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must see in the country more than he sees in the town. The only way to effect this object permanently is through education. By this means we discover the powers of nature which, being known, lead to the increase of natural wealth. By education, too, men may discern the beauties of nature, and of the originals which artists try to imitate. For these and other reasons Professor Stirling's lectures on "Colour in Nature," which are to begin at the University to-night, will be specially interesting. The subject is to be treated from the biological and the physiological points of view—the part colour plays in the theory of natural selection, and its interest as a factor in the development and maintenance of organic life. One of the most fascinating studies to the ordinary student is that of "protective coloration," by which an animal life defends itself through an assimilation of its colour to the objects surrounding it.

Such a course of addresses is well calculated to stimulate interest in nature; and, treated by an eloquent and able speaker, it ought to constitute one of the most attractive series in the University Extension lectures for this winter—a series which has already been successful beyond all precedent. To the University we must look for the development to a large extent of the faculties which will enable the interests of the country to compete with those of the town. Town life has its dazzling allurements; the beauties of nature are unobtrusive. Many of the interests of town life are elevating; but, pursued exclusively, they make too great demands on the nerves, and it has been stated that four or five generations of unmitigated city life absolutely destroy the human constitution. There is no immediate danger of this happening in our Australian life. Industrial development is yet to come; but if the physique of the nation is not to deteriorate, the sympathy of the rising generation must be enlisted on the side of the hills and the dales, the fresh air, and the "open road." The "return to Nature," however, must be a reversion to the manifold interests of nature, scientific and aesthetic as well as physical.

COLOUR IN NATURE.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

Professor Stirling gave the first of his series of lectures on "Colour in Nature" at the University on Tuesday evening. There was a fair attendance. The professor explained that colour was a subject of great interest to students of biology and physiology, on account of the important part it played in scientific research. Not only was it a principal factor in the theory of natural selection promulgated by Darwin, but it had an important physiological aspect as an outward sign of the processes of organization. He proposed to deal with its phenomena, more especially in the organic world, and went on to explain the use and purpose of colour. Coloration generally referred to the arrangement of colour into patterns, although there were cases in which the former was synonymous with the word colour. But colour must not be confounded with coloration. It was merely a sensation, generally, but not always, dependent on light. This sensation or condition was produced in many ways, principally through the action of light upon the retina of the eye. To us luminous objects were those which gave out light, and whose rays, falling on the retina, caused certain impressions to be carried by the nerves to the brain, so that objects were visible either because they gave out light from themselves (such as the sun, electric light, &c.), or because they reflected incident light. The less an object reflected light the less easily discernible it became. Plain glass, if perfect, was invisible; the rays of light passed right through it, and none was reflected; but if the glass were ground the eye could easily perceive it, on account of the light it reflected. To summarize, colour was produced by absorption, dispersion, diffraction, or phosphorescence. In the first of these colour was mainly produced by pigments. The professor explained that white light was the combination of all colours. The rainbow was a practical example of this, as it gave the red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and violet of the spectrum, split up from the white light by the action of natural prisms. When this white light struck an object it was reflected in whole or in part. A red substance absorbed all the coloured rays except the red, which it reflected. Vermilion had its colour from the fact that, of the white light incident upon it, only the red, orange, and yellow rays were reflected. The combination of these produced the impression of vermilion. Light appeared red through what was termed red glass, because, of the rays which impinged upon the glass, only red was allowed to penetrate. He discussed the causes of the colours which appeared in nature, explained the difference between pigmental and structural colours, and dealt at length with the use and substance of pigments. At present, he said, they were unable to definitely connect the colours of substances and their composition. But most of the pigments fell under those of direct physiological importance; their derivatives, waste products, reserve products, and introduced pigments. He considered in detail the distribution of the various colours in birds and animals. Owing to the difficulty and unfamiliarity of the technical terms, it was hard for those unacquainted with the latest pigmental discoveries to follow many of the lecturer's remarks. If a glossary of these technical words employed were displayed on the board this difficulty would be overcome. At the conclusion of the lecture Professor Stirling explained that the two following evenings would be given to the more practical study of colour in nature, to which he could pass now that the alphabet of the subject had been learned.

THE ELDER STATUE.

To no other eminent Australian more aptly than to the late Sir Thomas Elder could be applied the essence of the ever memorable advice to those who enquired for proofs of the achievements of Sir Christopher Wren—"If you wish to see his monument, look around." The classical equivalent for that direction, which is contained in an inscription on a tablet in St. Paul's Cathedral, might appropriately, in allusion to the public work of Sir Thomas Elder, be attached to the portal of the University buildings in Adelaide. It would, however, in perfect fairness be necessary to multiply the inscription in many directions, and then repetition might engender a sense of monotony, and dull the keen edge of popular appreciation of a great benefactor. In these circumstances the erection of a specific monument like that which is now so conspicuous a feature of the University group of buildings was not only desirable, but also unavoidable, unless the public were content to rest under the stigma of gross ingratitude. Sir Thomas Elder's career was at once an example of the triumphs of wisely directed individualism, and an illustration of the blessings of a beneficent socialism; and the demonstration which His Excellency the Governor so well conducted yesterday signaled a collectivist tribute to brilliant personal attainment. The idea of a public memorial was conceived and executed equally well. All that was needed to supply a fitting climax to what had preceded was a truly popular manifestation of approval; and, happily, that has been witnessed in a gratifying degree. A worthy memorial of a worthy man was revealed to the people's scrutiny in a worthy ceremonial worthily performed. Sometimes complimentary laudation invades the territories of truth; but on this occasion one may say, as a simple record of an acknowledged fact, that—singularly graceful and impressive as is the beautiful sculpture of the Elder monument—it does not surpass in those qualities the essential features of the ceremony with which it has been formally dedicated. The speech of His Excellency the Governor constitutes such an admirable epitome of the life-work of Sir Thomas Elder that any attempt in this place to add to its effect would be merely as the painting of the lily. Not always, however, is merit so prominently acknowledged in the presence of the people, and amid their enthusiastic plaudits, and such a recognition of it cannot judiciously be allowed to pass with only casual notice.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

MUSIC EXAMINATIONS.

The undermentioned candidates passed in the rudiments of music at the University of Adelaide, in conjunction with the Associated Board of the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music, London:—Adelaide Angel, Miss Kingsborough; Lillian Clara Beasley, Miss F. Barnett; Lydia Braker, Miss O. Waterman; Annie May Bristow, Miss Painter; Amy Estrella Buckhurst, Miss O. Waterman; Alice Pearl Bullock, Mr. F. Myers-Shearer; Daisy Maud Bormelster, Miss L. Williamson; Ernest Arthur Chaplin, Mr. F. Myers-Shearer; Elsie May Cole; Mrs. A. Law; Jessie Rankine Dunk, Miss O. Waterman; Winnie Flannagan, Good Samaritan Convent, Gawler; Laurel Minnie Galliford, Miss G. Smidtz; Marie Speakman Hanson, Conservatorium; Pauline Victoria Alma Heinrich, Miss F. Barnett; Roy Pickard James, Miss E. Richards; Elsie May Amanda Lane, Miss M. Martin; Muriel Lane, Miss M. Lane; Ethel May Martin, Miss E. Richards; Dorothy Gladys Matheson, Miss G. L. Dunn; Susanna Kate Moocombe, Miss Moore; Hilda Kentish Paynter, Advanced School for Girls (Miss K. Cook); Evelyn Marion Pearce, Miss Lane; Mabel Raymond, Miss O. Waterman; Clara Stanes, Miss J. D. Ure; Christina Elizabeth Stewart, Miss F. Barnett; Gladys Leslie Taylor, Miss K. Cook; Eleanor May Walker, Mr. G. Shakespeare; Marjory Pantecost Weller, Miss Kingsborough; Ruby Fawcett Whittle, Miss L. Williamson.

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ELDER STATUE UNVEILED.

Notwithstanding the bleak and cheerless weather, the lawn at the side of the Adelaide University presented quite an animated appearance on Wednesday afternoon when His Excellency the Governor (Sir George Le Hunte) unveiled the handsome statue which has been erected in memory of the late Sir Thomas Elder. The ceremony was marked throughout by the utmost enthusiasm. Before 3 o'clock, the hour appointed for the ceremony, over a thousand people had gathered on the lawn. The Governor, accompanied by his private secretary (the Hon. Victor Hood), arrived punctually, and was escorted to a platform which had been erected immediately in front of the statue. The Chancellor of the University (Right Hon. Sir Samuel Way), in a short and happy speech, asked His Excellency to unveil the statue. Sir George, having complied with the request, remarked that they had met to do further honour to the memory of the late Sir Thomas Elder, who had been held in such high esteem throughout the length and breadth of South Australia and this great city. His Excellency then referred in an eloquent address to the many beneficent actions of Sir Thomas, and gave a sympathetic outline of the great man's life. "I regard him," Sir George concluded, "as the good centurion, the servant of God and of your state, whose introduction to his Master was, 'He has loved our country and built us a synagogue.'"

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Mr. Elliott A. Brummitt, who went to Edinburgh a few months ago to continue his medical studies, has passed the examination at that university in chemistry, physics, zoology, and botany. Students from the colonial universities who enter at Edinburgh receive credit for lectures attended in the colonies, but all examinations have to be passed in the Scottish capital.