

from The Tribune:—An elaborate treatise which is remarkable for the logical sequence of its arrangement, the comprehensiveness of its survey, the penetration of its analysis, and the lucidity of its language. A review in Nature a month or two ago said much the same thing, and in the current number of The Hibbert Journal there is a three-page review ending, 'Such are some of the outstanding features of this book. So brief an account, however, necessarily fails to do justice to the wealth in effective analysis and insight into the meaning of theoretical and practical problems.' The Manchester Guardian says:—'Most textbooks are to a great extent compilations and summaries of other men's work, but Professor Mitchell gives us a very able and original investigation of our experience, which may be read with profit by teachers and experts, as well as by students. The book contains an elaborate and illuminating treatment of the leading problems in all the main departments of psychology.' About Professor Henderson's book the remarkable thing is the emphatic praise of it as expert work in history. The reviews are strong on the amount of original research in it. I think it is The Daily Telegraph which ends its review by saying the book should be a model for all future biographers of the builders of the Empire. The Times, The Standard, and other Conservative papers are as emphatic on its impartiality as the Radical papers, which are naturally more in sympathy with the democratic ideals of Sir George Grey and his biographer. They all say something like this from the review in The Spectator:—'The importance of this study of his achievements, his failures, and his ideals consists in its lucid suggestion of the lines along which democracy and Empire may march hand in hand.' Professor Darnley Naylor (classics), the latest addition to the University staff, has been here only a short period; but it is an open secret that he also has a book on its way through the press.

—A Good Record.—

"It should, in justice, be added that the professors labour under considerable disabilities in their endeavours to carry on research work. The machinery of a small university is almost as complicated as that of a large one, and there are fewer hands to keep it going. Each professor has to cover a wide field of knowledge, and that tends to prevent specialization. He has many students to teach, and yet few of them repay him by remaining at the university, after having taken their degrees, and assisting him with the details of the work. In the larger universities the advanced students render material aid. When this is borne in mind, and it is remembered also that the rapid survey I have made of the results actually achieved is necessarily imperfect, it will be clear that the record is one of which neither the University nor South Australians have any cause to be ashamed."

Advertiser Feb. 3rd 1908.

ASTRONOMY IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

To the Editor.

Sir—It would indeed be lamentable if, through the transference of officials to the Federal Meteorological Bureau, the astronomical work hitherto done here were allowed to lapse. Although for many years only a minimum amount has been done, yet that small amount has contributed to the well-being and intellectual pleasure of our people, and has helped through interchange of thought with other observatories to make South Australia known all over the world. Moreover, there has always been the hope that when good seasons came the Government would be able to add to the staff and to buy more appliances for up-to-date work. The recent purchase by this State of a seismograph is encouraging. Doubtless Sir Charles Todd formerly, and latterly Mr. Griffiths and his assistants, would have been very glad if it had been made possible for them to do research work such as is being carried on by the Western Australian Government Astronomer and men in other lands. In fact, with a little help, it seems possible now not only to "keep the time of the colony," as was and is still done by observation of stars here, but also to co-operate in the important mapping out of the Southern sky which is being attempted by certain observatories south of the equator, taking a special zone of the heavens for detailed work. And surely State Ministers will now see their way to spending on this £300 or £400 a year of the money hitherto voted for the

observatory and used mainly for weather work, which is now paid for by the Federal Government. If they cannot afford wholly to adopt the scheme mentioned in your account of the University council meeting, it might yet be possible to appoint one or two young State officials to work solely at astronomy, under the tuition and with the help, for a time at least, of those who, under the late Government Astronomer and during his absence, have, in spite of difficulties, so ably carried on the work. Perhaps, too, the learned professor of our University who is a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and vice-president of the South Australian branch, would consent to be one of a board of honorary directors, such as direct the Melbourne Observatory. Even a salaried professor, as doubtless practical astronomers like Sir Charles Todd know from personal experience, is unable to give more than a fraction of his time to the practical working of an observatory. But if this university plan should do no more than fix the attention of the Government on astronomical work in South Australia it will have done much good and earned the gratitude of hundreds in our State who do now, as did the Psalmist of old, reach out towards the realms of space and feel their souls uplifted by the glories of the heavens.—I am, &c.,  
ASTRONOMICAL.

Register Feb. 4th 1908.

WANTED. A CHAIR OF ASTRONOMY.

On Monday morning the Chancellor of the University (the Right Hon. Sir Samuel Way), Professors Bragg and Chapman, and the registrar (Mr. C. R. Hodge) waited on the Treasurer (Hon. A. H. Peake) and asked the Government to help in establishing a Chair of Astronomy at the University of Adelaide, and in bringing the Observatory on West terrace under the control of that institution. Sir Samuel Way pointed out that the staff necessary had been estimated as follows:—A professor-astronomer, at a salary of £500, which was placed at £100 a year less than the normal salary of the University, in consequence of there being a residence available; and assistant at £200; and a cadet at £30 a year, plus his education at the University. In addition, there would be wear and tear of instruments and buildings, making the total cost £830, less £100 the University would contribute in consideration of the professor giving part of his time to that institution and to lectures in physics. It was pointed out that nine-tenths of the universities of the world taught astronomy, and the speakers dwelt at length on the study from the practical and educational points of view. The Treasurer, in reply, said that the Meteorological Department had been taken over by the Commonwealth, and the Constitution contemplated the same thing in regard to the Astronomical Department. Mr. Denkin had agreed to Mr. Dodwell temporarily undertaking certain observatory duties pending arrangements for carrying out the work in the future. He quite agreed as to the importance of continuing the practical work, whether it was done by the State or the Commonwealth. There was no denying the fact that the establishment of a Chair of Astronomy and other chairs as well at the University would be of great importance to students and the public generally. The question was in developing these schemes should they go to the Government every time or appeal to private munificence. They should separate the practical part from the scheme now put forward in regard to the University. The latter might be considered on its merits. It only remained to say what amount the University could put up and what amount they had a right to go to the Government for. He would lay the matter before his colleagues.

ASTRONOMICAL EDUCATION.

OBSERVATORY AND UNIVERSITY.

DEPUTATION TO THE TREASURER.

A deputation, consisting of the Chancellor of the Adelaide University (Right Hon. Sir Samuel Way), Professors Bragg and Chapman, and the registrar (Mr. C. R. Hodge) waited on the Treasurer (Hon. A. H. Peake) on Monday morning with a request for the transfer of the Observatory on West terrace to the Adelaide University, in terms of Professor Bragg's scheme published in The Register on Wednesday last.

—The Chancellor's Speech.—

Sir Samuel Way said the deputation made its representations on public grounds purely, and no one connected with the University had any personal axe to grind. Half a century ago Sir Charles Todd had been imported, when the sole telegraphic service was a private line to the Port, which the Government afterwards purchased. The business of the twin electrical and postal departments had expanded enormously, and had been worked by Sir Charles in the face of many difficulties with consummate ability. Before the joining together of those departments Sir Charles had greatly developed the astronomical part of his duties. After he became Postmaster-General it was impossible for him to sit up all night observing the stars, and assistance had been given him. The State had an observatory which cost £2,500, and instruments worth a like amount. Every one would regret if that expenditure were to be wasted. It would be impossible to carry on the astronomical work by means of volunteers, though it could be so supplemented, as within his own recollection the work in Melbourne had been when the present large telescope was first obtained by Victoria. The glass being much larger than Lord Rosse's famous instrument, a number of young men banded themselves together to help, under a governing body, of whom Sir Charles Burton was a member. There was an Astronomical Society in Adelaide, which manifested great enthusiasm in spite of considerable difficulties, and he did not doubt that any aid that might be required would be willingly rendered by its members. It was only necessary to mention that the agreement recently arrived at in relation to the disputed boundary between Victoria and South Australia was the result of the work of that society, and the observations of Sir Charles Todd with the instruments in possession of this State. There was no knowing at what moment similar circumstances might arise. Sir Charles Todd had taken a deep practical interest in the subject matter of the deputation, and it was only through advanced years and the entreaties of his family that he was prevented from being present on such a hot day. They had had the advantage of his counsel in the practical scheme they proposed, that the work of the Observatory should be carried on by a competent astronomer, who would also be a professor of the University. The staff necessary had been estimated as follows:—A professor of astronomy, at a salary of £500, which was placed at £100 a year less than the normal salary of the University, in consequence of there being a residence available; an assistant at £200; and a cadet at £30 a year, plus his education at the University. In addition, there would be wear and tear of instruments and buildings, £130, making the total cost £830, less £100 the University would contribute in consideration of the professor giving part of his time to that institution and to lectures in physics. The great advantage to be gained was the extension of education, though the State never knew the day when it might require expert and scientific assistance to maintain its rights or develop some branch of practical work. Nine-tenths of the universities of the world taught astronomy, Oxford, Cambridge, and Dublin, among others, had professor of astronomy, and some of the greatest discoveries in astronomical science had been made by some of the professors at those institutions. At the universities he had visited in America he had invariably found that astronomy was considered one of the most useful subjects taught, and when a boy there was more of astronomy than anything else in the scientific side of his own education. There had been enormous strides made in natural science since then. In Australia the people were very practical, and astronomy had been somewhat thrown aside; but that was probably largely due