

Three Years at Oxford.

Mr. F. L. Thyer, the 1924 Rhodes scholar, and a South Australian, returned from Oxford on Thursday. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Thyer, of Walkerville, and in December, 1923, was chosen as Rhodes scholar to go to Oxford. Born in 1902, he received his early education at Walkerville Public School, and later at Adelaide University. During a highly successful career he secured honours at the Adelaide University as a medical student. In sport he rowed with success at the Adelaide University.



MR. F. L. THYER.

On Thursday, speaking to a representative of The Register, he said he had seen statements in the Melbourne press to the effect that Rhodes scholars were failures. He considered that too much was expected from them, for after all, they were only the same as the other undergraduates, and had the same chances. He could not speak too highly of the value of an opportunity to go to Oxford. "It's the chance of a lifetime," he said, "for every opportunity is given for travel on the Continent and for making friends in England." Mr. Thyer paid a tribute to the kindness of Mr. F. J. Wylie (Oxford secretary of the Rhodes Trust) and his wife, who entertained a great deal, making their house a home for Rhodes scholars.

Mr. Thyer gained his B.A. degree after two years at Oxford, and studied physiology last year in the pathology laboratory for the degree of Bachelor of Science. He has not yet heard the result of his efforts in this direction. In sport, he devoted himself mainly to rowing, but found, after rowing in Adelaide, that he had to unlearn all he knew. This had often been found by other Australians, although many were soon able to adapt themselves to the slightly different style.

ADV. 29-10-27
FALL THROUGH A WINDOW.

VICTIM'S CONDITION CRITICAL.

Miss Kathleen Moore (24), of Archer-street, North Adelaide, who fell from a window at the Adelaide University on Thursday afternoon, is still in a critical condition at the Adelaide Hospital. She is suffering from severe head injuries and fracture of the leg, jaw, and pelvis. Miss Moore is employed on the research and chemistry staffs at the University, under Professor Brailsford Robertson. The department is on the second floor of Darling Building.

It is stated that Miss Moore had been working longer than her companions in the chemistry room, and was alone. It is thought that before leaving the room to go home she stood on a table and attempted to attend to the window when she over-balanced and fell to the ground. She was found shortly before 6 o'clock, and was removed to the Adelaide Hospital.

Miss Moore was secretary of the Mothers' and Babies' Health Association for several years until last July, when she resigned to go to the University.

CONFERENCE ADOPTS RECOMMENDATIONS.

LONDON, October 27.

Sir James Parr has sent a letter to the Agricultural Conference on behalf of the Prime Minister of New Zealand (Mr. Coates), inviting it to include New Zealand when the next conference is held in Australia in 1931. Messrs. F. McDougall, A. E. V. Richardson (Australia), Rigg (New Zealand), and others reported that Empire industries associated with fruit (whether canned, dried or otherwise) were at present comparatively undeveloped technically. The Empire fruitgrower and preserver was more unfavorably situated than his competitor in the United States, on whom he still relied mainly for his technical knowledge, and on whom he was almost entirely dependent for machinery for the process of preservation. They advocated research and advisory work within the Empire.

They proposed an Imperial horticultural committee in Great Britain, with sub-committees overseas, but the conference deleted this in view of the previous decision to establish a chain of bureaus and correspondence centres.

Professor A. E. V. Richardson, as chairman of the Plant Breeding Committee, recommended that the existing Cambridge and Aberystwith institutions should become the clearing houses for Empire information relating to cereals and herbage. Mr. Cameron (Victoria), chairman of the Dairying Committees, reported in favor of the utilisation of the funds of the Marketing Board for joint action in Great Britain and the Dominions in dairying research and the nomination of dairying experts.

ADV. 29-10-27

LEAGUE OF NATIONS ESSAY.

The Council of the University of Adelaide has approved, as a subject for the essay for the League of Nations prize for 1928, of "A Critical Survey of the Working of the Mandate System in the Pacific."

ADV. 29-10-27

The following members of the Council of the University of Adelaide will retire in November, and will be eligible for re-election at the meeting of the Senate on November 23:—The Rev. K. J. F. Bickersteth, Dr. F. S. Hone, Mr. Justice Angus Parsons, Mr. T. E. Barr Smith, and Mr. W. J. Young.

ADV. 29-10-27

Professor Sir Archibald Strong and Mr. W. J. Isbister, K.C., have been appointed by the Council of the University of Adelaide as its representatives on the Public Library Board.

ADV. 29-10-27

The Rev. G. E. Hale has been appointed examiner for the Robert Whigham prize for elocution by the Council of the University of Adelaide.

REC. 29-10-27

THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL.

The following members of the Council of the University will retire in November and will be eligible for re-election at the meeting of the Senate, on November 23:—The Rev. K. J. F. Bickersteth, Dr. F. S. Hone, Mr. Justice Angus Parsons, Mr. T. E. Barr Smith, and Mr. W. J. Young. The University has appointed as its representatives on the Board of Governors of the Public Library, Professor Sir Archibald Strong and Mr. W. J. Isbister.

ADV. 31-10-27

Speaking at the annual break-up of students of the Workers' Educational Association on Saturday night, the Vice-Chancellor of the University (Sir William Mitchell) said he had received a letter from Professor Darnley Naylor, who had bought a place in Cumberland and who did not intend to return to Australia. He had visited the League of Nations, but was disappointed at the slow way in which it moved. Sir William said he had also heard from Dr. H. Heaton, who had left Canada for the University of Minnesota, where he would be able to confine himself to economic history.

Value of English-Speaking Union.

Impressions which he formed during a recent trip through India, Burma, the Federated Malay States, and Java, formed the subject of an interesting address which Professor Sir Archibald Strong delivered to members of the English-Speaking Union on Friday afternoon. There was a good gathering of members in the Lord Mayor's parlour, Adelaide Town Hall, the chair being occupied by the President (Mr. Justice Angus Parsons). The speaker, in paying tribute to the British administration in India which he felt was one of the greatest achievements in the world's civilization, regretted that he could not say as



PROFESSOR SIR ARCHIBALD STRONG.

much for their care of the buildings of the past. A great deal of damage had been done to the fort at Delhi and at Agra, both before and after the mutiny. An improvement had taken place, however, and there were numerous indications of the preserving and restoring hand of the great Viceroy, Lord Curzon. Bombay and Calcutta were by no means the most interesting Indian cities from the point of view of tourists, but Akbar, with its impressive red sandstone architecture, was a feature which no visitor should fail to see. A tour of the bazaars at Peshawar was almost on its own, worth a trip to India. There one saw a most motley collection of races, each with its own bazaar, where men fully armed strode the streets in fierce aspect. Considerable riches were there displayed, and all manner of merchandise came to it down through the Khyber Pass.

No Fear of Uprising. Touching upon the political condition of India, Sir Archibald expressed the opinion that so far as an open demonstration, or a rising against the British, was concerned, there was nothing to be feared to-day. There was no fear of anything approaching the situation which arose at Amritsar, and which was dealt with drastically, but not unnecessarily so. There appeared to be absolute safety for any Englishman travelling in India. On the other hand, there was a constant tug of war going on in the elected councils, especially in the provinces, against the British. The country was also continually disturbed by what was known as communal trouble. This had no relation to Communism, but referred to enmity between Mohammedans and Hindus, between whom there existed a degree of ill feeling, which was difficult to handle and control. In conclusion, the speaker referred to the apprehension he had encountered regarding trouble which it was feared would come to India from Russia through the Khyber Pass. There was no doubt that it was a real and serious menace indeed, for Russia to-day had a considerable political ascendancy in India. The British, however, had an extraordinarily efficient secret service, and in almost every case the Soviet agents were known. The danger arose from the possibility of the Russians urging the Afghans to another war, but the general opinion of people with whom he (Sir Archibald) had spoken, was that Russia would not be ready for any great demonstration for about 18 months.

Mr. Clive Carey addressed the members of the Conservatorium Association on Saturday evening on "Old English folk dancing and its origin." He said its origin was lost in antiquity, but its revival in England during the last 20 years and the increased strength and popularity of the movement was little short of amazing, and when one considered the extraordinary indifference to all things musical that persisted in England throughout the Puritan period it was even more wonderful. The English during that time prided themselves on being unmusical, in spite of the fact that at the end of the sixteenth century they were noted on the Continent for both music and dancing, while in the decade that followed the musical achievements of the English people took their place alongside the literary achievements of that time. Notable among the former were seven or eight composers who paid special attention to the madrigal. This sudden outburst was followed by a period of great musical inactivity, and 300 years later their former achievements had all been forgotten, owing to the influence of foreign music, which had gradually crept in. During the restoration, however, the most noteworthy figure was Henry Purcell, whom he considered to be the greatest English composer that ever lived. His output, the variety of his works, and his inspiration were remarkable. But it was only in the last few years that the English people had begun to found a school of music that could be regarded as characteristic, and that was not modelled on the forms of those of France and Germany. Similar vicissitudes occurred in the history of dancing. Country dancing of the old days gave way to quadrilles, lancers, and waltzes—Continental importations; and they in their turn had been ousted by fox-trots, jazzes, and two-steps on the exotic character of which it was quite unnecessary to dilate.

The speaker proceeded to trace the origin of the English Folk Song Society, and emphasized the importance of the work of Cecil Sharpe, who collected 130 songs of Somerset alone that were published in five volumes. The success of these songs was such that Sharpe was encouraged to continue to collect old folk songs and dances from the old people all over the country. The English Folk Dance Society was formed, which to-day was accepted as the sole authority on morris dancing. The morris dance was regarded as a survival of an ancient ritual of pre-Christian antiquity, and invariably contained some element akin to a sacrificial death, either human or animal, and a resultant resurrection to a new life. Various forms of these elements were described in detail, and their similarity traced with ancient rituals. They all probably had reference to the solar myth and the celebration of the seasonal sequences, as was suggested by a ceremony that survived in England up to the present for the helping of Nature in ensuring success to apple crops by mimetic magic.

The country dance was of a totally different character, and was purely for social enjoyment. No steps were given, but just figures formed by the movements. The accompanying music was usually either a fiddle, an accordion, or a penny whistle, or sometimes a pipe and tabor, the pipe being a short instrument with about three holes, and the tabor a sort of drum. Both the pipe and tabor were played by one man.

The lecture was supplemented by some charming illustrations of dance melodies, played on the piano by Mr. Carey. He was warmly thanked, at the instance of Mr. Winsloe Hall.