

Reg. 15th Aug 1906

Advertiser 21st Aug 1906

Reg 22nd Aug

SHAKSPEARE AND THE ROMANS.

ANCIENT AND ELIZABETHAN CONCEPTIONS OF LIFE.

PROFESSOR DETTMANN'S LECTURE.

Acting Professor Dettmann, M.A., B.C.L., gave the third and last of his series of lectures on the drama at the University on Tuesday evening, when he spoke on "Shakspeare and the Romans." The Professor dealt with Ben Jonson's labelling of Shakspeare's learning as "Small Latin and less Greek," and explained that what was a small amount to Jonson (the leading classic scholar of the day) was probably quite reasonable to other people. Shakspeare did not draw his Romans always true to life. Brutus, for instance, whom Shakspeare would have them recognise as the "noblest Roman of them all," used to lead out money to the impoverished at about 60 per cent., and would smoke out his debtors who could not or would not pay him. And Brutus, when he appealed to the gods to "render me worthy of this noble wife" (meaning Portia), and said she was more to him than "the ruddy drops that visit this sad heart," was not talking in the least like the real Roman husband. Euripides's works were the basis of all subsequent tragedy. Seneca adopted his stories of gods and heroes, but did not regard them in the same religious light as did the Greeks. "The gods toss us about like balls," wrote Plautus, and that was the Roman idea of the regard of the supreme ones for men. This was but the prose of life; the problems were left unsolved. It meant want of imagination in religion. The Roman wanted the excitement of the bloody arena to arouse his feelings. He could not face life steadily. His was not the true stoicism. Another fault of the Senecan tragedy was a sort of hysteria that often manifested itself. The tone and the form of Roman tragedy were more congenial to the Elizabethans than those of the Greeks. It was said of Shakspeare's "Titus Andronicus" that it was Seneca's "Thyestes" bathed in blood and reproduced.

—Greek, Roman, and Elizabethan Plays.—

The difference between Greek and Roman tragedy was the difference of the spirits of the writers. The leading traits of the Greeks were highheartedness and self-sacrifice—the feeling that moved Homer to nerve his hero with, "Endure, my heart; much more hast thou endured!" But the Romans were continually straining to interfere with the acts of the gods when they (the Romans) thought they were not acting wisely—continually wrestling with circumstance, and trying to read and aid, or avert, the Fates to or from their ends. The Greek tragedy was a perfect model; the Roman tragedy was more open to faults; and it was for this reason that the latter appealed more to Elizabethan writers. Had Shakspeare had only Euripides and Aeschylus as his examples in his early days of effort, the unapproachableness of his model would have broken his heart. The very defects of the Roman masters gave Shakspeare his chance of competition and his success. The Romans were endued with a strange presentiment, a premonition of impending catastrophe, which was altogether lacking in the Greeks; and Seneca plainly and often revealed the characteristic in his works. The lecturer quoted freely from Seneca's "Thyestes" to show it. "Thyestes," he said, also indicated the wrath and blood with which the writings of the time—as the times themselves—abounded. Shakspeare found in the Roman tragedies a continued struggle with all things in life, and a belief that man, surrounded with numberless problems and sorrows in this world, was thankful to leave it and its turmoils. But Shakspearean tragedy was also noble and serene. It showed the fullest recognition of reward for the greatest trials and troubles. Shakspeare knew that sorrow and sin and shame entered into the heart of life, of truth, of beauty. His tragedies sounded the stern Puritan note—"The wages of sin is death." His ideal, however, was essentially Christian, and he was confident of the peace and the consolation of the hereafter.

IS THE SUN RESPONSIBLE?

Mr. Douglas Mamson, B.Sc., B.E., lecturer on mineralogy and tetrology at the University of Adelaide, said on Monday:—"The Valparaiso disaster reported in this morning's 'Advertiser,' though sudden in its effect, cannot be said to be unexpected, at least, amongst those scientifically interested in such matters. Encircling the Pacific Ocean is a great girdle of volcanoes, which are the expression of the progress of great earth movements, to which are due all seismic phenomena. The belt can be traced from the Antarctic continent, north along the Cordilleran system, determining the west coast of the Americas, turning west near Mount St. Elias, on the Alaskan border, and traveling by way of the Aleutian Islands to Japan, then to Formosa, the Celebes Islands, New Britain, and the islands north of New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, the New Hebrides, to New Zealand, and terminates at Mounta Erebus and Terror, which belch forth molten lava upon the eternal snows of Antarctica. A small and less prominently developed belt diverges in the East Indies, and traversing Java and Sumatra, is connected with the volcanoes of Southern Italy. Another zone, more important to us on account of its proximity, is that tailing away from the main belt at New Zealand, and traversing the Kermadec and Samoan Islands.

"For several years past great seismic activity has been evidenced all over the world, and lately especially in the Pacific zone. This began with the sudden appearance of an island to the south of Japan, and was followed by great earthquakes in Formosa, increased activity of the South Pacific centres, specially violent in the case of one at Samon, the San Francisco disaster, volcanic activity in Central America, and finally this latest disaster at Valparaiso. That there is some cause underlying the sympathetic phenomena of volcanoes seems certain, and a solution brought forward by Lockyer and others holds that they are governed by and are an expression of certain physical conditions of the sun, namely, the presence or absence of sun spots.

"Though we are out of the main track of disturbances affecting the Pacific zone, we shall be much happier when the seismograph promised for the observatory is installed and in working order, aiding to develop the science of seismology, and thereby helping to propound methods for preventing consequent damage to property. It is only by orogenic movements, which are invariably accompanied by volcanoes, that the land has been able to keep its supremacy over the sea, a continual buckling upwards taking place at the same time as the depression of adjacent basins. But for such movements, by degradation of the land, the sea would long since be standing over the whole earth's surface many hundreds of feet deep. By the same causes also was the mid-Pacific continent overwhelmed and sunk beneath the waters till its highest peaks only remain as dry land constituting the South Pacific Islands. Nothing unusual seems to have been chronicled with respect to the Valparaiso earthquake, and it is probably a repetition of that experienced at San Francisco.

"Already a preliminary report of the State Earthquake Investigation Commission, holding meetings at Berkeley, has been published. They prove that the San Francisco earthquake was the result of a great fracture and dislocation of the earth's crust, extending in a remarkably

straight line obliquely across the coast range for a distance of 375 miles. Along 185 miles of this rift, where movement has actually been observed, the displacement has been chiefly horizontal on a nearly vertical plane, and the country to the south-west of the rift has moved north-westerly relatively to the country north-east of the rift. The surface soil presents a continuous furrow generally several feet wide, with transverse cracks which show very plainly the effort of torsion within the zone of movement. All fences, roads, stream courses, pipe-lines, dams, conduits, and property lines, which cross the rift, are dislocated. The amount of dislocation varies. In several instances observed it does not exceed 6 ft. A more common measurement is 8 to 10 ft. In some cases as much as 15 or 16 ft. of horizontal displacement has been observed, whilst in one case a roadway was found to have been differentially moved 20 ft."

News was received by the latest English mail that, Miss Ethel Hantke, of Adelaide, as the result of her last year's work at the Royal Academy of Music, London, had won a silver medal, two bronze medals, two commendations, and the Lloyd exhibition for the best voice of the year and general excellence at all the examinations, which form part of the curriculum of the institution.

Ad. 28th Aug.

RECORD MASS OF GRANITE.

There is to be seen at the monumental works of Mr. W. Laycock, of Waymouth-street, the largest piece of Murray Bridge granite ever brought into Adelaide. It measures 7 ft. by 5 ft. by 3 ft. 6 in., in its worked and polished condition, and weighs 10 tons. This big stone is intended as a pedestal for a statue to be placed in the University grounds, to the memory of Sir Walter Watson Hughes, one of the founders of, and the first donor to, the institution. The statue has been presented by Sir Walter's two surviving nephews, Messrs. John and Walter Hughes, and is now supposed to be on its way out from England. The huge mass of granite looks very handsome in its finished condition. Its weight made it difficult to handle. Twenty horses were required to drag it from the quarry to Murray Bridge, and special scaffolding had to be erected in the workshop before the artisans could get to work upon it. The workmanship reflects great credit on the establishment of Mr. Laycock.

The West Australian 21st Aug. 1906.

MUSIC EXAMINATIONS.

UNIVERSITY RESULTS.

The following is the result of the music examinations by Mr. P. H. Miles for the Adelaide University in conjunction with the Associated Board of the Royal Academy and Royal College of Music. An asterisk signifies with credit:—

L.A.B., Sole Performers.—Piano: M. McDowell, Loretto Convent, Osborne; C. L. Mason, R. D'Arcy-Irvine; R. Meuijens, St. Brigid's Convent, Perth. Singing: E. L. Walker, Miss Isabel Webster.

Local Centre.

Advanced Grade.—Piano: G. K. M. Clinch, R. D'Arcy-Irvine (Perth College); E. M. Glowrey, Loretto Convent, Perth; M. M. Grennan, St. Brigid's Convent, Perth; D. E. Howson, R. D'Arcy-Irvine; M. M. Joyce, Loretto Convent, Perth; A. M. Kennedy, Convent of Mercy, Victoria Square; M. M. McLennan, Convent of Mercy, Victoria Square; *D. Mayhew, Loretto Convent, Osborne; G. W. Menkens, R. D'Arcy-Irvine; P. Orton, R. D'Arcy-Irvine; G. Skamp, Mrs. Curthoys. Singing: I. Juentsch, College of Music, Kalgoorlie. Violin: B. Carr, T. G. McShane, Kalgoorlie.

Intermediate Grade.—Piano: *L. D'Arcy-Irvine, Loretto Convent, Osborne; M. A. O'Connor, St. Brigid's Convent, Perth; A. Paulin, College of Music, Kalgoorlie; G. Sharpe, Loretto Convent, Osborne; L. A. Wilkins, St. Joseph's Convent, Victoria Square; K. A. Wells, St. Brigid's Convent, Perth; A. G. Wilson, St. Brigid's Convent, Perth. C. Yensch, St. Brigid's Convent, Perth. Singing: M. L. Clarke, Bedford College, Perth; *M. E. Jowett, Loretto Convent, Osborne. Violin: E. Pike, Loretto Convent, Perth.

School Examinations.

Higher Division.—Piano: A. Adair, College of Music, Kalgoorlie; E. Baird, Miss Pym, Perth; B. Berry, Loretto Convent, Osborn; M. Bibby, College of Music, Kalgoorlie; N. Bruton, Convent of Mercy, Coolgardie; M. Burke, Loretto Convent, Osborne; E. Chandler, Convent of Mercy, Coolgardie; A. Chapple, College of Music, Kalgoorlie; B. Cooke, Perth College (Miss Pym); M. C. Gorrie, Miss E. Whalley, Claremont; M. Hipswell, College of Music, Kalgoorlie; E. Krug, St. Brigid's Convent, Perth; G. Lukin, Loretto Convent, Osborne; E. McDonald, College of Music, Kalgoorlie; K. M. O'Connor, St. Joseph's Convent, Victoria Square; C. Pearce, Perth College (Miss Pym); J. Reilly, St. Brigid's Convent, Perth; J. Rodgers, College of Music, Kalgoorlie; L. Sinclair, Miss Carey, Claremont; E. Skerags, Professor Burdett, Subiaco. Singing.—M. Ethel, St. Brigid's Convent, Perth; F. Fennell, St. Brigid's Convent, Perth; E. S. Johnson, College of Music, Kalgoorlie; M. Molloy, St. Brigid's Convent, Perth; J. Stevens, College of Music, Kalgoorlie; K. Wells, St. Brigid's Convent, Perth; A. Wilson, St. Brigid's Convent, Perth. Violin: M. Moore, Loretto Convent, Osborne. Cello.—D. Maywood, Miss Parsons, Perth.

Reg 17th Aug 1906.

Reg. 21st Aug.

Professor Ennis, Mus. Doc., and Mr. C. R. Hodge, registrar of the Adelaide University, left by the Orotava for the west on Thursday afternoon. They will visit Perth in order to make arrangements for the new examinations in music, which have lately been instituted by the Universities of Melbourne and Adelaide, and will come into operation next year. For some time the Adelaide University has conducted theoretical examinations in Western Australia, but up to the present a practical examiner has not visited that centre in its interests. Dr. Ennis and Mr. Hodge expect to return to Adelaide about September 3.

PRIMARY PUBLIC EXAMINATION.

The primary public examination in general education will be opened at the Jubilee Exhibition Building to-day, and concluded at the Adelaide University on Friday so far as metropolitan candidates are concerned. There are 977 entries for South Australia, Broken Hill, and Western Australia. There are 15 centres for this State besides Adelaide—Clare, Crystal Brook, Elliston, Jamestown, Kapunda, Koolunga, Laura, Moonta, Mount Barker, Mount Gambier, Mount Pleasant, Narracoorte, Petersburg, Port Pirie, and Renmark. Western Australia has 11 centres, with Perth as the principal one. Last year the entries totalled 891, and the marked increase this year is partly accounted for by the fact that the State schools are showing more interest in the primary public examination. The results may be looked for early in October.