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THE UNIVERSITY TRAINING OF TEACHERS.

To the Editor. Sir—Many of your readers may remember the reply of Dr. Martin Routh, the celebrated and almost centenary president of Magdalen College, Oxford, when appealed to in extreme old age by one of his admirers for an axiom or precept of special value out of his long experience. "He brightened up, and said, 'I think, sir, since you come for the advice of an old man, sir, you will find it a very good practice (here he looked me archly in the face) 'always to verify your references, sir.'" Unfortunately I have to acknowledge that through not bearing this rule in mind I did an unintentional injustice to the Treasurer, the Hon. R. Butler, M.P., in my address at the Town Hall, in opening the Teachers Conference on Monday evening last. Speaking from memory only as to the agreement for the free education of State school teachers by the University, but without "verifying my references," I singled out Mr. Batchelor as the Minister of the Crown to be specially mentioned for his statesmanlike grasp of the position, and his determination to act. Remembering all that Mr. Batchelor did, and the great interest he took in the negotiations from beginning to end, I do not abate one jot of what I said in his favor. He was the Minister of Education in January, 1900, when the agreement first came into operation. Not having "verified my references," I forgot at the moment that Mr. Butler was the Minister of Education under whose directions the negotiations with the University were conducted by the Education Department, who gave his consent to the final agreement, and who appointed the first representatives on the department to the "Board of Education," which is the joint advisory body for giving effect to the scheme. Writing to Mr. Butler on the 24th June, 1899, I said—"It is with much pleasure that I write to congratulate you on the acceptance of the proposal of the University to educate the teachers of the State schools free of cost. The modifications which you make on the scheme submitted to you are cordially adopted as a signal improvement upon what the University was able to suggest." Under these circumstances it must be patent to everyone that no other Minister of the Crown gave his scheme such effectual support as Mr. Butler did, or is entitled to be more gratefully remembered in regard to it.—I am, &c., S. J. WAY. Adelaide University, July 2, 1903.

THE "MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM" MUSIC.

To the Editor. Sir—The proceedings at the theatre on Saturday evening would appear to give the promise that Mr. Musgrove is about to add to the list of his many achievements the demonstration of the utter futility of associating instrumental music of the best class with a dramatic production in Adelaide. It is sufficiently irritating to hear the shouts of the purveyors of various kinds of refreshment in the theatre during the performance of the overture to a comic opera, but it is a still greater pity that they were in evidence while Mendelssohn's charming overture was being played on Saturday evening. Surely the management could arrange, without involving the risk of financial ruin, that these persons should, at the time the music begins, cease exhibiting their anxiety as to the gastronomical satiety of the audience. These cries, however, objectionable as they were, did little more than punctuate the performance. Far more deadly was the incessant hubbub of conversation in the fashionable parts of the theatre, which effectually quenched the soft passages in the instrumental music throughout the evening, and blurred the loudest. Mendelssohn's music to the "Midsummer Night's Dream" is universally classed among his happiest inspirations, and when it is remembered that Weber's magical "Oberon" overture was also included in the programme, it might have been expected that the audience would have been thankful to hear such music, especially as there is so little opportunity for the performance of classical orchestral music in Adelaide. I cannot say anything as to the merits of the performance, as I was practically unable to hear it; but I am certain that the conditions must have been most discouraging to the conductor and the players. Fortunately, it is now recognised in many quarters that the old tradition of the audience accompanying instrumental music with conversation is honoured more in the breach than in the observance; and I venture to express the hope that some time during the present season the music will be audible, and that not only will those among the audiences who wish to enjoy it be allowed to do so, but that the performances may have their influence in musical education, and that encouragement may be given to those concerned to raise the standard of music performed in connection with dramatic productions. I am, Sir, &c., J. MATTHEW ENNIS. The University, July 5, 1903.

—Meteorological Science.—

"The outlook for meteorology in the Commonwealth is somewhat disappointing, and it is to be regretted that such a utilitarian and economical spirit is being shown. People who object to spending money on meteorology either have not the faculty of looking forward or else they do not know what the aim of the science is. Every pound expended will sooner or later bring its return. The old astronomers simply recorded the movements of the heavenly bodies, and had no idea of the laws that guided their movements; but they gathered a fine register of observations. When the laws were found here was a handy mass of tabulated matter on which to base calculations. Meteorology is in the first stage now, and our work is to obtain complete records of all we can; because it must happen, and perhaps soon, that the laws which rule the weather will be discovered. We feel certain that the weather changes are in accordance with laws and not the result of caprice, and the highest intellects are engaged in endeavouring to fathom these laws. This rain, there can be little question, was predetermined a century ago. We suffer from want of knowledge, and ought to get that knowledge. If we have reliable bases we will be able to issue reliable predictions, and if any state drops out when that knowledge comes it will not have the past figures to guide in the prediction of future events. Encouragement of the prosecution of meteorological investigation in Australia is of the utmost importance, and is bound to meet with an adequate reward, which will bring substantial and invaluable benefit to the land some day. Meteorological work in the west is heavy, for separate weather forecasts have to be prepared for Perth and Fremantle and for the shipping; two sets for Murchison and Coolgardie; and during the storm season another for the west and north-west coasts. Every morning we exhibit in Hay street pictorial forecasts, with symbolic human figures that can be read at a glance, and which have proved very successful.

—A Beneficial Discovery.—

"Since the extension of the stations through the north-west I have been able to trace the movements of a very interesting class of monsoonal storms which frequently give South Australia good northerly rains. Previously it could only be guessed that these storms did come across, but I have successfully traced a number of them, and have predicted general rains in the interior for several days beforehand. I have been the first to do this. These storms give Western Australia the 'willy-willy,' which often creates much destruction, and then crosses the interior, sometimes going south to South Australia with a coastal disturbance in the Great Australian Bight, but frequently passing north of Eucla inland through the northern districts, and giving good rains. I think these observations have been of some assistance to Sir Charles Todd and Mr. Griffiths in the preparations of the local forecasts. One of the greatest difficulties has been that since the Federal Government took over the telegraphs it has frequently happened that the Western Australian reports have not been received in the other states in time to be incorporated in the various weather maps."

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Mr. Cuthbert Lillywhite, B.Sc., of the University of Adelaide, has been appointed teacher of French and mathematics at Townsville Grammar School (Queensland). Like Mr. Norman Jolly, B.Sc., whom he is succeeding, Mr. Lillywhite is a Prince Alfred College boy, and he is at present engaged in teaching in Adelaide. Mr. Jolly has been promoted to a senior mastership in the Townsville School, of which Mr. F. T. Miller, M.A., is headmaster.

ASTRONOMY AND METEOROLOGY.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. W. E. COOKE.

Mr. W. E. Cooke, M.A., B.Sc., Government Astronomer of Western Australia, who will leave Adelaide on Saturday after an extended holiday spent among old friends and scenes, was interviewed by a reporter of The Register on Wednesday. He said he had thoroughly enjoyed himself, and had never better appreciated the loveliness of the city and its surrounding hills than after his long absence in the western state.

—Influence of the University.—

Speaking on educational subjects, Mr. Cooke said—"I have been greatly impressed since my return to Adelaide with the great benefit that has accrued to the city through the influence of the University. Though the technical school in Western Australia is affiliated with the Adelaide University, and is able to hold local examinations in connection with it, I am sure we are not getting anything like the benefit that the actual existence of such an institution among us would confer. I do not think it would be possible in a town where there was no University for such interest to be aroused in a subject like that of 'electrons,' for instance, with which Professor Bragg dealt in connection with the University extension lectures, and it would be almost impossible, too, to get qualified lecturers. The tendency to imagine that a University is only a kind of teaching institution is too prevalent, and it cannot be too well urged that it is more than that. It is a valuable gauge by which the work done in the schools may be measured, an exemplar to them, and its influence is manifest in the creation of a widespread feeling of 'want to know,' and the appreciation for and seeking after a cultured atmosphere.

—Astronomy.—

"I am sorry to note that astronomy seems to excite little interest in South Australia. There appears to be much activity with respect to that science in the west. The Perth Observatory, in conjunction with those of Sydney and Melbourne, is taking part in the photography of the stellar universe for the great map that is being produced by 18 of the world's observatories. The work at Perth is proceeding slowly, because we have not so large a staff as many of the other stations engaged on the map. Some American astronomers, notably Professor Pickering, aim at what seems to me an excellent idea, to co-ordinate the observatories of the world. The people here do not manifest much keenness in astronomy, probably because there does not appear to be a likelihood of immediate return for the money spent; but if we do not exert ourselves we shall have the Americans establishing branches in Australia, as Harvard has already done at Arequipa, in Peru. It is a pity that our people are not so enthusiastic as those of the northern hemisphere. Our observatories are not so well equipped and our southern skies not so well looked after as theirs, and in Australia astronomy is looked upon as a superior meteorology, which should not be the case.

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THE ELDER STATUE.

Since the arrival of the Elder statue by the Wikannia no time has been lost in carrying on the work of erection. The pedestal is almost completed, but a few final touches remain to be effected before the memorial can be unveiled. A somewhat peculiar difficulty has faced the committee, and yet remains to be overcome. The question of which way the statue should face has been raised. It is argued that if the face be placed towards the Conservatorium it will present a rear view to a main thoroughfare. If, on the other hand, the thoroughfare is favored with a full-face view of the statue, not only will the Conservatorium be in the rear, but the proximity of a close picket fence to the pedestal will prevent a good view being obtained from the roadway. The committee expect to reach a satisfactory solution of the difficulty within a day or two.

TEACHERS AT THE UNIVERSITY.

LECTURE BY PROFESSOR HENDERSON.

The members of the Public Teachers' Conference were entertained by the council of the Adelaide University on Wednesday evening at Elder Hall. The visitors were received by the Vice-Chancellor (Dr. Barlow, B.A., LL.D.). A recital was given on the grand organ by Professor Ennis, who also gave an organ solo, "March from Le Prophete" (Meyerbeer), during the evening. Vocal contributions were contributed as follows:—Song, "Rose softly blooming" (Spohr), Miss Annie McCarthy (Elder scholar); song, "A song of waiting" (Ellen Wright), Miss Nellie Landseer; aria, "Canto d'aspetto" (Handel), Miss Elsie Riggs; pianoforte solo, "Etincelles" (Moszkowski), Master Brewster Jones (Elder scholar); A violin solo, "Concerto" (de Beriot), was given by Miss Vera Jurs.

—The Production of Wealth.—

Professor Henderson, of the Adelaide University, gave an excellent lecture on "The production of wealth." The chair was occupied by Dr. Barlow, Vice-Chancellor. The lecturer said they had to take into view the two points—the existence of dead capital in the form of money or property; and of living capital, including those qualities of human nature—endurance, capacity to rise to emergency, resourcefulness, and skill. Those pioneer qualities not only constituted the wealth of a nation, but were the very foundation of material wealth. He did not disparage material wealth; but the man with money did not work simply as an individual; he moved levers. There was a great waste of human life involved in the fact that many individuals had not money; it took a lot out of a man's nature to live in that state that when he should be giving out his best he could not do it because he was distracted by the woes of life. Capital in the form of money was useful and a universal need. None who had read the history of state under the administrations of Governors Hindmarsh and Gawler would fail to realize the importance that attached to outward capital; but they could not believe it was so important as the inward capital in the "grit" of the pioneer settlers. A nation's best asset was the mental, physical, and moral condition of its youth. They would build up the state more successfully than its material wealth. The man who made money and used it to excess was using not wealth, but "illth."