

other. The translations into Esperanto from the classics of modern languages had been intended merely to illustrate its wonderful elasticity and thoroughness. For many centuries the need for some auxiliary language medium, easily learnable, had been felt among all nations. Unfortunately, owing to many previous failures, the nations lost hope that any one could succeed in the creation of an efficient key language. But the instrument had been found; the invention by Dr. Zamenhof, was the great auxiliary language medium for which the race had been looking for four centuries. To-day they could assure their opponents that among their fellow-fighters were the wisest and best men and women in the world. The Esperanto standard, the green star, shone everywhere. The language was easily learned, most eubonious, lent itself to the expression of all thoughts and ideas; was the elected language medium for drawing the races closer; was necessary in the future administration of international affairs; was the only language medium proved in every respect useful for international intercourse. It was in itself the most simple solution of international controversies; the great peace instrument, the golden key which had unlocked the gate through which the peoples of the world should pass into the new Shinar, fraternally understanding one another. It was destined for the service of the nations, and humanity asked for it. They esteemed the presence of the foremost citizens of Adelaide at the presentation of the delegates to the Mayor of Adelaide (Mr. Lewis Cohen), and the kindness of His Excellency the Governor, the Premier and Ministers, the Chancellor and professors of the University, the Acting Director of Education, and representatives of art, science, literature, commerce, and trade. Their chief duty as fervent and sincere Esperantists was to make their present opponents future fellow-workers. He drew attention to the indefatigable hon. secretary (Mr. J. Lyall), who from the beginning had put his shoulder to the wheel with such energy that nothing had been left undone. In the name of the South Australian Esperantists he heartily welcomed the delegates from the other States. After this first congress they would have an Australian congress every year in one or other capital city, and sooner or later would send delegates to international congresses, and hold an international congress in Australia. They might then possibly welcome their esteemed master, Dr. Zamenhof, in their beloved land. (Applause.)

—Mr. Uhrlaub's Address.—

Mr. C. A. Uhrlaub supported the President's welcome to the delegates, and thanked Mr. Leschen for his kindly references to his own work. But he could not accept such praise without referring to his friend Mr. C. Wittber, head master of Gilles Street Public School, who had kindly given him the first textbooks in Esperanto, pointed out its admirable construction, and wished him from the bottom of his heart the fullest success in his pioneer work as an Esperanto apostle. (Applause.) He had often discussed the desirableness of such a congress with Adelaide Esperantists, and as soon as Mr. Leschen decided to take the matter in hand the seed took life, as by the wand of a magician. The work Mr. Leschen had done in connection with the successful realization of that first Australian Esperanto Congress had been stupendous, and he deserved the honour of being the first President. (Applause.) They had to thank him for having brought about a greater unanimity among the various Esperanto groups in the State. (Applause.) From the Victorian delegation they sadly missed the face of the late Dr. McBurney, from whose lips he had first heard the sound of Esperanto in a voice other than his own. But, although the late Dr. McBurney was not with them in the flesh, who should say that he might not be with them and among them in the spirit? (Applause.)

—An Australian Examination Board.—

Dr. A. E. Shepherd said that although the spread of Esperanto had been slow in Australia compared with other parts of the world, that first Congress of Australian Esperantists was a magnificent evidence that the importance of the movement had reached the Sunny South. The time had arrived to seriously consider means of clearing the way for young students to attain the highest efficiency. That could be done most effectually through State branches of an Australian Esperanto Association. But that was not sufficient. The present method of gaining a diploma was too cumbersome, and took too much time. A candidate had to send to England for the examination papers, return them to England for correction, and if he succeeded the coveted diploma would reach him in

six months from his first steps to seek examination. To avoid that delay a Federal examination board with duly qualified representatives in each State was required, empowered to issue diplomas for the highest efficiency. The memoranda of association provided for three examiners in each State, but did not make clear that these boards were branches of a Federal board. To make that clear he suggested that they should establish a Federal board with a separate board of three members in each State, one of whom should be a member of the Federal board, each State President (ex-officio) to be a member of the State board. These boards would conduct examinations in their own States, written and viva voce. The written results (together with a report by the examiners in the viva voce test) should be forwarded to the central secretary, for the final confirmation by the Federal board. The British Esperanto Association would gladly do everything to encourage the progress of the language in Australia by recognition of local results. In view of what Australians had done in other branches of knowledge and attainment, they were eminently entitled to reject with scorn the suggestion that Australian Esperantists were not yet capable to adopt a method of self-government in regard to the world movement of Esperanto. (Applause.)

—Five-minute Addresses.—

Mr. W. J. Drummond (secretary of the Victorian Congress Executive), speaking on "Esperanto and its ideals," held that Esperanto would prove one of the best factors in dispelling the racial antipathy between nations, and welding them into friendship.

Mr. J. Pike (Victoria), spoke on "Esperanto and pleasure."

Dr. Love (Victoria), gave a humorous address on "Esperanto and travel." He detailed amusing experiences during a visit to the Continent as the result of the confusion caused by the language difficulty. Esperanto was useful to the traveller and in correspondence with people in foreign lands. Among the professed ideals of the Commonwealth was that of "a white Australia."

He did not think they could long maintain a white Australia, for in process of time, in the north at any rate, the colour would gradually approximate to black. (Laughter.) No declaration of policy had given such offence to their Asiatic neighbours as had the White Australia policy. It had caused more bitter feeling than anything else; and there would be still further trouble in the future if they did not take some steps to allay the antipathy that had been generated. He recommended intercommunication with the far Eastern countries by means of Esperanto as one means of promoting friendly feeling.

Mr. K. C. S. Potts (Victoria) dealt with the topic, "Esperanto and international congresses." He said the want of a common medium of conversation was most felt at such congresses. There was to-day only one language capable of adequately standing every test in international gatherings—their own Kara lingvo, Esperanto. Its utility had been already demonstrated at the international Esperanto congresses held in different parts of the world—where delegates from various countries had met on a common ground—and demonstrated with a result that could satisfy even the most severe critic.

Mr. A. H. Johnson discussed "Esperanto and education."

Mr. W. A. Edmanson (V.) said that there was nothing like a language for the promotion of a perfect feeling between their "nation of shopkeepers" and those in other countries. The markets of the world were open to them, and they had the key to them in Esperanto.

Mr. J. Skurrie (W.A.) delivered an interesting address which detailed the progress of Esperanto in various lands.

Mr. J. Pike, advocating the study of Esperanto from the standpoint of the pleasure to be derived from it, said they "could dare more in the brother tongue than in the mother tongue."

Miss Aston (a blind lady from Victoria) told how Esperanto had given the sightless a new delight in corresponding with Esperanto friends in other countries.

Mr. G. Collingrove de Tourcy (Sydney) took for his theme "Esperanto and art." Knowing how the fine arts would prosper by being placed in touch with the esthetic movement throughout the world, he had recently formed an Esperanto Art Society in Sydney. Since then he had heard of an Esperanto publication on the life of Albrecht Durer and other important art details printed in the new auxiliary language, that was destined to sweep away all impediments to civilization and amity.

Dr. Kendall (Victorian President) referred to "Esperanto in relation to science," and said he had through its use been able to conduct an interesting professional correspondence with a doctor in Russia.

—Postal Greetings.—

Among postal greetings received was one from the seventh World's Esperanto Congress at Antwerp, signed by Dr. Zamenhof, Dr. J. Pollen (President of the British Esperanto Association), and Messrs. E. Bourac (President of the Linguists' Esperanto Academy), H. Bolingbroke Mudie (President of the London Esperanto Association), W. H. Mann (Editor of The British Esperantist). A former South Australian (Mr. G. Alingren), now resident in Norway; the Esperanto group at Fremantle, the Zamenhof Club at Sydney, and Mr. Frank Clindenning (Renmark), the first St. Peter's boy to learn Esperanto, also sent greetings.

It was decided to form an Australian Esperanto Association, and the memorandum and articles of association were passed. The next congress was fixed for Melbourne, and it was resolved that the whole of the officers this year should be South Australians, with the understanding that next year's officers be Victorians.

—At Victoria Park.—

In the afternoon delegates accepted the invitation of the Mayor of Adelaide (Mr. L. Cohen), and attended the mayoral garden party at Victoria Park.

—President's Reception.—

In the evening about 100 people attended the reception given by the President at the Adelaide Cafe, King William street.

Mr. Leschen, in welcoming the guests, said it was only four months since he had first made up his mind to look into Esperanto. He had no sooner done so than he saw what a charming and wonderful language it was. With hearty co-operation from friends on the other side of the border the first Australian Esperanto Congress had been launched. He took it as an honour to Adelaide that it should have been held in the South Australian capital, and thanked those from over the border who had assisted in the movement. No congress could have been conducted in happier circumstances, and he believed a great deal would come out of it. The purpose of that evening's programme was to give their friends an idea of the sound of Esperanto in speech, song, and music. Anybody with half an hour's study daily could soon master Esperanto. The interest in it was shown by the fact that at the last international congress 40 countries were represented. In any land it was only necessary to find where the green star was and they would make themselves understood in Esperanto. If leading firms would adopt Esperanto in their foreign correspondence its general use would speedily follow. (Applause.)

Miss Tilly Aston, a blind lady from Victoria, gave an address on "What Esperanto can do for the blind," and sang "The race of Asra" and "Beautiful roses" (in Esperanto, "Belaj Rozetoj"). Miss Vera Thrush, who had never seen Esperanto before, sang "What are the wild waves saying?" in the new language at the first reading in company with Mr. H. C. Thrush, and "Juanita," as a solo. Mr. W. L. Edmanson (Victoria) recited "How Ruby played" and "Hamlet's soliloquy." Mr. C. A. Uhrlaub, "The fairy of the light," and Mr. W. J. Drummond (Victoria), "Brutus's oration"—all in Esperanto; and the Esperantists present joined in two choruses. To-day the delegates will be entertained at a picnic at the National Park.

—Officers.—

Officers were elected as follows:—President, Mr. Hugo Leschen; Vice-President, Dr. A. E. Shepherd; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. Bowman; Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. Lyall; Committee, Messdames W. Hogg (President of the Adelaide group) and Lumsdon, Miss Fullman, and Messrs. W. Smith, F. E. Blace, and J. Skurrie.

The congress was then closed with votes of thanks to all who had contributed to make it a success.