On the other hand, it was a disadvantage that what a few; many people referred to as stuffed animals and old bonos did not like a very strong appeal. They did not realize the intrinsic value of many of their specimens, and if they did they would probably take a more benevolent and more extensive view. Some specimens could rival the colour and beauty of the paintings that had been hung in the Australian Art Gallery. The group near to the front hall included a comely elephant, an antelope and a hippopotamus, for instance, worth the notice of the most ardent art lover. Certain specimens like these were something more than stuffed animals. They were valuable assets. The naturalists' best specimens would not last for a lifetime like books or pictures. Many had been preserved since the 1860s and some for a few years more would become important in their own right. The acquisition of historical specimens for the purpose of preserving what would otherwise be lost. It would ever be a reproach against the Government that they had not preserved the bones of the magnificent extinct animals which possessed a single example to hand down to posterity. The ordinary man in the street knew nothing of these wonderful species and the fauna, and to a large extent the best specimens he had not in the past been able to see. This was entirely the fault of previous Governments. These and the difficulties which had been experienced in the past were blamed for the present. He would be quite content to have his efforts judged by his successors of the future. It was quite possible that the Government would, in the future, be more disposed to spend money on the preservation of what was of real value in the biological world. There was no reason why this should be the case. The Government had been convinced that the preservation of the precious specimens was of the first importance and that the time had come to see that this was done.

The Irrepressible Past

It was a problem to see so many unique things disappearing from South Australia and finding places in other countries where, taken away from their surroundings, they would be preserved. It had been the fault of previous Governments, and that was true. The Secretary of the South Australian Museum did not possess a single native opossum rag or bone. And this was a very fine one, but a competent Government had to an extent failed in their duties. The specimens had disappeared, and although he was not aware whether they had ever been available to those who wished to recover them. He was glad to have the opportunity of remaining Government, and, in doing the general public, had taken a more extended interest in these things, and they were now cared for in a more proper way. The President—would it be possible for the Government to put the specimens into different museums, and to regain some of the things in exchange for other things?

A Happy Suggestion

Professor Sulitze said the trouble was unnecessary and that it would not happen again. There was a certain amount of honour among the collectors, and he did not think that the government would withhold things that had reached it. Probably the specimens were on exhibition, and all the public generally, had taken a more extended interest in these things, and they were now cared for in a more proper way. The President—would it be possible for the Government to put the specimens into different museums, and to regain some of the things in exchange for other things?

WHERE GO THE RHODES SCHOLARS?

The answer is a question that becomes of the Rhodes scholars when they leave the university. The various careers taken up by the students are varied and interesting. Most of them will continue their education, engineering, journalism, and the civil services. Many will return to their native lands and many will remain in Great Britain. It is impossible to judge how far the scheme of the Rhodes Fund will succeed. For instance, of the 416 scholars who have been made, the great majority are in the provinces and the great majority are in the provinces. The question is whether the scholarship will be a success in the provinces, or whether it will be a failure. If it is a failure, it is to be hoped that the scholarship will be a success in the provinces.