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Mr. Hugh Angwin, B.Sc., the 1912 Angwin Engineering Scholar, arrived from England by the mail steamer Otranto on Saturday. His return has been occasioned by the death of his father (the Rev. T. B. Angwin).

Melbourne Argus, June 18/13

### MATRICULATION GREEK.

#### TO COUNT AS TWO SUBJECTS.

#### UNIVERSITY SENATE'S DECISION.

At the June session of the senate of the University, held yesterday afternoon, the warden of the University (Dr. McNerney) presiding, Dr. A. Leeper (warden of Trinity College) continued the fight which he had waged in the University Council into the Senate in support of the maintenance of Greek as a subject of University study. In order to strengthen the somewhat waning popularity of Greek Dr. Leeper had carried through the council a resolution to make Greek equal to two subjects in qualifying for matriculation at the Melbourne University. To render the resolution of the council effectual it was necessary that it should be confirmed by the senate. In support of his motion, Dr. Leeper said that the proposed concession would help to save Greek as a subject of school study without doing any harm to other school subjects. It was generally taken for granted that Greek was a subject without any bearing upon practical life. It had a very direct bearing, because language was confessedly the finest and most useful of the tools which man employed in his daily life. Nearly all the disputes in engineering matters were due to confused expressions and want of clearness in statements. Greek was the most perfect instrument of thought that the world had ever known.

Professor Tucker, in seconding the motion, said that it was a great calamity that in discussions on the subject the question was labelled as the abolition of compulsory Greek. The faculty of arts, when it dealt with the matter, did not decide that Greek should be abolished as a compulsory subject, but that in the arts course there should be no compulsory subject whatever. The faculty never once implied that Greek was of less importance from an educational point of view than those subjects which had likewise gone as compulsory subjects. It was necessary to think of the future. What, he asked, would be the condition of affairs a generation ahead if Greek were lost? It seemed to be imagined that Greek was the one subject of which an elementary knowledge was worth nothing. The same idea did not prevail concerning mathematics. It would be a very great calamity for all students of literature if the study of Greek ceased. No harm would be done to the junior public examination by the provision.

The Rev. Dr. Rentoul said that he was astonished that after twenty years they should be asking for such a little fragment as the motion before them. He had seen strange things happen in this land, to which he had given his life, with the feelings of an exile. He had seen influences lowering and lowering the standard for the measurement of values, until he was surprised that all they were asking for was a kind of pat on the back given to Greek to encourage it to go on. How, he asked, could the University face the idea of having a master of arts who did not possess any knowledge of the greatest of all modes of human speech, which had voiced the most wonderful thinking that had ever been achieved by the human mind. A nation could not be formed without the forces of formative power. Mental and spiritual manhood and womanhood would not be formed without a knowledge of such teachings as were contained in the writings of Plato, Aristotle, Eschylus, Euripides, and others, who had made the story of Greece so glorious. The great hope of the Presbyterian Church was a cultured clergy to stand in the front of the nation. The difficulties placed in the path of those who were striving to accomplish that result were increased tenfold by want of encouragement to Greek. He pleaded with the senate to raise this small bulwark against the almost overwhelming materialism of the present day.

Mr. L. A. Adamson (head master of Wesley College) said that the people of Australia could not be made to learn more than two languages. Some modern language would have to give place to Greek. There would be an instantaneous effect upon the schools, and probably 70 per cent. of the candidates for the junior public examination would study Greek. They would be those who did not contemplate a university career.

The Rev. S. G. McLaren (formerly principal of the Presbyterian Ladies' College), said that Mr. Adamson had urged the strongest possible argument in favour of the motion. Culture was the great need of the present day. It could only be obtained by the study of literature, and, in particular, ancient literature.

Mr. W. S. Littlejohn (principal of Scotch College) supported the motion, with statements from his experience as a schoolmaster, in sharp contrast to those of Mr. Adamson.

The motion was agreed to by 19 votes to 14.

It was resolved that the annual public examinations should begin on the first Monday in December next, instead of on the last Monday in November, as heretofore.

The senate adjourned until half-past 4 o'clock this-afternoon.

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Friends of Mr. Harry Thomson, who is returning to South Australia by the R.M.S. Orama upon the completion of his term at Oxford as one of this State's Rhodes Scholars, will be pleased to learn that he has added another to his successes at the English University. Mr. Thomson has won the Compatriot Club prize for an essay on "The economic theory of commercial treaties, with special reference to such treaties between parts of the same empires." The returning Rhodes Scholar is expected to reach Adelaide on July 12.

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#### Orchestral Concert.

The orchestral concert given at the Elder Conservatorium on Thursday evening was in every way successful. Amongst those present were his Excellency the Governor, Lady Bosanquet, and Miss Bosanquet. The orchestra began with Weber's spirited "Euryanthe" overture, and gave a finished conception of the chosen work. The score throughout is full of variety, and gives scope for all sections, so much so, that but for the splendid volume of tone from the strings the other portions of the orchestra would have been rather overpowering. Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, the C minor, was a great advance on many of the works heard this season. Of the four movements the "Andante con moto" stood out as a wonderfully good interpretation. It was quite satisfying, both in the intellectual and poetical reading of the wonderful orchestration. Very distinctive were three dances—(a) "Marche;" (b) "Danse de la Fee-Dragee;" (c) "Danse russe Trepak," taken from Tchaikowsky's suite "Casse-Noisette" (the nut-cracker). The last, a barbaric piece of orchestration, had to be repeated. Of Chopin's F minor pianoforte concertos, the "Larghetto and Finale" were programmed. Miss Dorothy McBride was the solo pianist, and may be warmly congratulated on a studious rendering of this magnificent number, which she played entirely from memory. The orchestral part was mostly sympathetic and well balanced. Special recognition should be made of Miss Sylvia Whittington's decision and trustworthiness as leader of the orchestra, and Mr. H. Heinecke's valuable knowledge and power as conductor. Contrast was added to the instrumental work by vocal numbers. Madame Elizabeth Weger sang Massenet's difficult "Air de Chimene" from "Le Cid," and added another conquest to her list. The excerpt suited her style. Her voice has gained power considerably of late. Miss Eva Close sang the recitative and air "Open unto me," and "I will extol thee, O Lord," from Costa's "Flu." She has a high soprano voice which should sound well in operatic work. Her singing was very

clear, especially in the aria. The accompaniments were played by Madame Delmar Hall and Mr. Frederick Bevan.

#### EDUCATION SYSTEM.

From Rev. C. E. Schafer.—"Under the new regulations of the Education Department all scholars are examined at the end of the year, which is a decided advantage to both teachers and scholars; but it is almost a matter of impossibility for the teachers in high schools to prepare candidates for the primary examination without the detrimental system of cramming. A scholar does not secure the 5th class certificate until the end of the year, and passes into the high school at the end of January. The primary examination is held early in August—that means, allowing for holidays, not more than six months to prepare for same. Might I respectfully suggest to the University authorities that the primary examination after this year be held in December, even though it means that the results will not be published until after the holidays. Unless some arrangements are made to this effect there must be a large decrease in the number of candidates in 1914. Some favour the abandoning of the primary, and letting the high schools take two years for the junior straight off, but the weakness of this is that many people cannot afford to keep their children at school longer than the primary standard, and while if the scholars remained through the year preparing for the junior they would still be up to primary standard, the University fees would suffer, and the pupils be without the primary certificates."

Register, June 25/13

#### ADELIE LAND TIDINGS.

Wind 200 Miles an Hour.

SYDNEY, June 27.

The following message has been received by Mr. C. Eitel (Secretary of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition) from Dr. Mawson, who, with six other members of the expedition, is wintering at Commonwealth Bay, Antarctica:—"Adelie Land, June 15, 1913—All the members of the party are in good health and spirits. Blizzards have been increasing in violence since my last message, but I think they have now culminated, as the weather is moderating. We are expecting better conditions. Temperatures are falling. On several occasions recently the wind reached over 100 miles per hour for one or more hours. On May 17 to 18 the average for the 24 hours was 94 miles per hour, reaching a maximum of 104 between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. on May 17. The average for 36 hours was 92.5 miles per hour. On several days there were many hours when heavy gusts exceeding 200 miles per hour took place. We have also had heavy snowfalls and a constant drift of snow from the plateau. Clearer weather is now commencing. The hut and meteorological observatories are not damaged in any way. The wireless mast is intact, but the wireless operator (Mr. Jeffreyes) is continually tightening the stays—a very difficult operation in heavy weather." At this point the message ended abruptly, but the operator at Macquarie Island sent through the note "more to come." Subsequently the following was added to the message:—"Low temperatures and snow drifts have caused a temporary suspension of wireless communication. On the evidence now accumulated Jeffreyes thinks that a certain amount of damping of ether waves was due to the Aurora Australis. (Signed) Mawson."