500 students. Hence if the 'Varsity students as a body are to do anything in the sports line grounds of a sort are a necessity. The students are able to hire the Jubilee Oval for an occasional dinner hour, and also have the use of a piece of park lands at Medindie, which owing to its distance from the 'Varsity (about two miles) can be used on Saturday afternoons only. 'Hoxton' has argued that the University is not a residential institution, and that therefore it is unnecessary for the students to band together for sport, but rather that they should split up and join various outside clubs. There are several reasons against this. One is that an earnest desire of members of this University is to become a residential institution, and it is hoped that this will prove one of the first steps towards that end. Another argument is that it is practically impossible for the bulk of the 'Varsity students to do as 'Hoxton' suggests, and play with outside teams, on account of the irregular hours which an undergraduate has to spare after attending his lectures. The usual practice hour for these outside teams is after 5 o'clock at night—after the usual office hours; whereas for several years of his course an undergraduate is often attending lectures at that hour. But against this, a student usually has a certain amount of spare time between 12 noon and 2 o'clock, when he can practise, provided he has a ground conveniently handy. All the 'Varsity lacrosse and football, and much of the rowing training is done in the dinner hour, which would be impossible if the students relied upon outside teams for their pastimes, not to mention esprit de corps among the students. It has long been recognized that a ground was an absolute necessity for the students, but the question was where to get it. The Jubilee Oval was first considered, but the R.A. & H.S. have a 50-years' lease, with a right of renewal; and every improvement there would have to receive the sanction of that body, which frequently requires the use of the ground at times of the year most inconvenient to the students. So something else had to be sought for, and the only area possible was on the park lands. It was a particularly happy idea of Professor Bragg's when he proposed the site which we are now desirous of getting. The land is close to the University, and is practically unused, except for depasturing cows. There is across it no footpath, or even a worn track, and I do not think that there is a single valid objection to the University having it. If 'Hoxton' had read the conditions upon which the council were agreeable to the University authorities having the land he would not have made the statements he did about access being denied to all but the paying public. The land is to be fenced, but with a picket fence, not galvanized iron, and it is at all times to be open to the public. The University may not charge for admission unless with the permission of the City Council, and £500 is to be spent on improvements within the first five years; all buildings are to be kept in decent repair, and are to be erected subject to the approval of the City Council; and £30 rent per annum is to be charged. The students ask for the use of a piece of ground which they can level and make playable, fence in order to exclude the wandering cow, put a decent turf wicket on, and erect ornamental pavilions for the accommodation of the public, for dressing rooms and

the storage of impedimenta. Were this scheme so inimical to the best interests of the citizens we should have had the Park Lands' Preservation League about our ears, but this has not happened. True the park lands are the lungs of the city, but how much more efficient will they not become when we use them to develop the lungs of some of the city's sturdy young manhood? Were we about to erect a factory on this bit of land I could sympathize with objectors; but, as matters are—no."

Register Aug. 27th 08

ANOTHER ATTACK ON THE PARK LANDS.

From "Hoxton":—"The communication on this subject in The Register on August 25 was actuated purely by a desire to prevent further encroachment on the limited area of park lands by organized bodies or syndicates. 'Undergrad's' fair and informing answer in The Register of August 26 certainly gives a reasonable aspect of the question from a University student's point of view, but I am still of the opinion that the most convenient and most suitable ground is the Jubilee Oval. The Royal Agricultural Society has a lease of the ground at a moderate rental; but at the outside the ground is used for show purposes only seven days in the year; and, conceding another 21 days for preparation and cleaning up, surely there is sufficient time available for recreative pastimes. Granting that the use of the park lands to athletic associations and for exhibition purposes is all right, my contention is simply that no organization or individual should have an exclusive and monopolistic control of the parks. Whether the ground applied for by the University is enclosed by a picket fence or a galvanized fence, the principle is the same; the mere fact that a preferential right of usage and control exists is sufficient to deprive the public of free access, and that is the crux of the whole matter. If there were no grounds available elsewhere I would not raise a sound in objection, but the fact that a too liberal donation of public property has been made hitherto is no reason why the practice should be continued. If 'Undergrad' will look at a plan of the original area allotted for public recreative purposes, and then compare the present acreage available, perhaps he will admit there are good reasons for my protest against further curtailment. If the authorities place an obstacle in the way of 'Varsity students using the Jubilee Oval for practice and training, an appeal to a higher tribunal might be made. Probably, as 'Undergrad' states, the council do not intend to place padlocks on the gates attached to the picket fence, but there is nothing to prevent them from doing so if they choose, as has been done on other portions of the park lands."