

American 3/5/07.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY.

A REFORMING CHANCELLOR.

LONDON, May 2.

Lord Curzon, who succeeded the late Lord Goschen as Chancellor of the University of Oxford, has signalled his accession to office by appealing for £250,000 with which to strengthen the endowments and equip the University on modern lines in respect of its literary and scientific studies.

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RIVAL UNIVERSITIES.

THE BATTLE OF THE BLUES.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

London, March 29, 1907.

The Oxonians took an ample revenge on the Cambridge Varsity athletes last Friday at Queen's Club for the reverse they sustained on the river the previous Saturday. Of the 10 events decided the Oxford team won eight outright and shared the honors in a ninth, leaving Cambridge with only one victory to crow over, namely, that of K. Powell, in the Hurdles. Even this solitary triumph was only achieved by the barest margin, scarcely six inches separating the winner from the Oxonian first string Hussey. It was a fine performance on the part of both men, the winner's time, 15 3-5 sec., being only 1-5 sec. outside Kraenzlein's world's grass record for the 120 yards hurdles.

The dead heat occurred in the 100 yards, N. G. Chavasse, of Oxford, and K. G. Macleod, of Cambridge, breasting the tape simultaneously in 10 1/2 sec. This decision was arrived at after Chavasse's color had been hoisted, the referee having awarded the race to the Oxonian in the belief that the judges had disagreed. Macleod himself thought Chavasse had just "pipped him on the post," so Cambridge were lucky to divide.

No fewer than three Rhodes scholars assisted to make Oxford's big victory. These were R. L. Robinson, erstwhile of St. Peter's College, Adelaide, who effected a surprise in the weight event, in which he "put" 37 ft. 7 in., and beat the much-fancied Cantab Petrie by the narrow margin of 3 1/2 in.; P. M. Young, the South Dakotan, who won the long jump at 22 ft. 4 in. and the high jump at 5 ft. 8 1/2 in.; and A. M. Stevens, erstwhile of Yale University, who won the hammer-throwing event at 146 ft. 9 in. and broke the Varsity record by 8 ft. 6 in.

In the half-mile race P. S. Darling won for Oxford in 2 min., by a bare yard from the Cambridge first string E. S. Dougall, and the mile also fell to the dark blues by the aid of S. P. Lloyd, who beat the Cantab first string Weber by four yards in 4 min. 28 sec.

The quarter also proved a good thing for Oxford, which was represented by the twin brothers, N. G. Chavasse and C. M. Chavasse. The Cantabs had no earthly chance with the twins, who raced each other all the way. "C.M." beating "N.G." half a yard in 50 3-5 sec., the nearest light blue being half a dozen yards behind. A still hollower victory was in store for the dark blues in the three-mile race, Hallows, of Keble, romping home over 70 yards ahead of Edwards, of Cambridge.

The sports have been won on 21 occasions by each University. There have been two dead heats, namely, in 1864 (four events each), and 1899 (five each), on both of which occasions the Cantabs would have won had the sports been decided by second places. The record for the whole series of sports shows that Oxford have secured 207 firsts and 196 seconds, and Cambridge 196 firsts and 197 seconds out of 403 events.

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INTER-UNIVERSITY SPORTS.

The following team will represent the Adelaide University Athletic Club in the inter-University sports, which are to take place in Sydney on May 29 and 30:—M. H. Moyes (high and long jumps), W. B. Angwin (100 yards and 440 yards), V. C. Cresdee (100 yards and hurdles), R. J. Verco (hurdles and long jump), C. Yeatman (440 yards and high jump), D. M. Steele (half-mile and mile). The team will leave Adelaide on Thursday, May 23. Mr. M. H. Moyes (secretary) will act as manager to the team during the trip. The Sydney, Tasmanian, and Victorian Universities will also take part in the sports.

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LECTURES FOR TEACHERS ON SCHOOL HYGIENE.

To the Editor.

Sir—The general public has lately been privileged to read so much of the wonderful reforms and advances being made in the Education Department that perhaps, it will be a surprise to many to know how the authorities are treating their teachers—how near they are to sweating them. Not content with infringing on the teachers' holidays and evenings, and practically compelling them to attend nature study camps and lectures on biology, the authorities are now about to begin a course of lectures on school hygiene, which all the young teachers are compelled to attend. Whilst not pretending to be a judge of the practical use of the lectures themselves, I think it is rather a disgrace to the department that young teachers, many of them 15 or 16 years old, should be required to work all day from 9 a.m., and then have to rush home to tea and attend lectures at night, making a day's work of nearly 14 hours. Apart from this, do the authorities consider it advisable for young girls and boys to be out in the streets at late hours? Perhaps the first lecture will deal with this subject from a medical standpoint. If such lectures as these are necessary, then why not have them at a more suitable time, say on Saturday morning? It seems to me that if the Education Department wishes to obtain and retain an efficient staff of teachers in the State they must show a little more consideration for them, and remember that teachers, after all, are only human beings, and that 14 hours per day is too much for any young teacher, particularly young people of from 15 to 17 years of age.—I am, &c.,

ANTI-SWEAT.

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The following appreciative references to the conferring of the Fellowship of the Royal Society upon Professor Bragg, of the Adelaide University, are made by "Physicus" in The Australasian:—"Professor Bragg has long been known in Australian scientific circles as a highly distinguished teacher, and an able worker in the domain of electrical theory; his investigations—carried out during the past five years—in connection with the most obscure problems of the new science of radio-activity have now brought him a worldwide reputation, and earned for him the highest scientific distinction that a British subject can attain." After referring in detail to the nature of the scientific work which has led to this result, the writer says:—"Professor Bragg's work, in short, has resulted in the statement and triumphant verification of two new laws of nature; laws which will be of the greatest value in unravelling the mysteries which at present enshroud the problem of atomic structure. Moreover, he has succeeded where other workers—the ingenious Rutherford included—had failed completely, until he showed them the way to success. All Australian workers will rejoice in the honour which has come to a colleague whose ability in research only equals the modesty and self-repression with which the results are put forward."

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LECTURES TO TEACHERS.

The first of a series of lectures to teachers on "The physical aspect of education" was delivered by Dr. Ramsay Smith on Monday night. The lecturer showed the terrible suffering and loss of life which resulted from ignorance and neglect of sanitary laws. The number of men who died from disease during warfare was shown far to exceed those who were slain by the enemy, while epidemic diseases not only swept off thousands of human beings but also weakened thousands more. The vast importance of the question of public health and its value to the nation was effectively dealt with, as well as its place in education.

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EXTENSION LECTURES FOR THE COUNTRY.

A scheme has been devised for supplying courses of extension lectures at local university centres in the country, and the members of the professional staff of the institution have agreed to give up part of the vacations in order to deliver lectures in towns from which invitations are received. A circular, which has been issued dealing with the scheme, states:—

For some years past repeated applications have been made to the University by country centres and institutes for courses of extension lectures, but it has only been possible to comply with a very few of the requests. An effort is now being made to supply, as far as it is practicable, the wants of country towns, and for that purpose permanent University centres have been arranged in groups, and a list of available courses of lectures, with the dates upon which they may be given, has been prepared. The terms at which courses of lectures can be delivered are £3 3/ per lecture, and the lecturer's travelling and personal expenses. As far as possible arrangements are left in the hands of the local committee, and all surplus funds are retained by them. Considering the great success which has attended the extension lectures in the city, the committee are sanguine that with careful and systematic organisation similar success will be achieved in the country centres, but much depends on the activity of the members of the local committees in the several groups. A circular has been issued to every permanent centre, with a request that its local committee should select the course or courses they desire, and indicate an order of preference. Their decisions, together with the suggested dates, should be sent to the Registrar of the University as soon as possible. On the receipt of applications from the various centres the University extension committee will endeavor to comply with all requests, but in case any modifications are necessary the local committee will be informed and will have the right to accept or reject those modifications. It will greatly facilitate matters if the local committees will bear in mind that for the purpose of effective organisation, it is much to be desired that the centres of each group shall apply for the same course of lectures in the same vacation. If this is done a course of lectures may be delivered at three centres in the fortnight, the cost will be materially reduced, because each centre will pay only one-third of the incidental expenses, instead of the whole, and the lecturer's time and energy will not be wasted in long and tedious railway journeys. In the case of centres close to the city, such as Gawler, Mount Barker, and Kapunda, it may be possible to give the lectures at almost any time between the months of May and September. Will you kindly bring this circular under the notice of your committee, who may deem it advisable to confer with the Institute committee, and to communicate with the committees of other centres of the group, with a view to combined action. Extension Lecture Centres:—Group I.—Port Pirie, Jamestown, Petersburg, Broken Hill; Broken Hill may be a distinct centre. Group II.—Moonta, Clare, Laura; Balaklava, though not a centre, may be included. Group III.—Gawler, Burra, Kapunda; Riverton and Angaston, though not centres, may be included. Group IV.—Narracoorte, Mount Gambier, Millicent, Bordertown; Walselev, though not a centre, may be included. The following is the schedule of lectures (three lectures in each course):—Professor Ennis, Mus. Doc., "The Great Composers—Handel, Mozart, Schumann" (with illustrations, for which a suitable piano must be provided), between May 27 and June 8. Professor Jethro Brown, M.A., LL.D., "The Underlying Principles of Modern Legislation;" Professor Darnley Naylor, M.A., (a) "Day by Day Life in Rome, 100 A.D.," (b) "Athenians You Would Meet in 300 B.C.," (c) "Theatre-going at Athens, 2,500 Years Ago," between May 27 and June 8, or August 19 and 30. Professor Henderson, M.A., "1. "Leaders of the Puritan Age—Wentworth, Cromwell, Milton;" 2. "Poets of the 19th Century—Wordsworth, Tennyson, Browning;" 3. "Leaders of the Middle Ages—Richard I., King of England; Francis of Assisi; Louis IX., King of France;" 4. "Hamlet and the Shakespearean Drama" (illustrated with lantern slides); between August 19 and 30.