

When in the University the teachers would sit side by side those who were fitting themselves for other avocations, and this would be of benefit to them.

Mr. A. Holloway, in proposing a vote of thanks to His Excellency and the other speakers who had addressed the Conference, said he thought he was voicing the feeling of the meeting when he said he had been greatly pleased by the excellent addresses which had just listened to. (Cheers.) The motion was seconded by Mr. A. A. Wicksteed, and carried with acclamation.—His Excellency, in reply, said: "We all three thank you."

GARDEN PARTY AT VICTORIA PARK.

It was a happy idea of Sir Langdon Bonython to bring the teachers together at a garden party, and a gathering which took place at Victoria Park on Monday afternoon will enable them to look back upon the 1899 Conference with pleasant recollections. The weather was not promising early in the afternoon, but later on the threatening clouds gave place to sunbeams, and everything was as cheerful as it possibly could be. Victoria Park on such a day is an ideal place for a garden party. The well-tended lawns, the stately, healthy palms, and the flowering plants made promenading a delight, and the beauty of the surroundings was enhanced by strings of many-coloured flags stretched across the grounds in all directions. Mr. S. R. Heseltine, Secretary of the Adelaide Racing Club, superintended the general arrangements, and his good taste was only exceeded by the brilliancy of the effect which the decorative work produced. Messrs. C. F. Newman & Son adorned the front of the Grand Stand with foliage, and over the entrance to the refreshment-room, invitingly laid out by Mr. Beach, the word "Welcome" was set up in Cape Colony everlasting flowers. Sir Langdon and Lady Bonython received their guests on a carpeted square of the lawn. There were about 800 guests, and the gathering was thoroughly representative of educational walks. Teachers, of course, predominated, and among those present were the Minister of Education, Hon. R. Butler, and his Secretary, Mr. J. Bath; the Treasurer, Hon. F. W. Holder; the Commissioner of Public Works, Hon. J. G. Jenkins; the Chancellor of the University and Lady Way; the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Barlow; the Mayor of Adelaide, Mr. A. W. Ware, and the Mayoress; the Bishop of Adelaide, Right Rev. Dr. Harmer; and many representatives of other denominations; Messrs. L. W. Stanton, T. Burgan, and C. L. Whitham, members of the School Board of Inspectors; Mr. C. B. Whillas, President of the Teachers' Conference; officers of and intercolonial delegates to that body; the Commissioner of Police, Colonel Madley; a score of politicians; Sir Edwin and Lady Smith; Messrs. R. Kyffin Thomas and W. J. Sowden, of "The Register" proprietor; and many other leading and representative colonists. The Archbishop of Adelaide, Most Rev. Dr. O'Reilly, and the Premier apologised for their unavoidable absence. The presence of the Locomotive Band added to the enjoyment of the gathering.

UNIVERSITY CONVERSATION.

The accommodation provided by the University library was taxed to the utmost on Monday evening, when the members of the Union attended at the University in response to the invitation of the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, and Council. In the unavoidable absence of the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Barlow, received the guests. The main feature of the evening's entertainment was a concert by students of the Elder Conservatorium. The following musical and elocutionary programme was successfully carried out:—Piano solo, "Polish dances," Miss May Manning; song, "Angels guard thee," Miss Adela Croft, with violin obbligato by Miss A. Gladys Thomas; recitation, "The doom of Claudius," Mr. Frank Pullin; violin solo, "Nocturne," Miss Gwendoline Pelly (Elder scholar); recitation, "The masterpiece of brother Felix," Miss Marie Edmeades; violin solo, (a) "Premier chagrin," (b) "Bolero" (dance Espagnoles), Miss Doris Cloud; song, "The everlasting day," Miss Ethel Hantke; string quartet, (a) "Sphaerenmusik," (b) "The mill," Miss Nora K. Thomas (Elder scholar), Miss A. Gladys Thomas, and Master Alderman, assisted by Herr Kugelberg. The manner in which the various numbers were rendered reflected the greatest credit on the performers. The concert was much appreciated, as the frequent outbursts of applause amply testified. Meanwhile visitors of a more scientific turn of mind had a rare opportunity of spending a pleasant and instructive hour in the various laboratories and classrooms. In the chemical lecture-room Professor Rennie gave an interesting and instructive lecture on the liquefaction of gases in relation to the new discovery of liquid air. The Professor gave a lucid explanation of the effects of cold in liquefying gases, and conducted a number of experiments with the object of showing the methods of obtaining liquid gas by pressure, rapid evaporation, and other means. The Professor was heartily cheered by the large audience which witnessed the experiments. In the chemical laboratory Mr. A. J. Higgin and students conducted a number of interesting chemical experiments, and explained the various portions of the apparatus and their uses. The physical laboratory was under the control of Mr. J. B. Allen, and Mr. J. H. M. Davidson exhibited and described a "talking-machine" in the museum. A microscopic exhibition was given by Mr. W. Fuller in the biological laboratory. The most interesting experiment of the evening, however, was conducted by Professor Bragg, who explained the new method of telegraphing without wires. The Professor had a receiving instrument fitted up in the library, and during the evening he received and interpreted several messages which had been forwarded from the Adelaide Observatory by means of ether waves.

MR. C. B. WHILLAS.

The retiring President of the Public Teachers' Union, Mr. C. B. Whillas, was born in Edinburgh in 1848. He was educated at one of the "Heriot" Schools in that city, and received his training as a pupil teacher at the same institution. After spending a few years in the Edinburgh public service Mr. Whillas decided to emigrate to South Australia, and landed in this colony in 1870. For two years after his arrival he was employed as a teacher at Whinham College, North Adelaide. He then secured employment in the Education Department, and has remained in the service ever since. He has had charge of the Riverton, Moonta, Hindmarsh, and Flinders-street schools, and now occupies the position of Master of the Hindmarsh School for the second time. Mr. Whillas was for some time Treasurer of the Public Teachers' Union, and was elected to the office of President in September last.

Caulfield Barton.

Register 26th Sept. 1899.

"Caulfield Barton," Port Pirie, regrets that the Musical Board of Musical Studies have placed the appointment of a new Professor of the Pianoforte in the hands of the Guildhall authorities, and is certain that the result will be unsatisfactory.

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SCHOOL TEACHERS AND THE UNIVERSITY.

To the Editor.

Sir—I see from the reports of the annual Conference of the Public Teachers' Union that the University is making a generous offer to educate our public school pupil teachers. Would it not be well to ask how long the educational authorities will allow young people of ordinary mental calibre for study to take the University degree, and yet devote sufficient time to the practical work of teaching to enable them to become properly trained teachers? From the time of leaving the public school it takes a smart lad who has gained a Government scholarship at one of our public schools fully six years to take a degree at the University. The question may well be asked in the cause of humanity, for under the present system many of our young people find the work a severe tax upon their physical and mental strength, and that at a critical period of their lives.

I am, Sir, &c.,

MENS SANA IN CORPORE SANI.

Register 27th Sept. 1899.

PUBLIC TEACHERS' UNION.

FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

SECOND DAY.

The fourth annual Conference of the Teachers' Union was continued at the Trades Hall, Grote-street, on Tuesday morning. Sir Langdon Bonython, President of the Adelaide Teachers' Association, occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance.

THE CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

Sir Langdon Bonython, received with acclamation, said:—Will you allow me to congratulate the members of this Conference on the very excellent speech made from this chair yesterday by His Excellency the Governor! If Lord Tennyson is not an educational expert I think it would be difficult to find one. He delivered an address which will give value to the record of the proceedings of this Conference. It was full of wise suggestion, clearly the result of close observation, and his remarks with reference to literature are worthy of the author of a work which is already an English classic. (Cheers.) Twelve months have passed since I addressed you from this platform, and in the meantime there has been no cessation in the making of history. In every department of the world's work there has been unusual activity, but possibly in none more than in that which relates to education. Pierce commercial competition makes it compulsory that people should be well educated. The nation that disregards this fact will go down just as surely as the country surrounded by foes which neglects its defence. (Hear, hear.) At the present time a struggle is proceeding, bloodless it may be, but as disastrous to the vanquished as warfare of the old type. Germany and France are attacking England's mercantile marine—not with battleships, but by means of subsidised steam services, which carry the manufactures of those countries to all parts of the world. "Made in Germany" used to be a term of more or less contempt; to-day it is a distinct advertisement. The explanation is simple enough. Years ago

the rulers of Germany grasped the situation. They saw that if they wished as a nation to achieve commercial success they must have an educated people. They took action accordingly, and now they have not merely good primary schools, but a system of education which carries the pupil from infancy to adult years. Is it any wonder then that the workers of Great Britain are finding formidable rivals in the carefully trained artisans of Germany? Let it not be supposed that what has been said applies exclusively to the mother country. Here in Australia, with conditions quite different, the same principle will be found in operation. Very soon we shall be a Federation, and if South Australians are to retain their hold of local markets and to go further afield they will have to be prepared to face stern competition. To do this successfully we must be a trained community, with knowledge and capacity to turn all opportunities and every advantage to the best account. (Hear, hear.) These colonies are discovering that in the way of education very much more is needed than their primary systems. The Universities do excellent work, but they necessarily leave untouched large sections of the people, and to make further provisions for them technical schools are springing up in the great centres of population. When the child passes the compulsory standard of the primary school, or reaches the age of thirteen, he should not be left to his own devices, just as if there were no question as to his being properly equipped to discharge all the duties of citizenship. (Cheers.) If I had my way, I would make it compulsory on every lad, after going to work, to attend school at night for so many hours each quarter. In taking up this position, I am glad to know that I am in accord with Sir John Gorst, who has done so much for the cause of education in Great Britain, and with Lord Tennyson, as I learn from his speech. The instruction such lads would receive would, of course, be largely technical, and have special reference to the work in which they were engaged in the daytime. There are people who may regard such a proposal as harsh, seeing that it would curtail leisure and reduce time for recreation, but such people should remember that the best of our young folk voluntarily attend school at night now, and as to the others, in view of the great good that must result, their wishes need receive no special consideration. We must train our young people. If they themselves approve, so much the better; but train them we must, whether they approve or not. (Hear, hear.) What I have said relates for the most part to young men; but there is a growing disposition in England and elsewhere to provide for the needs of young women. This is being done by arrangements for teaching domestic economy. The object aimed at is to give girls such a thorough and systematic training as will fit them to become capable managers of their own houses, or if they choose domestic service as a means of earning their livelihood, will enable them to obtain a better start in life, and in either case to secure a real grasp of the principles which underlie the various branches of housewifery. Manuals have been published dealing with the different subjects, and they are marvellous little volumes—so full of information, so interesting, and in many cases written in a most attractive style. Every one will concur that there is no department of science which can be of more benefit to the public generally than the chemistry of common life, and even that branch which covers the operations of laundry work can, we are told, be made extremely interesting if taught thoroughly and intelligently in connection with practical demonstration. It must be within the knowledge of many here that Professor Bragg, of the Adelaide University, was in England last year. Whilst there he was good enough to write for the Council of the School of Mines and Industries a very valuable and most interesting report on the schools where domestic economy is taught. The Professor was enthusiastic in their praise. "I cannot but think," he writes, "that you will be as much impressed by these schools as I have been, if my description gives you anything like a clear idea of their nature and aim. Surely it is a great thing to make homes healthier and thriftier, brighter and more attractive. If the housewife can make one shilling go as far as 1s. 3d. went before she has practically raised her husband's wages 25 per cent., and the rise is an absolute gain to the community; it has not come out of some one else's pocket." (Hear, hear.) After referring to the spread of the movement in England, Sir Langdon went on. In view of all I have stated it is not now time something was done in South Australia to teach domestic economy in a systematic way? It is true that in connection with some of our city schools cookery has been taught, but all that has been done so far has been more or less spasmodic. What is wanted is that a definite and comprehensive plan should be thought out, and instructions given in cookery and all the other subjects to which I have referred. Of course, you understand that I do not propose further to load the curriculum of the primary schools. In making our girls efficient housewives we shall make them intelligent women, and if intelligent women are mated to well-educated and carefully trained men surely if there is anything at all in heredity we may look to the future with much hopefulness. (Hear, hear.) To how many people has it come home that a silent but quite extraordinary revolution has taken place during the last twenty-five years? The notion certainly prevailed that manual work was more or less degrading. Does that notion exist to-day? Possibly to some extent, but it is rapidly disappearing, carried away by the force of circumstances. (Cheers.) In all good schools and Colleges manual work is now taught as part of the ordinary course. What has been the result? An uplifting of numerous occupations. Does some one enquire as to how this has been brought about? The answer is that these occupations are followed by men of worth and education, and they have added dignity to their callings. It is now just as genteel to be an electrical engineer as to be a doctor, to be a metal-lurgist as to be a lawyer. And what an all-round gain this has proved. Instead of men pouring into professions already overcrowded, they are going into other walks of life, in every way just as honorable.