

MOTHER OF STATE'S CULTURE

Birth And Growth Of The University

FROM TWO ROOMS TO ACRES OF BUILDINGS

THE opening of the Barr-Smith Library yesterday draws attention to the growth of the University of Adelaide, which, beginning with two rooms in Victoria square, has enlarged and expanded until its buildings cover a great part of the 13½ acres it owns on North terrace, and, in the case of the Barr-Smith Library, is now entering upon the 13¼ acres of the Jubilee Oval reserved for its future use. In addition to this is the Waite Institute, at Urrbrae, with 300 acres, while the University also has 219 acres of leased land in town and country.

FROM what a small source do great benefits sometimes flow.

In 1871, an appeal to Sir Walter Watson Hughes on behalf of Union College, which trained ministers for nonconformist denominations, met with such a generous response that it was suggested that Sir Walter Hughes's gift of £20,000 should be devoted to the foundation of a University. The generous suggestion of the college committee was adopted, and the donor agreed to the diversion of the gift to the new purpose. He executed the necessary deed of gift, and named the Rev. Henry Reed, M.A., for the chair of classics and comparative philology and literature, and the Rev. John Davidson as professor of English language and literature and mental and moral philosophy. An Act of Parliament endowed the institution with 50,000 acres of land in fee simple (this the Government subsequently repurchased), and with a grant of approximately 4½ acres on North terrace. A few days after the passing of the Act, Sir Thomas Elder executed a deed of gift for £20,000 for the purpose of maintaining the University. Sir Thomas Elder's munificence enabled two more Chairs to be established, and Mr. Ralph Tate, F.G.S., became professor of natural science, and Mr. Horace Lamb, M.A., professor of mathematics.

The First Steps

In the face of scoffers, who declared that the University could never hope to attain status of any eminence (what would these people say if they could express an opinion today?), and notwithstanding other opposition that had to be overcome at the outset, the University was formed. Adelaide was far from being without culture even at that time, and the new University was able at once to confer ad eundem gradum degrees upon 73 graduates of other universities and thus to constitute a Senate.

The first council comprised:—The Chief Justice (Sir Richard Davies Hanson), the Bishop of Adelaide (Right Rev. Dr. Augustus Short), Sir Henry Ayers, the Right Rev. C. A. Reynolds, the Rev. J. Jeffries, the Rev. W. P. Wells, Sir William Milne, Mr. (afterwards Sir) S. J. Way, Mr. Justice Stow, the Hons. A. Blyth, A. Hay, and W. Everard, Messrs. G. C. Hawker, M.P., W. A. E. West-Erskine, and W. R. Boothby, Drs. J. M. Gunson and A. Campbell, Messrs. J. A. Hartley, A. von Treuer, and M. McDermott. History marks these men with distinction. At the first meeting of the council, on December 11, 1874, Sir Richard Hanson was elected chancellor, and Bishop Short vice-chancellor. Sir Henry Ayers, the first treasurer, continued in that office for 11 years. Sir William Barlow was the first registrar, and the University office were established in Morialta Chambers, Victoria square, near the offices of Baker & Barlow, still occupied by the same firm, but under the name Baker, McEwin, Ligertwood, and Millhouse.

There have been but four chancellors:—Sir Richard Hanson, Bishop Short (1876-83), Sir Samuel Way (1883-1916), and the present occupant of the office, Sir George Murray.

Building Began In 1879

At the outset, the classes were conducted in Morialta Chambers, though the Education Department placed two rooms of the Training School, in Grote street, at the disposal of the University, and here the first students were enrolled on March 28, 1876. In the first year there were eight matriculated students and 52 non-graduating students.

The foundation-stone of the first of the University buildings, the front part of the present administrative block, was laid by the Governor (Sir W. F. D. Jerwood) on July 30, 1879, and at the Commencement ceremonies on April 5, 1882, the Governor declared the

building open. In 1881 the University had received its Royal Charter, giving power to grant degrees, conferring equal status with that of other universities in the Empire. Two years later, Professor Watson was appointed to the chair of anatomy, and in 1886 the council was able to proceed with the erection of a medical theatre and biological lecture room. The first lectures in law had been delivered in 1883, but it was not until 1890 that a Faculty of Law was established.

Unflinching Progress

As the needs of the institution grew, generous citizens made donations, which enabled expansion to proceed very rapidly. The Government, too, was very generous until the financial stringency necessitated a reduction of grants. Wisely husbanding its funds, the council carried the University forward unflinchingly. In 1884, a Chair of Chemistry was established under Professor Rennie, and in the following year Mr. Joshua Ives, Mus. Bac., was appointed Professor of Music. Within ten years of its establishment, the University was able to provide for students to graduate in any of the five faculties in which its Charter and the law permitted it to grant degrees. A supplementary Charter in 1913 enabled surgery and engineering to be added, and in 1924 it was given unrestricted authority to constitute degrees.

Elder Conservatorium was opened by Lord Tennyson in 1900, the Waite Agricultural Institute established in 1924, and St. Mark's College opened in 1925.

Tremendous Strides

Less than four years after the opening of the original building in 1882, it had to be enlarged. But the present century has seen the greatest expansion, for a science block was opened by the present King in 1901, and named the Prince of Wales Building. The anatomical school was built in 1904 and enlarged in 1912. The Darling Building came not long afterwards; and, at the time of the jubilee, the handsome science and engineering building came in 1922, and at the jubilee celebrations in 1926, the handsome science and engineering building was opened. The Refectory, the Research Laboratory, and the Barr Smith Library are the latest additions.

The University was long cramped for room, but the establishment of showgrounds at Wayville has made available a large additional area, and the property extends to Victoria Drive, where many improvements give the area another and very picturesque frontage.

Gifts and endowments by private citizens exceed £521,000.

Influence On The Professions

The University began with four professors. It has 20 professorial chairs, of which those of Botany, Economics, and English Literature are temporarily vacant. There are 17 full time lecturers and 47 part time, and 44 assistant lecturers, tutors, and demonstrators. In addition to two professors included in the above total, the Waite Agricultural Research Institute of the University has 12 scientific investigators, while nine others are working there under the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

One very practical illustration of the influence of the University upon the community is given by the number of men trained in the University and now occupying professional positions in South Australia. In medicine 80 per cent. of the practitioners in this State entered the profession from the University of Adelaide. In law, engineering, secondary education, and other professions, the percentage is even higher.

Most striking is the increase in the number of students. The University began with eight undergraduates and 52 non-graduating students. The figures for 1931 were:—Post-graduate students, 136; undergraduates, 1,056; non-graduating, 900; Elder Conservatorium, 336; total, 2,428.

ASSET TO MENTAL DEVELOPMENT

Governor On Gift Of New Library

PRAISE FOR ADELAIDE

The Governor (Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven), in opening the Barr Smith Library at the Adelaide University yesterday, said that the generous gift of Mr. T. E. Barr Smith was in conformity with the character and spirit of Adelaide. Every city had its physical and mental characteristics.

"Adelaide has already developed physically in a wonderful way," said the Governor. "She is developing a sane and sound mentality and an atmosphere of culture and refinement. She presents a certain quiet dignity, an air of respectability, and an absence of hustle and bustle. Buildings such as the one we are opening assist the mental development of the rising generation."

Generous Citizens

He said his first thought on rising had been how fortunate South Australia was to have such generous and patriotic citizens. Before long there would be another splendid building erected at the University—the Bonython Hall—the gift of Sir Langdon Bonython. In all parts of the State he was continually coming across evidence of the public-spiritedness and generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Barr Smith.

Few people did more in a quiet and unostentatious way for the relief of distress. The Governor paid a tribute to the work of Mr. Walter Bagot, the architect, who had produced a building that would be an ornament to any city in the world.



Mr. Barr Smith

The Governor paid a tribute to the work of Mr. Walter Bagot, the architect, who had produced a building that would be an ornament to any city in the world.

Presentations Of Books

The Chancellor of the University (Sir George Murray) said that from 1902 onwards the income of the University was relatively small, and it was difficult to provide much more than enough to pay for periodicals and the cost of binding. It was then that Mr. Robert Barr Smith contributed £9,000 in various sums to be expended in the purchase of books. It was in consequence of this that the University Council decided that the library should bear the name of its benefactor. After the death of Mr. Robert Barr Smith in 1915, the members of his family, including Mr. T. E. Barr Smith, and his son-in-law, the vice-chancellor (Sir William Mitchell), gave £11,000 for the permanent endowment of the library. When the number of books outgrew the space available in the main building, Mr. T. E. Barr Smith gave £30,000 to erect the present building.

A vote of thanks to Mr. T. E. Barr Smith was moved by Professor J. R. Wilton, and seconded by Professor J. A. FitzHerbert.

In Memory Of His Father

Mr. Barr Smith said he was grateful for the opportunity to thank all who had made it possible for them to meet in a very beautiful building. The bulk of the responsibility had fallen on Mr. Bagot and his partners. At various times he had visited the building to see the progress, and he knew there was not a portion that was not well and truly built.

It was 16 years since his father died, and a new generation had arisen. But there were still a great many living who knew him well, and loved all the sterling qualities with which he was endowed. They remembered his countless kindly actions, for he did his best to help his fellow man, and to make the world a happier place to live in. The unfortunate never appealed to him in vain, and a more kindly heart never beat. He hoped that the library would keep his memory green for ever.

In thanking the Governor for opening the building, Sir William Mitchell said that it was through the late Mr. Barr Smith that Sir William Brae started the investigation of the atom, with which his name had become so famous. The circumstance which had set the scientist on that line of enquiry was a gift of apparatus by Mr. Robert Barr Smith.

The ceremony concluded with the planting of four trees by the Governor and Lady Hore-Ruthven, and Mr. and Mrs. Barr Smith.

The library, which cost £34,000 to build and equip, has been handed to

the University as a total gift. It was built on the latest principles, after the designer had been abroad to see the most recent developments in library construction. The interior, with a striking domed ceiling, is beautifully decorated. The predominant colors are fawn, pale blue, and gold. There is accommodation for 150,000 books.

Adv. 7-3-32

ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE SUCCESSES

Winners Of Scholarships

The Council of St. Andrew's College has approved of the award of scholarships for the year 1932 to Messrs. M. W. Fletcher, L. A. McLean, T. D. Kelly, C. W. R. Price, D. C. Williams, and D. W. Cox.

Mr. Fletcher, who was educated at Scotch College, is about to enter upon the fifth year of his medical course. He has secured high honors in all his examinations, gaining first place in his first year and second place in his third year.

Mr. McLean, who has been awarded the Lady Duncan Scholarship, came to the University from the Adelaide High School. He has a brilliant record as a medical student, having passed all his examinations with credit and been placed second in his third year, and fifth in his fifth year.

Mr. C. W. Price, of Cottesloe, Western Australia, has also distinguished himself in the third and fifth year examinations of his medical course. He has been awarded the A. E. Hamilton Scholarship.

Mr. T. D. Kelly, of Parkside, was educated at Rostrevor, where he had a distinguished record both as a scholar and as an athlete. Entering the University as a Government bursar in the Faculty of Medicine, he passed with credit and third place in his first year. In his third year he was placed second on the credit list and was awarded a Hoffman La Roche Prize. He has now been awarded the J. G. Duncan-Hughes Scholarship.

A similar award has been made to Mr. D. W. Cox, of Peterborough. Mr. Cox was an outstanding student at King's College, passing the Leaving Certificate examination in 1930 in seven subjects, with two credits, and the Leaving Honors Examination in 1931 with five subjects and third credit in mathematics. At the latter examination he was awarded a Government bursary in science. At King's College he took a prominent part in all school activities and gained distinction as an athlete.

Mr. Williams, who has been awarded the John Gordon Scholarship, is entering upon his third year at the University, where he is taking a course in law and a course in honors classics at the same time. He was awarded a Stow prize at the end of his first year, and last year secured first credit in Greek II, and fourth credit in Latin II.

The results obtained in the University examinations in December by scholarship-holders and other members of St. Andrew's College were of a very high standard. Of nine candidates who sat for examination eight passed in all subjects, seven of them with credit in one or more subjects. In all, fourteen credits (including three first places) and eighteen passes were secured out of a total number of thirty-four subjects taken.

Adv. 7-3-32

Dr. R. G. Mitton, South Australian Rhodes scholar, has taken up his duties as science master at Clifton College, England.

Adv. 9-3-32

MacMEIKAN BEQUEST

May Be Used To Extend Waite Institute Work

The exact amount of money that will be available for the Adelaide University under the will of Mrs. Elizabeth MacMeikan, of South Yarra, and formerly of South Australia, referred to in "The Advertiser" yesterday, has not yet been made known to the University authorities. It is presumed, however, that the residue of the estate which has been left to the University after certain bequests have been paid, will be used to extend the operations of the Waite Institute. (The establishment of this Institute was made possible by the gifts of Mrs. MacMeikan's father, Mr. Peter Waite), who also gave the University Urrbrae and Claremont estates, besides part of Netherby estate, and shares in Elder Smith & Co. Limited, which realised £58,450.

It is understood that the allocation of the money received under the MacMeikan bequest will not be considered by the University authorities until the sum is paid over and the terms are made known.