THE INSTITUTE FESTIVAL WEEK.

A good deal of widespread interest is being manifested in the arrangements made by the committee of the Strathclyde Institute for holding a series of musical and exhibition events at the close of their Art Exhibition and Fancy Fair, in September next, and judging by the enquiries made from all quarters the public is likely to be a very full programme provided for the three evenings which are to be devoted to the competitions, both in the musical and the exhibitionary section of such competitions as an educational means depends to a very great extent on the standard set by the organizers and the capability of the judges selected by them to properly assess the merits of the candidates seeking attainment at it. Lacking these two, essential conditions competitions lose all real value, and it becomes worse than useless, since they can be utilized to give a misleading idea of the qualifications of the holder, just as books degradingly would be employed by quacks to gull the ignorant. Happily, the committee of the local Institute recognize the great importance of fixing their standards at as high a mark as they possibly can, and in view of the fact that the competitions to be made of interest to the general public, and they still more fully conceals the necessities of the new movement on them to secure as adjudicators the most highly qualified authorities obtainable in the State. Hence it has been unanimously determined to make strong effort to secure the services of Professor Ennis for the musical items and of Professor Henderson for the exhibitionary ones, in virtue of the fact that these gentlemen occupy the top places in their respective classes in the State. They are being urged to take the tasks in hand with a good deal of confidence, and the request, for while at first blush it may appear rather like demanding a sacrifice of dignity to ask the occupant of a University chair to become a provincial competition it can be argued that the very fact of such an appointment being made will tend to itself to raise the standard aimed at by the competitions, put contestation on its merit, bring out those who would hesitate to risk the verdict of an inferior judge, and indeed indirectly aid the University in its extension schemes. Should Professors Ennis and Henderson consent to adjudicate, they may depend on it that they will be acting in the best interests of the University the primary aim of University education in the south, and at the same time setting a ball-mark on the Strathclyde competitions, rendering them more important and in consequence of such competitions to a great many will be important of public support, particularly as no restrictions have been imposed by the competitors; all being welcomed as entrants. The organizers naturally want the competitions to yield the Institute a profit, but they also desire to make them of importance and render the prizes gained at them may possess sufficient value to warrant them being eagerly sought after. This worth to as great an extent as possible to the known qualifications of the judge award the certificate on the standard set by the organizers. We confidently hope therefore that the efficient effort of the Institute committee to secure the services of the highest authorities in the State may meet with success.

Writing on the subject of the competitions, the Institute has adopted this form, but the second half of a week's festivals in connection with the Institute, the first three days being reserved for the Exhibition and Fancy Fair which is being arranged for the purpose of raising funds for the Hall Improvement scheme. For the Exhibition, the local art works, curious, novelties, &c. made by the youth. The committee's appeals will be freely responded to, for the Fancy Fair the ladies of the town are working heartily, but they too need all the help which should be ready and cheerfully given to them, so that the whole affair, which is for the benefit of one of Strathclyde's most important institutions, may prove financially, artistically, and completely successful.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION SCHEME.

LECTURES AT STRATHCLYDE.

On Thursday evening last a successful realization of the desire of a number of town people to have Strathclyde included in the list of institutions to whom the Extension Schemes were brought about, a great and very large attendance assembled in the Institute Hall to hear Professor Henderson commence his series of three lectures on the "Poetry of the Middle-Ages: Wordsworth, Tennyson, and Browning." In the unaccompanied absence of the Vice President of the Institute, under the auspices of which the course of lectures has been arranged, Sir J. Laidlock Stirling introduced the lecturer, briefly referring in doing so to the pleasure he felt at the falling in line with other important towns in the University's scheme for encouraging higher culture in the country. Professor Henderson said that the desire of the University in arranging for its staff to visit the various local seats of learning was to find out whether an earnest desire existed for higher knowledge in them; it would be much better if the lecturer found one or two experiences that the mission fulfilled even part of its intent, they would feel encouraged to enlarge its scope. Professor Henderson then went on to speak of the life, character, writings, and teachings of Wordsworth, remarking that he had chosen that post for his opening address as that poet's love of nature. Wordsworth was essentially a poet of nature, the attitude of whose mind turned towards the simple, the rural, the common things, lifting them to a higher plane than they were found on earth. His verse seem often only with the vague eyes of the artist, and pointing out from those things that were missed by the vulgar eye of the woman, who were in such daily association with them. When Miss Allingham spoke of the glories of the rural as a painter Wordsworth did at a post, and though I might not have been so impressed at the time, when he now takes a high place in the list of English writers, deserving rank with greater names of Shakspeare and Wordsworth.

Briefly the lecturer traced the early life of Wordsworth and his life in his beautiful Cumberland home, the lovely scenery of which so powerfully impressed him in his early years, to his life at Grasmere and the incidents of his life in his under-graduate career. Turning to his recollections of his experiences in France during the long visits there, telling how his feelings became an enthusiastic revolutionist, fed with aid to support the people's cause but deemed to be a bitter disappointment at the needful nature of their leaders and the cruelty in injustices that marked the great revolutions in France. Then it was that the associations of his early days had been, in the Cumberland hills forced him to constantly...