

Miss M. H. Crampton

Success in Paris.

"Advertiser" 8/8/28

Lecture by Profes-
sor Hancock.

"Tuscany & Umbria."

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"Alsatian's
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News has been received by mail of the success at the Sorbonne, Paris, of Miss Mary Hope St. Clair Crampton, a graduate of the Adelaide University, and a daughter of Mr. J. Crampton, lecturer in French there. Five hundred students presented themselves for examination, written and oral, of whom 200 passed, including only four foreigners. Miss Crampton received honorable mention—equal to our honors, and was placed seventh in the honors list, being one of the two foreigners who achieved this distinction. This success is the more gratifying because Miss Crampton, owing to illness and consequent absence from the Sorbonne for two or three weeks, had almost decided not to present herself. She will probably now take the full license examination.

TUSCANY AND UMBRIA.

LECTURE BY PROFESSOR HANCOCK.

A lecture on Tuscany and Umbria, illustrated by a number of lantern slides from photographs taken by himself and his wife, was given by Professor H. K. Hancock to the Society of Arts at the Institute lecture-room, North-terrace, on Tuesday evening. The president of the Society of Arts (Mr. L. H. Howie) occupied the chair.

A country which produced art, said the lecturer, must be of interest to a company of artists. The districts of Tuscany and Umbria in central Italy had produced such vast crowds of artists—painters, sculptors, and novelists—that they were particularly interesting. Creative work when it came from a country came from men who had some sort of harmony with the soil itself. It was interesting to walk about Umbria, because one knew of the association with it of such famous artists as Leonardo da Vinci, Perigino, Raphael, and Michael Angelo. Wherever one went in that country one stumbled over the birthplace of an artist, or a village church made famous by some artist. People in Tuscany and Umbria, in medieval times, as was being done in Australia at the present time, had foolishly destroyed their forests. They then ran goats over the country, which destroyed all the young saplings which had begun to grow again, and the destruction of the trees had resulted in the landscape being entirely changed. Rivers which at one time were clear streams on which ships plied were now muddy torrents in winter and sandy watercourses in summer. The water swept the soil away from the rocks, and consequently the descendants of the Romans, who had denuded the country of trees, found it hard to get a living. To make a livelihood they had to try and bridle the rush of waters and save up the soil, and so made terraces. Tuscan landscape was a series of valleys and terraced hills. There was a tremendous amount of work to be done, and machinery could not be worked there as it was in Australia, owing to the mountainous nature of the country, so a solution of the problem was found in a kind of system of share farming and in the workmen having large families. Tuscan children were beautiful and graceful; compared with them Australian children were robust and hearty. It would be interesting economically to see whether the old Tuscan land system would survive the broadening of markets at the present time. He thought it would. A noticeable thing about the peasants was that they gossiped about the life of St. Francis of Assisi and incidents of 500 years ago in the same way as Australians gossiped of football matches.

ALSATIAN'S ANCESTRY.

"Wolves and Dogs Breed."

Professor Wood Jones's Pronouncement.

By Rufus.

Dr. David Moore (secretary of the Shepherd Dog Association, Sydney) in his letter published in The Register in defence of Alsatians, disputes the fact that there is wolf blood in this dog. He says:—"It is a scientific fact that a cross between wolf and dog is sterile. As reasonably look for progeny from mules." I rang Dr. Angus Johnson, and he remembered that Dr. Wood Jones (what a thousand titles South Australia lost him!) read a paper on the dingo before the Royal Society several years ago, and traced its origin to the wolf. I got into touch with Mr. B. S. Roach (treasurer of the Royal Society) who was present at the reading of the paper, and he communicated with Mr. H. R. Purnell, the librarian at the Public Library, who kindly looked up the paper in the proceedings of the Royal Society. The contribution by Professor Wood Jones was entitled "The Status of the Dingo," and it was read on October 13, 1921. In the paper the world-wide authority on comparative anatomy says, inter alia:—"The true wolves of the northern parts of the old and new worlds, and the jackals of southern Europe, Asia, and Africa are, therefore, left as the possible progenitors of the domestic and feral races of dogs. . . . In every breed of domestic dog that has been examined, the specialized wolf tooth, and not the primitive jackal tooth has been present. Mr. Gerrit Miller, of the United States National Museum, has given especial attention to this point, and has declared the northern wolf origin of all races of domestic dogs (see catalogue of the mammals of western Europe). Again in The American Journal of Mammalogy (vol. 1, No. 3, May, 1920, page 149) Mr. Miller states, 'In all specimens (of domestic dogs) that I have examined representing very diversified breeds the skull and teeth remain fundamentally true to the type which in wild canids, is peculiar to the northern wolves. . . . The domestic dogs are, therefore, monophyletic in so far as all are descendants of the northern wolves; but as Mr. Miller points out, domestic dogs will breed back with wolves, and by this process many, possibly all, local forms of the wolf have contributed to the peculiarities of the domestic races.' In other words the domestic dogs may be claimed as polyphyletic in so far as various local races of northern wolves may have contributed to their ancestry; but monophyletic in so far as nothing but northern wolf has gone to their making." Professor Wood Jones leaves no room for doubt that "the dingo is a descendant of the northern wolves." It is claimed by Lieut.-Col. Richardson and others that the Alsatian has wolf blood in its pedigree. One can understand then why people, seeing Alsatians at the recent Poultry and Kennel Club Show remarked, "How like dingos!" But I set out to disprove Mr. Moore's emphatic statement that the progeny of a cross between a wolf and a dog would be sterile, and I think the authorities I have quoted have done this beyond all question. In regard to Mr. Moore's statement that no complaint had been made against Alsatians as sheep workers, I cannot do better than quote Mr. R. T. Melrose, the well-known pastoralist, who on his return from abroad said:—"That dogs of this breed were giving trouble to sheep owners in England. The ordinary dingo sheep dog cross was bad enough, and sometimes attacked calves. If allowed to mate with a large wolf-like animal he would probably become a menace to cattle owners as well as to sheep owners. He hoped Alsatian dogs would be wiped out in Australia, even if it cost the Pastoralists' Association a large sum in compensation to the owners."

A CERTAIN RETURN.

Expenditure on Animal Research.

Is Australia Lagging?

That Australia, known the world over as the greatest wool-producing country, and the possessor of the best merino sheep, should be lagging behind in the matter of scientific research, is a matter for surprise to Sir Arnold Thielor (Director of the Imperial Bureau of Animal Health, London) who arrived in Adelaide on Friday.

Sir Arnold, who is accompanied by Lady Thielor, is visiting Australia at the request of the Commonwealth Institute of Science and Industry to become acquainted, so far as possible, with the problems of animal health. He has already visited the eastern States, and will spend about a fortnight in South Australia. On his arrival in Adelaide he was met at the Melbourne express by Professor T. Brailsford Robertson, Dr. L. E. Bull (director of the Pathological Laboratory, Adelaide Hospital), Messrs. C. A. Lutton (Chief Inspector of Stock), and C. V. Clark (secretary of the State Committee of the Commonwealth Institute of Science and Industry), and Mrs. A. E. V. Richardson.

"Everywhere I have been," said Sir Arnold, in an interview. "I have been afforded the greatest facilities to investigate the most pressing problems of animal health. I have noticed, also, that many of the problems have already been tackled by your scientists, and I am pleased to see too, that there has been a certain amount of satisfactory progress."

Special Attention Required.

"There are, it appears to me," said Sir Arnold, "problems of interest to the Commonwealth as a whole, and this especially in regard to the bloody pest and parasitic infections. There are regional problems which naturally vary in character and intensity, and these require special attention. They cannot be dealt with at the headquarters laboratory, but will come under the supervision of State experts. At this period of my investigations, however, it is impossible to pass an opinion as to what kind of an organization should be formed for adequate scientific research; and it would also be premature to make any announcements regarding local laboratories. This, however, will immediately follow the completion of the survey of the Commonwealth."

Keen Australian Scientists.

Sir Arnold added that, generally speaking, he had found the scientific workers in Australia to be very keen men, and he had also found much enthusiasm among stockowners, not a few of whom realized the urgency of a closer application of science to industry.

"I regret to have to admit, however, that I have known for some time that Australia is lagging a little behind in the linking of science with her greatest undertaking," Sir Arnold proceeded. "It is rather surprising too, to the scientific world, that this work has not been intensively pursued, since Australia is known the world over as the greatest wool-producing country and the possessor of the best merino sheep. The hugeness and ramifications of the industry necessarily lend themselves to many problems requiring the close attention of men skilled in the investigation of causes of disease and the discovery of preventive measures. For scientific research I think that Australia of all countries offers the greatest opportunities. It is certain that money invested in scientific research will be returned many fold—a fact which has been borne out by experience in South Africa. In the Union it was my pleasure to be at the head of the Research Institute for Animal Health at Onderstepoort, near Pretoria. Founded by myself soon after the Boer War, that institution is the finest of its kind in the world, and its buildings and dependencies, which of course include farms, have cost more than £250,000. That great outlay, however, has been more than repaid and the institute to-day stands as something that Australia might well emulate."

Sir Arnold professed the keenest anticipation concerning his sojourn in South Australia and the opportunity to inspect the Waite Agricultural Research Institute, and not least, some of "your world-renowned merino flocks."

Sir Arnold spent Friday morning with officials of the Stock and Brands Department, and in the afternoon inspected the pathological laboratory at the Adelaide Hospital.

At the conclusion of his enquiries in South Australia, he will leave for Western Australia.