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THE DECLINE OF RELIGIOUS BELIEF.

To the Editor.

Sir—Professor Jethro Brown surely fell asleep 30 years ago. The whole school of materialists of that date—men like Wallace, Lodge, Crookes, Morselli, Lombroso, Larkin, Hyslop, &c.—have renounced their “star-dust-evolution-out-of-nought” creed, and become supernaturalists, and their multiplied books shower contempt and ridicule on the non-crawfish Brown school for their mental obfuscation in regard to the suggestions of their last demonstrations on the theory and origin of matter, which all confess do not even foreshadow any knowledge of the nature of the all-pervading, all-controlling life-principle at all. True, most of the great ones mentioned have only got so far as “spiritualism,” which is but the halfway-house to true religion; but, as honest men, they were compelled to pull down with both hands their old structures of “finality” as based upon mere physical science. As to the frightening report that a few clergymen are afraid to preach about the Bible “hell,” it is true there is a small minority who tremble to speak anything in the Bible that might offend the susceptibilities of their social or scientific friends; but the majority of clergymen, Protestant or Catholic, are not so. The former are mere religious professionals—“wolves in sheep’s clothing”—hirelings who fleece the flock, but have no care for the sheep. It will be remembered that the thunderings of the ancient prophets were mainly directed against the professional priests of their day, who misled the people by withholding the truth. Did they resurrect to-day any maledictions they delivered would doubtless be launched against the same class—the “dumb dogs who cannot bark.” But it is certain that all sincere Bible students as surely believe not in any present Dante or Miltonian hell, but in the punishment of the wicked after the judgment of the last day, which Scripture affirm, as they do, in the promised reward and eternal life for the righteous.—I am, &c., CHRIS. T. NIXON.

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EDUCATION AND THE CHURCHES.

From the Rev. G. H. Jose:—Allow me to thank Professor Jethro Brown for his courteous reply to my letter, among others, in which he gives the disclaimer for which I appealed. May I also express my appreciation of the opposite leading article in The Register of Friday. ‘A high standard of citizenship—self-disciplined, industrious, and devoted to duty,’ is our common aim. This discussion will not have been fruitless if it serves to emphasize this goal of education, and the call upon each section of the community to share the responsibility, and to do all that in it lies to assist the teacher in his sacred work for our God and our Commonwealth.”

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—Dr. Mawson.—

When Dr. Douglas Mawson, the Australian antarctic explorer, returns from the South Polar region, about the middle of March, he will, before proceeding to England, make a short lecture tour through the Commonwealth.

LIFE IN THE TROPICS.

AN IMPORTANT INSTITUTE.

OPENED AT TOWNSVILLE.

Brisbane, June 30.

The Institute of Tropical Medicine at Townsville was opened by the Governor (Sir William McGregor) yesterday. Professor Anderson Stuart was in the chair. Professor Stuart described the objects of the Institute, and paid a tribute to the efforts of Dr. Breinl to give it a national significance. He also thanked the hospital authorities for coming to the assistance of the institute, and giving housing-room. He regretted that the Government grant of money was to be taken away at the end of the year, as he was sure that the institute would be a great factor in the future occupation of tropical Australia. Northern Australia was a great land, and it would have to be occupied by whites. If not, then someone else would occupy it. The question of the occupation of tropical Australia was to be the most important question of the Medical Congress in 1914. (Applause.)

Professor Stuart spoke favorably of the attitude of the Federal Government towards the institute, to which they had contributed £4,000 per annum, which had been spent in keeping up a highly qualified medical staff. Already the Institute had achieved good results. The Institute was fortunate in having the man who, above all others, was fitted to be patron of the institution (Sir William McGregor), who, in early years, had studied medicine in all parts of the world, ranging from Labrador to the tropical regions.

The Governor, after briefly reviewing the events leading up to the establishment of the institute, said the policy of reserving tropical Australia as a home for a purely white race was one of the most interesting problems of modern statesmanship. The question whether this was practicable time could show, as history did not supply experience to settle the question. If the policy was to succeed special inducements must be held out to settlers, for the tropics were not regarded as most congenial places for permanent occupation by Europeans. The main problems were whether the conditions of light and heat would permit of the establishment of a working white race. Diseases were a secondary condition, because they were only incidents and could be cured. Means could, however, be devised to mitigate the effects of light and heat on the white race. There were excellent examples of how disease could be cured at Panama and West Africa. To follow these examples more doctors and more nurses were necessary. Though parents in the north looked healthy and young children also, the older children were less robust. It was absolutely necessary that everything be done to lessen the labor of white women in the north and make life more comfortable for the mother of a working man’s family.

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ENCOURAGING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

The Royal Society of South Australia has issued the following circular on the subject of grants in aid of scientific research being made:—“The great value to the community of scientific research, as leading, directly or indirectly, to the better utilisation of the many natural and artificial products available for use by man, has long been a well established fact, and nowhere is this more certain than in a comparatively new country like South Australia. There must be many persons, both in the centres of population and in the outlying districts of this State, who have both the intelligence and the will to devote some of their leisure time to the investigation of phenomena, the knowledge of which might be not only of considerable scientific interest, but also of great economic value. It is believed that a large amount of such useful knowledge has been obtained by individual workers, but has been lost to the community through want of publication, and that such knowledge is often limited and not brought to a practical issue, through inability of the worker to incur the expenditure required for making the necessary experi-

—Mr. Henry Brose’s Farewell—

Mr. Henry Brose, B.Sc., was tendered a farewell concert on Thursday night. The clever student will shortly depart for Oxford as South Australian Rhodes Scholar for 1913. In advancing his scholastic attainments, by-the-way, it is not his intention to discard the Muse. That would be a mistake, for, as the young instrumentalist demonstrated to a fairly large audience in the Town Hall, his abilities are distinct. His Excellency the Governor, Lady Bosanquet, and Miss Bosanquet attended, also several members of the University professional staff, as a special compliment to their brilliant protege. Mr. Brose was excellently supported, and altogether the programme was creditable to Adelaide’s musical repute. The beneficiare met with a cheerful welcome; his piano numbers all received interested hearings, and had to be extensively supplemented. He played Bach’s “Tocatta and fugue in D minor” (Tansig’s transcription), Chopin’s “F sharp impromptu,” “F sharp nocturne,” and “G minor ballade,” and Liszt’s “Twelfth rhapsodie.” That was an offering calculated to “try out” any artist’s pretensions. Mr. Brose emerged successfully, and had to acknowledge prolonged tributes. The public has frequently heard him, and knows that he invests his work with much thought and a high grade of technical facility. His Bach item was appreciated; the Chopin bracket was thoroughly enjoyed; while in the massive rhapsodie the pianist produced quite an atmosphere of excitement. Mr. Brose had the assistance of the Adelaide Liedertafel in a number of choruses, under the conductorship of Mr. Heinicke. These were “It is Sunday” (Bren), “Gretula” (Schwelm), and “Resignation” (Jungst). Among the individual performers Miss Gwladys Edwards, A.R.C.M., very obviously pleased, for she was compelled twice to add to her offering of “Elsa’s dream” (from “Lohengrin”). The soprano was artistic and thoroughly effective, and her pure light soprano sounded as attractive as at any time. Messrs. Alderman and Silver gave a decisively clever presentation of Grieg’s “G major sonata” for violin and piano—the allegro movement. Mr. William Robyns employed rich musical quality in the old Gaelic song, “Turn ye to me;” there was more of bizarre realism than tunefulness in his idea of Korby’s “Shepherd, see thy horse’s foaming mane.” The dulcet voice of Miss Gladys Cilento was heard in “A summer night” (Goring-Thomas), when Mr. Fritz Homburg played the cello obbligato; and she also had an acceptable interpretation for the song “Melisande.” The cello items of Mr. Homburg, “Die Blume” (Hauser), and the Van Goen’s “Scherzo,” secured entire approval. Mr. Alexander Cooper chose Sterndale-Bennett’s “To Chloe in sickness,” and (for encore) “I attempt from love sickness to fly.” The tenor was in musical voice, and vested the old English songs with feeling. The accompanists for the evening were Misses Carlien Jurs and Dorothy McBride and Mr. Ernest Brose, L.A.B.

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A WESTERN VISITOR.

BACK AT THE OLD HOME.

“SITTING IN THE PAVILION.”

“It is quite a treat to meet old friends—old school pals, and old business acquaintances,” said Mr. J. W. Langsford, of Perth, who is on a visit to Adelaide. “It is getting on for thirty years since I left Adelaide for the West, but still it seems but yesterday when I used to be so familiar with the names of the great ‘sports’ here—Topsy Wairon, Jack Woods, Joe

The New University.

“Our University, which for a number of years had been in process of formation, was started in a practical way at the beginning of the year, but work is being carried on in temporary premises. The Senate has decided that the new buildings shall be erected at Crawley, which is about three miles from the city, on the banks of the Swan River. The site is a splendid one, and in a year or two we shall have a suite of buildings there that will be a credit to the State. The attendance of students is extraordinarily good, and I think the scheme is certain to prove a great success.”

Mr. Langsford will return to Perth next week. He went to Brisbane to attend the Methodist Conference, as one of the delegates from the western State.