

NEW EPOCH IN BIOLOGY.

LIGHT ON CANCER.

Professor T. B. Robertson, of the University of California, is a guest of Professor E. C. Stirling, C.M.G., at Unley Park, where a representative of The Register had a chat with him on Saturday morning on the biological side of his career. The visitor remarked:—"I went to California from Adelaide five years ago as a junior assistant in the laboratory, having been attracted there by the fame of Professor Lloyd, probably the leading biologist of the day. While I was a student in South Australia I had done some research work, which I submitted to Professor Lloyd, and asked him whether he had any position vacant in his laboratory, whereupon he kindly offered me the post of junior assistant. I held it for a year and a half, when I was promoted to the rank of instructor, which corresponds to that of a lecturer at the Adelaide University. Twelve months later I attained the rank of assistant professor, and held that position until the present American summer, when Professor Lloyd left California for an important opening in the Rockefeller Institute. His chair at the University of California has been split into two—physiology, and physiological chemistry and pharmacology—and I have been given the latter. During the whole of the period in question I have been engaged in research work, notably on the chemical properties and behaviour of the group of substances known as proteins, which are, perhaps, the substances most characteristic of living matter, because they are found only in matter that has been living or has been derived from living matter. I have also been investigating the physics and chemistry of cell division, growth, and certain phases of the activity of the central nervous system. During the whole of the period I have had the privilege of being associated closely with Professor Lloyd and his work, and I have been able to watch the development of a new epoch in biology. Seven years ago the problems centreing around the processes of fertilization and cell division and growth seemed to be wrapped in obscurity, but to-day, thanks mainly to the labours of Professor Lloyd, we have a very clear insight into the nature of the chemical and physical processes which underlie these phenomena. The lecture which I intend to give in Adelaide on Tuesday evening will be devoted mainly to a simple and untechnical description of this work, of the results obtained from it, and of the importance of these results to the science of medicine. The most recent results of Professor Lloyd's work are leading us remarkably near to an understanding of the real nature of cancer, and I think we may confidently look forward to preventing or controlling cancer by following up the fields of investigation opened by Professor Lloyd."

Professor Robertson will leave Adelaide on Friday for Sydney, where, on July 4, he will join the steamer Makura on the journey back to California.

SENIOR LATIN AT THE UNIVERSITY.

To the Editor.

Sir—There is a movement on foot to alter completely the curriculum in senior Latin. The usual text-books are to be dispensed with, and their place taken by three Latin grammars. It is usually understood that a language is studied academically for the sake of its literature, and beginners are given a taste for the classics by reading the masterpieces of the master minds of former ages. If South Australian students are condemned to a dreary process of dry grammar-munching, all love for Latin literature will fade away. Surely literature was made before grammar! One book is by a professor at the University, and is more than half Greek. Why should Latin students be obliged to purchase what will never be of any use to them whatever? As a text-book for students at the University this book may be excellent, but for the average schoolboy and schoolgirl it is almost valueless. And then to load them up with two other grammars, each calling certain constructions by different names—this will be "confusion worse confounded." For grammar in all languages, except French, is a concoction of faddists—however useful it may be. It is to be hoped that the educational council of the University will see fit to keep one grammar, and the usual two text-books, and that the teachers will enter their protest before it is too late.—I am, &c.

JULIUS CAESAR.

Sir—I have read the letter signed "Julius Caesar" in your issue of July 9, and I quite agree with him that the Latin text books should be studied by all who take the subject. It is difficult enough for a beginner to learn from one Latin grammar without confusing himself with three, and one hardly knows what to call a subjunctive since each grammarian has his own "fancy" name for each particular kind. Having been plucked once for "corrigenda" not corrected I write feelingly on the subject.—I am, &c.,

TIMOTHY.

Advertiser, July 11th 1910

UNIVERSITY SPORTS GROUND.

The University sports ground will be formally opened by his Excellency the Governor this afternoon, at 2.30, on the occasion of the inter-University lacrosse match between the Universities of Melbourne and Adelaide. A large number of invitations have been issued, and it is expected that, weather permitting, the function will mark the beginning of a new period in connection with University sports. The order of the proceedings will be:—Opening of the oval, 2.30; lacrosse match, at 3 p.m.; afternoon tea, at 4 p.m. The Municipal Tramways Trust Band will render selections during the afternoon.

Advertiser, July 9th 1910

Advertiser, July 12th 1910

SENIOR LATIN AT THE UNIVERSITY.

To the Editor.

Sir—I thank "Louis XIV." for deigning to notice the insignificant remarks of "Julius Caesar," and accept "in all friendliness" his criticisms. Taking Nelson's advice as to "when you see a Frenchman," I proceed to deal with "Louis XIV.'s" weak attempt to bolster up his cause. He says suitable textbooks are not available. The works of Julius Caesar have been studied for nearly 2,000 years, but professors relegate these nowadays to the woodheap. Stories of battles, building of bridges, deeds of daring by ancient Romans, are readily appreciated by the average schoolboy even if his "knowledge of grammar is so vague." Publishers have produced pictorial editions of the classics, which ought to satisfy the most fastidious, and in many cases the full text has been abridged, so that there should be no difficulty in choosing eminently suitable works. "Louis XIV." may wish to boom the study of Greek, but he will never do it by forcing a grammar diet. Towards the end of his epistle the "friendly" remarks of "Louis" turn "acid," and he becomes "sarcastic." On a second perusal of the new book I find 16 pages devoted to Latin, some of these pages containing about a dozen lines, so that if the Latin were published separately a small twopenny pamphlet of a dozen pages would include all "the needful." A charge of 1/ would readily be paid for this, for it would enhance a student's chances of studying the examiner's fads. The student would overlook the 13 errors, even when passed by two M.A.'s and a B.A. And, as it will always continue to be set, the 338 Latin students—not 100, "Louis," look at your syllabus—might benefit, and the 72 Greek students can speculate their "shiny bob" in their own line. What I objected to was the setting of "three" grammars. There can be no objection to a professor prescribing his own book. The silly remark about "soon being a millionaire" might have some force if the charge had been a guinea a copy. Having listened to the learned professor—"ex ejus lingua melle dulcior fuit oratio"—who has made the study of the classics more popular than ever before in South Australia, I feel sure he will not upset the existing order of things by so drastic a change; and if this brief discussion sells a few more of his books and gives him a few more threepenny-bits, no one will be more delighted than "Julius Caesar." My remarks close here, for I recognise the futility of argument when the powers that be decide on a certain course. One might as well argue with the Tramways Trust.—I am, &c.,

JULIUS CAESAR.

SENIOR LATIN AT THE UNIVERSITY.

To the Editor.

Sir—In reference to "Julius Caesar's" letter of July 9, I would in all friendliness like to make the following remarks:—1. Not many beginners are given a taste for classical literature by "doing" the senior text books. Generally their knowledge of the grammar is so vague that the crispness of the author's thought is lost before they have puzzled out the technicalities. 2. The Latin and Greek prose available for text books is of a sort very interesting to senior schoolboys. Philosophy and oratory do not appeal to them very much. 3. The proposed system of which "Julius" speaks would lay a good foundation for the University course, obviating some of its drudgery, and vastly increasing the interest and "grasp." 4. That the "syntax" referred to will be "almost valueless to the average schoolboy" has yet to be proved. To some it seems a much-needed and well-treated correlation of the two languages, and a production that we should be proud has been written and published in South Australia. The simultaneous study of Latin and Greek is to be encouraged, and all students going on to the University need at least the senior standard in both. 5. Perhaps some provision will be made for Latin students who satisfactorily prove that the sevenpence-halfpenny for the Greek portion is beyond their means. "Julius Caesar" seems to object to one of the books for the suggested new curriculum being "by a professor at the University." The profit to the author must be quite 3d. per copy, and, considering the enormous number of senior Latin students in South Australia (100 a year, do you think?) it is very evident that the professor referred to will soon be a millionaire.—I am, &c.,

LOUIS XIV.