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Among the notabilities invited to attend the King's levee at Holyrood was your former fellow-colonist, Mr. T. Hudson Beare, Regius Professor of Engineering at Edinburgh University, who was presented by the Secretary for Scotland. Mrs. Beare, by command, was present at their Majesties' Court; Lady Balfour of Burleigh acted as her sponsor.

school teachers ensures that the University shall be a national—not an exclusive—institution, for within 50 years its influence will be felt in every settled district of South Australia. This is a more thoroughgoing application of the democratic principle than that to which the Oxford or Cambridge system can attain for many years to come.

It would be a mistake, however, to infer from this that nothing is left for the University to do directly through the medium of "Extension lectures." The general public want to know what questions of supreme or permanent interest are being discussed in the intellectual world. All are concerned in what adds to life. A large section is genuinely interested in whatever widens the mental outlook. To catch a glimpse of truth and to see beauty are ideals which will ever be present to the minds of generous and refined natures. Intellectual cravings are real and permanent. Extension lectures should be arranged so as to satisfy a need felt, rather than to furnish a systematic course for the training of the mind; for they are addressed to people whose minds have already been trained by the best and most expensive of all teachers—experience, and who have neither the time nor the inclination to enter into minute and laborious processes of scientific research, without which no true mental development in a University sense is possible. Instead

of processes, then, results should be put before the audience; the subjects chosen should have regard for human interest; and their presentation must also be different from that of an ordinary University course. A glance at the list of Adelaide University lectures for this winter, which has been printed and circulated, shows that the subjects have been chosen with special regard to these considerations. Two of the syllabuses have already been issued. This evening Professor Bragg will begin a series of three lectures on "The electron." In the field of scientific research no other subject commands so much interest as this at present. The electron promises to be the theory of electricity what the atom is to the theory of chemistry. It appears to be intimately concerned in all the strange and beautiful phenomena of electricity, and in particular with the newly discovered properties of radium, thorium, and uranium. The arrangement of characters in Professor Henderson's historical lectures on "Leaders of the Middle Ages" suggests a study of three types represented in every age—the practical man, the idealist, and the man who tried to combine and harmonize both practical and ideal in his own nature. There is also a scientific study of the influence of the mind upon the body in the "Stigmata" of St. Francis of Assisi; and the latest series of University extension lectures should on its merits prove as popular as it will certainly be interesting and instructive.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.
The University extension lectures will be inaugurated this evening by Professor W. H. Bragg, M.A., who will deal with "The electron and the radio-activity of radium, thorium, and other substances." In the précis which has been issued concerning the discourse it is explained that:—"Professor J. J. Thompson, of Cambridge, and other workers have shown that when an electric discharge takes place across a tube very nearly exhausted of air the current is borne by a stream of tiny carriers. These are called electrons. Each carrier has the same mass and the same charge—a negative charge—no matter what the tube is made of or what gas it contains. The mass is far smaller than that of any atom, being about a thousandth of the mass of the atom of hydrogen. One or more electrons can be torn off from each atom; indeed, it may be true that the atom consists of nothing but electrons, in which case we have in the electron the fundamental 'material' of all substances. In some circumstances, easily produced and shown, the electrons move with enormous speed, such as would take them once or twice round the earth in a second." As far as possible, the three lectures to be given on the subject will be illustrated by experiment." The University is not rich enough to possess a specimen of radium, since the laboratory funds are needed for the regular class work," adds Professor Bragg. "But it is intended that the radio-activity of thorium shall be shown, which differs from that of radium only in degree. Not even radium gives out a blaze of light, as might appear from some sensational accounts. The marvels of its existence and nature have nothing to do with its power to act as an illuminant—a power which indeed it only exercises feebly and indirectly. They are marvels because they are of transcendent importance in the advancement of scientific research." The following additional courses of lectures will be given:—Three lectures by Professor Henderson on "Leaders of the middle ages" (Richard I., King of England, Francis of Assisi, and Louis IX., King of France), on Tuesday evenings, July 7, 14, and 21; three lectures by Professor Stirling on "Colour in nature," on Tuesday evenings, July 28, August 4, and 11; six lectures by the Rev. John Reid, M.A., on "The romantic plays of Shakspeare," on Thursday evenings, August 6, 13, 20, 27, and September 3 and 10; three lectures by Professor Mitchell on "Materialism," on Tuesday evenings, September 15, 22, and 29.

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ADELAIDE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 1903.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION.

History records that Universities were intended originally for the poor; but that, "because of the quality of their discipline" and the innate craving for knowledge in human nature, the rich were attracted to them, and consequently their character underwent some change. While, however, there is a tendency for such institutions to become exclusive by reason of the social status which culture ensures, they have never entirely departed from their earliest traditions, and have at various stages of their history endeavoured to bring "higher education" within the reach of all. Such an effort was made during last century. In November, 1845, an address was presented to the Hebdomadal Board of the University of Oxford, requesting that measures might be adopted for the admission of a poorer class. Among the signatures to that petition were those of Mr. Gladstone, Sir Thomas Acland, and Mr. Tait, the Archbishop of Canterbury. This was practically the beginning of University Extension, which includes the abolition of religious tests; the establishment of Universities in local centres, such as Manchester and Birmingham; and that system of imparting instruction by itinerary lecturers, which is specially connoted by the phrase in modern times. University Extension, then, is simply an attempt on the part of the Universities to bring themselves into line with the democratic tendency of the age. It assumes that the ideal university is a national institution, and that an effort ought to be made to reduce that ideal to practice.

Acting upon this conviction, the older Universities in England have endeavoured since 1878 to establish and perfect a system which is best fitted to "democratize culture and cultivate democracy," and their endeavours have been eminently successful. Lectures are now delivered by trained men in nearly every district of England and Wales, and provision is made to enable promising extension students to pass from the local centres to the University by the aid of scholarships. Of these students, Mr. Joseph Owen, at one time a weaver in a Lancashire cotton mill, is the most notable example in recent years. His work attracted the attention of the lecturers; he came under the notice of the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University; he entered Balliol College, where he won a scholarship; and he is now a Fellow of Pembroke College. Such a movement seems admirably adapted to the democratic conditions of colonial life; and one may well enquire whether it would not be desirable to establish here a system which has been so successful in England. The answer to that question must be given with caution and discrimination. Undoubtedly the principle on which that movement is based should be maintained; but to transplant the system itself to South Australia would be a mistake, simply because it is superfluous. Fundamentally the object of University extension is, as has been said, to nationalize the influence of University teaching; and that has already been done by the admission of public school teachers to the University. Anybody who is acquainted with the practical difficulties which beset educational reformers in Great Britain knows that the correlation of the different branches of education is one of the most important. By the co-operation of the Education Department and the University that problem has been solved in this state so far as it affects two branches, the higher and the primary. Sooner or later secondary education must be correlated, too, and the sooner the better. In the meantime the admission of the public

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COMMERCIAL EDUCATION.

Mr. G. S. Littlejohn, Vice-President of the Sydney Chamber of Commerce, who is in Adelaide as a delegate to the general council of the Chambers of Commerce of Australia, takes a deep interest in the question of commercial education. He has followed what has been done in this direction in South Australia, and expressed the opinion on Monday that this state is rather in advance of other states. Two years ago, when Mr. Littlejohn was in Adelaide, nothing had been done in the matter, and he was therefore pleased to find on the present occasion that a faculty of commerce had been founded at the Adelaide University. This is a step further than the Sydney Chamber has got, though the matter is now under consideration. Mr. Littlejohn thinks that the Adelaide Chamber could with advantage follow the example of the Sydney body, and hold examinations itself in commercial subjects and issue certificates.

TEACHERS' CONFERENCE.

The eighth annual conference of the South Australian Public Teachers' Union will be held during the week commencing Monday, June 29, and an excellent programme of work has been prepared. The reports of the various officers and the presidential address will be given to the members at the Trades Hall, and in the afternoon they will visit the School of Mines on the invitation of Rp. Sir Langdon Bonython (President of the institution). These engagements are preliminary to the formal opening of the conference on Monday evening at the Town Hall. A choir from the Saurt Street School, specially trained by Mr. McBride, will render several part songs. Invitations have been issued to over 500 leading citizens, who have signified their intention of being present in large numbers, and accommodation is being provided for the general public as well. At the Trades Hall on Tuesday morning the executive officers of the union for the ensuing year will be elected, and Mr. Stanton (Inspector-General of Schools) and Professor Towar will address the conference. At the same session a paper on "Child study," by Mr. G. H. Knibbs, F.R.A.S., of Sydney University, will be read. The afternoon of Tuesday and the early part of Wednesday morning are to be devoted to discussion of motions affecting the welfare and working of the schools. The annual meeting of subscribers to the Teachers' Superannuation Fund will follow. At this meeting Mr. W. L. Neale is to be publicly thanked for the work he did in originating the fund and his untiring zeal for its welfare. As usual, during the sittings of the conference the University authorities have courteously invited the members to spend an evening at the University. This year Professor Henderson will lecture at the Elder Hall on Wednesday night. The programme of work provided appears to be full and of sufficient interest to win the attention of all those who are watching the evolution of educational thought in the community. A detailed programme of the function for the Monday evening will appear next week.