

conditions of a new and growing community, which will probably in course of time disappear, as they have disappeared elsewhere under similar circumstances." Amongst these causes the absence of a wealthy leisured class is the most important. Then, as Dr. Stirling observes, there is on the part of the public a want of appreciation of the practical value of science which also militates against the extension of scientific pursuits. These are causes that will disappear as colonial society develops into a higher stage. Dr. Stirling, however, views with regret the undue glorification of field sports which occupy the attention of so many of the rising generation, to the exclusion of almost every kind of mental activity. We fear there is too much reason in his complaint that indulgence in athletic exercises is carried by large numbers of Australian youth to an injudicious excess, and agree that some part of the energy so employed might be advantageously directed into intellectual channels. But Governments, as well as individuals, are to blame in this connection. Even in directions where the practical interests of the community are at stake, but little is done to obtain the aid of science. At the present moment, when our mining interest is particularly in need of attention, the colony is virtually without the services of a trained geologist. The University itself might perhaps do a trifle more than it has as yet accomplished to promote the cause of scientific education as applied to useful ends. We were told by Professor Tate last year that the work of the University in giving scientific instruction in relation to certain of the industrial arts, particularly mining and agriculture, might be enlarged with advantage; and that statement is no doubt perfectly correct. What is wanted is that the University may be put into such a position by the liberality of the State or of some of our wealthier citizens as will enable it to undertake these hitherto neglected branches of technological instruction

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