

pathology. The same advantages apper to dyeing. The head of that department was Dr. Perkins, a son of the man who discovered the aniline dyes—a man who had put millions into the pockets of the Germans, whose special training had enabled them to put his ideas into practical effect. Sir Edward Stone, it appeared, would like a College of Agriculture. Well, he (Dr. Hill) had helped to found a Department of Agriculture at Cambridge, which was now the most flourishing College of Agriculture in Great Britain, and for seven years he had run a farm, principally in the interests of that college. The bailiff he had on that farm was what was called a practical man—that is, a man who knew nothing of science, and never would. To make a man of science, just as to make a musician, it was necessary to take him almost from his cradle, for he could never go backwards to pick up his science. But it was impossible to begin by teaching, dyeing, brewing, or agriculture. It was necessary to begin a nucleus, with the old subjects (the classics); then they could start with colleges of science, and then with colleges of applied science. At the University of Durham there was a school of naval engineering, and the professor of that science had assured him (Dr. Hill), in answer to a question, that he found no difficulty in getting posts for his students; the trouble was to find students for the posts, such as the value attached by employers to thoroughly skilled men. Now, as to secondary education, it should go hand in hand with university education, for it was no use to lay the bottom step of a structure if there were no apex to attain. Why should a pupil submit to the rigorous course of secondary education if he had no chance of any higher opportunities, such as should be open to brains?

The Nottingham University College was supplied with the necessary buildings by the local municipal council; and though in those buildings they would find of an afternoon perhaps only 100 ladies following up their earlier studies, in the evening there would be 1,500 students there, all of whom were employed by day in earning their bread, and many of whom would subsequently take their degrees at the University of London. That was emphatically a people's university, and it provided what the Nottingham citizens had a right to demand. No sums of money were lost which were spent in developing the intellectual resources of the nation.

The people of Perth, continued Dr. Hill, had a place at Claremont for the training of teachers; they had an observatory, which was a credit to the city—and what an opportunity it could afford of teaching astronomy and the several branches of physics and mathematics upon which astronomy depended! They had a museum, zoological gardens, a hospital—and all these institutions could be used for teaching purposes. They had a Government geologist, a Government electrician, a Government bacteriologist; and, though he was far from expressing any opinion about the competence of all these persons, he had met some of them who were quite fit to be the professors of university chairs. Such an arrangement would add greatly to the distinction and the responsibilities of their posts, and, he sincerely hoped, to their salaries, too. A university depended upon the utilisation of all the teaching capacity in the place. It was not for him to enter upon the question of cost, but he could assure them that the cost of a university was not so great as most people supposed. A university did not need a palace for its housing. Its requirements were apt to change rapidly, and the buildings should be of such a kind as could be easily altered, too. What was required was not the building, but the men. Let them get the men, and they would soon get the students. It must be a democratic institution, and it must gather in all the best brains in the community. In contemplating the question of a university they should forget all about the financial considerations involved, and just think of it as an institution for making the best use of what was in the community, a great part of which was at present running to waste. (Applause.)

Dr. Haynes, from the body of the hall, said that, though he was as anxious as any of them to have a university, he thought they must first have the people and the money. They would require good men, who would require good salaries. Queensland had no university, and Adelaide, he understood, had had a hard struggle with hers. The time was inopportune. There was a general depression in business, and people who could not, or would not, support the Perth Hospital would not support a university. He understood that the B.A. degree, and presumably the M.A. degree, could be obtained by anyone without leaving the State by means of the Adelaide University. By withdrawing their support from Adelaide that university would probably be ruined. And they did not want an institution modelled on the American plan. He agreed with the views of Sir Edward Stone. (Applause.)

Several other gentlemen spoke to the notion, which was carried, Dr. Haynes alone voting against it.

The following motion was carried unanimously:—

"That this meeting pledges itself to support the local university movement, and requests the university endowment trustees and the university extension committee jointly to take such steps as they may think fitting to further this object."

## THE STATE UNIVERSITY

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—In consequence of the leading article in your paper, and the unfair report in the morning dailies, of the meeting of the proposed local university, I think it only just that I may be allowed to state my side of the question since my name has been associated with those opposed to a university, and therefore my opinion held up to ridicule. You, in your leader, said my objection was one of money, but that did not half state my objections; and, looking at the "West Australian" report, on the one hand, many things were reported as spoken by speakers that either they forgot to mention or else I have forgotten they were said. They gave me, as the one who took an opposite view, only a few lines, and reported only about one-tenth of what I said. This may be university methods, but is it fair tactics?

I maintained that the present time, par excellence, was inopportune; we were faced with a financial depression that would not pass away too quickly, and that our population was of a shifting class. Further, I stated that I often asked people why they did not interest themselves more in local politics, and the answer was too often—"Well, I am over here to make my bit of 'stuff,' and when I make it I will go back." These people have been driven here by the depression in the east. Another argument was that the Parliament were not likely to assist us, seeing they were retrenching in secondary educational institutions, and that unless we could pay a professor a good salary—a salary equal to a Supreme Court judge—that we would only get a very secondary man indeed. I instanced the refusal of the Government to give £750 a year for a medical superintendent to the Perth Public Hospital—an amount that any local medical man can double even with the poorest ability. Would it be likely that a superior man would accept a salary inferior to a man of lesser ability? I asked the chairman how long the University Extension Committee (I am ignorant of the meaning of such a comprehensive title) were in existence, and I was told about 11 years. I was also informed that no one—not even any member of this astute committee—had promised or given an endowment towards the establishment of a university. How different was this to the other States. I think Sir Thomas Elder and other monied men in South Australia gave big endowments. It was competent for them, with their thousands, as it was incompetent for us with an empty hat, to go to the Government of the day and ask support.

Some of the speakers said I was throwing cold water on the movement. I said—"No; I am throwing financial questions. It is all very well to have a university when we have the money, the population, and colleges ready to start." I held that our first duty was to forward our present secondary colleges, and to establish new ones, such as Sir Edward Stone mentioned, viz., agricultural colleges, and, in addition, I would say veterinary colleges, and colleges for mechanical and civil engineering, and of metallurgy, etc. Now, universities differ in this much from colleges that in colleges actual practical teaching is done by men who can teach, i.e., practical work, as against universities where lecturing is indulged in. It is an acknowledged fact that a man may be a good professor, but not a practical man, i.e., a class or college teacher. Dr. Hill, instanced that in his own case. He professed to be, and we all agree that he is, a lecturer of the first quality, but bring him down to actual practice, and

he would be inefficient. He admitted this when he was asked in the Local Court to give his experience in the case of typhoid fever, and stated his inability to do so. So it is not strange that the "West Australian" did not publish Sir Edward Stone's letter showing that he, like myself, although in favor of University education, thought the time had not yet arrived, and it would be wiser to go on with our colleges—our practical ideal so necessary for the sons of the workers of this State—and

we are all workers, few of us being independent of our trades or professions. I pointed out further, that our children were not suffering any inconvenience because the Adelaide University—a university equal in merit to any in the British Kingdom—had so generously arranged that our children could be locally examined, and then even the B.A., and I think the M.A., could be obtained here without our children leaving the State. How we have taken advantage of the privilege, and of their kindness, need only be seen in the report of the results of Adelaide University examinations, and in a very great many instances our sons have won the highest honors in these examinations. Then where is, for the present, the disadvantage of our children, and where the necessity of a rush to establish a local university?

I referred Dr. Hackett to Queensland—a State that contains perhaps the most level-headed men in Australia. Dr. Hackett's disgust of them does not alter the position. They do not deem it advisable to stand a University at present, and they are more progressive than we are, perhaps they have not so many University men ready, or rather unemployed as we have. Having a fairly good experience of Universities and University men—and perhaps I can boast of having paid as much for university education for my children as any man in this State—this fact is always before me, and it is a sorry commentary on the necessity of a university education that my experience has been that the ability of these unemployed university men to support themselves, their wives and their children, is in inverse ratio to the letters they have been able to fix after their names, be it M.D., D.D., Ph.D., etc.—in other words, to their university attainments. Leaving my profession out of it for peace sake, who are the ablest lawyers, the ablest civil engineers, and even our best politicians? Are they not either college men or men from our primary or secondary schools? Whether it is that the best time of their life is spent in getting this or that degree, too often the university has exchanged degrees for brains, or that brains have been worn out in studies, the fact remains that university men form the greatest numbers in our "ne'er-do-well" class in all grades of society. If it has been other persons' experience that a university education better fits a man in the battle of life, it is certainly not my experience. It frequently unsettles men and causes many men to be educated out of their proper sphere, and explains the old saying that there are only three generations from shirt sleeves to shirt sleeves.

The chairman was particularly expressive when he referred to me as being the only one against the movement, a fact which showed that at least one man had not lost his head, and had the courage of his convictions, and to act accordingly. Another fact should not be forgotten, and it is that men who are doing well here and most likely to be able to stand the expense of a university, come from the East, and they are more likely to send their children to the university of the State they come from than to send them to a local institution, which naturally, if started now, would require years before it would be able to cope with the older universities. Let us wait, like Queensland, till we have the money, the population, and the endowments. Then, and then only, will be the time to start.—I am, sir, etc.,

E. J. A. HAYNES.