

RETURN TO OLD IDEALS.

PICTURE OF UNIVERSITY LIFE YEARS AGO.

WHAT IT WILL COST STUDENTS.

Mr. S. Talbot Smith, the well-known son of Sir Edwin Smith, who was a residential student at Trinity College, Cambridge, was asked, as one fully acquainted with the old order, just what the change would mean.

"It will make an enormous difference," he replied.

"In what way?" "In particular it will encourage students at a distance to come and secure the benefits of university education."

"Will it mean extra fees?" "Probably. In the past the English universities have been admittedly for the wealthier classes. You have put your finger on a problem that will have to be faced."

"Quite so. If all things are true, it is not difficult to make university life frugal."

"Well, the position is that the whole tendency of the age is to make universities democratic, and encourage in every way the poorer students. You may take it as certain that students could live at home more cheaply than in any college whatever."

"And at home it costs them quite a heap?" "Yes; but, on the other hand, it is not likely that residence will be insisted on. That is a detail in a big scheme of which only the general principles are now under discussion."

"Residence changes the whole spirit of a university?" "Absolutely. You must remember that the old universities were planted away in towns like Oxford and Cambridge, which depended on them entirely. The towns themselves were quite inconsiderable. It was a sort of monastic institution, indeed. Why, in my time, the Fellows—practically the teaching and governing body of a college—had only just begun to be allowed to marry."

"Poor Fellows?" "Yes. The idea of perambulators in Oxford and Cambridge was a great joke at the time, but no doubt they are commonplace by now, and probably afternoon teas and tennis parties are legion. The undergraduates up to, say, 30 years ago would hardly see a lady to speak to during term time. The essence of the thing was that they had left home behind. It was at the most impressionable time of their lives. For the first time they were men, with an allowance instead of pocket money, and under the loose control of a college instead of the severer one of a school."

"That built up a certain part of university tradition?" "Yes. They acquired a feeling for their Alma Mater during those years which they were never likely to lose. Merely to attend classes and sleep at home, keeping one's home friends, must obviously be an entirely different thing from being thrown on the university and the other undergraduates for the greater part of the year."

"The modern tendency is to get away from all that?" "I must admit that the modern tendency is just the reverse to the conditions I have outlined. The idea is to bring the university nearer to the homes. Manchester and Birmingham have established universities in popular centres, with the idea of giving everybody a chance, just as we do in Adelaide. So far as I know, there is nothing residential about the Manchester and Birmingham institutions."

"Obviously, then, they cannot claim to radiate the same spirit that Oxford and Cambridge do?" "No; the spirit cannot be quite the same, but there is no doubt that the influence is just as potent for good. The old life at Cambridge 30 years ago was of course delightful. Early chapel occasionally, breakfast with some friends, lectures all mornings, luncheon of a sort, river or sports all the afternoon—in fact, the hardest working man kept the afternoon sacred to exercise—then dinner altogether in the hall (that and the chapels are the sole relics of the old monastic life), evening chapel perhaps, then work for the night unless some of the many societies had a meeting, passed off many pleasant hours."

"But then we get back to the cost. All this isn't for the impecunious, and the idea is to help that very man along. To the average young man without wealthy parents to fall back on the prospect would probably seem gloomy. How much would it cost him?"

"As I said before, it all implies a certain annual expenditure."

"But how much?" "To live properly, I should say at least £250 a year; and £100 more could be spent without being at all extravagant."

"Then if we want to catch the clever but financially-at-low-ebb student it will be necessary for another man like Cecil Rhodes to come along and offer some scholarships where allowance for all this expense is made."

"We want to catch the clever student, whether he has money or not."

"But would the figures you have mentioned apply here?" "I do not say they would be as great, but expense there must be. In fact, I regard the immediate scheme as a distinct step, I won't say backward, but toward older ideals as distinct from the modern and democratic. In theory it has my hearty sympathy; in practice I can see it will require some very careful handling. If it should have the effect of benefiting the wealthy students and setting the less fortunate in another category, it would of course go to destroy that very collegiate esprit de corps which we are so anxious to cultivate. Trinity, Ormonde, and Queen's, in Melbourne, are, I know, doing well; and we may be able to do something similar here."

Advertiser, Feb 6/13

BACHELORS OF ENGINEERING.

When the Executive Council on Thursday approved of the new regulations with regard to the faculty of engineering, the way was open for bachelors of science, who had gained their degrees in the engineering course to exchange them for the letters "B.E." The only question was whether they should be permitted to surrender their B.Sc. degrees at once and receive the title of bachelor of engineering instead, or whether the conferring of the new degrees should be held over until the annual commemoration day at the end of the year. This question will be considered by the council of the University at a meeting to be held on February 28. It is not an uncommon thing for a special commemoration to be held for the conferring of degrees in cases of urgency, or where students have passed the number of subjects necessary to graduate, at the March examinations, and have desired to receive their degrees with as little delay as possible, and it is improbable that the degrees will be held back in this case any longer than is necessary.

Register, Feb 10/13

Mr. J. L. Rossiter M.A., head teacher of the Unley High School, who has been selected out of 34 applicants from different parts of the Commonwealth for the position of inspector of primary schools and director of secondary education in the Northern Territory.



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A SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SCHOLAR.

RETURNS TO ADELAIDE.

Mr. Harold Whitmore Smith, B.Sc., M.E., the winner of the Angus Engineering Scholarship in 1907, returned to Adelaide on Friday after spending some years in the United States. Mr. Smith received his early education at the Port Adelaide school, where he gained a scholarship, which took him to Way College. There he was again successful in obtaining a scholarship, which opened to him a University course. In 1906 he graduated B.Sc., in first-class honors, and took his diploma in electrical engineering. The following year he was awarded the Angus Engineering Scholarship, which entitled him to £200 per annum for two years. According to the terms of the scholarship the holder must spend the time in Great Britain or some foreign country in furtherance of his education in engineering. Mr. Smith decided to go to America, and after visiting Canada took a course in electrical and mechanical engineering at the Cornell University. He desired to do practical work, and found the equipment entirely up-to-date. As the work he had done in Adelaide was taken into account, he was able to graduate M.E. (mechanical engineer), in one year, although the degree represents a four year's course.

Some Important Appointments.

After graduating Mr. Smith spent some time in New York City, studying the electric railway and survey works which were in progress. After investigating work in connection with the terminal electrification of the New York Central railroad, and the New York New Haven, and Hartford railroads, he accepted a position with the Wagner company of St. Louis, and spent eight months in their workshops and engineering department. From there he went to the Westinghouse Company, and was engaged for two years in their works at East Pittsburg. He was then sent to the company's Chicago office as salesman and erection engineer. From that centre he handled a large quantity of work in all parts of the middle-west States, which are controlled from the Chicago office.

Mr. Smith resigned his position with the Westinghouse people to accept a post with the Chicago Lake, Shore, and South Bend Railroad Company as constructional engineer, and he made extensive alterations in their power plant. His next appointment was with the San Diego Consolidated Gas and Electric Company in San Diego, California. This company owned a large gas and an extensive electric light plant, with which the town of 60,000 inhabitants was supplied, and their mains extended out into the surrounding country, which was supplied with electricity through the medium of 100 miles of high tension lines at high pressure, and with gas through extensive mains. Mr. Smith was in charge of the electrical distribution sub-station designs, and general plant improvement. This position he held until a few weeks ago, when he resigned in order to return to Australia, which he regards as his home.

Electrical Developments in America.

When asked on Saturday if he proposed to settle in Australia, Mr. Smith replied that such was his intention. "I think there must be a great future for electricity here," he said. Although he had not had an opportunity of carefully studying the electric tram system yet, he thought from casual observation that it was "extremely up-to-date." Adelaide had greatly improved since he last saw it, and in all his travels he had not seen a more substantial or solid city. Nor had he seen one more beautifully situated.

Referring to the railway systems of America, he said some of them were very extensive, but there was no single station in the United States, and he doubted if there was one in the world, which handled so many people daily as the Flinders-street station, Melbourne. In America electricity was very highly developed, for all kinds of purposes. It was almost universal. "When I arrived in Sydney, a few days ago," Mr. Smith said, "that city looked to me to be 50 years behind the times. At night the streets were dark. In any American city the streets are brilliantly illuminated. The stores are lighted whether they are open for business or not, and nearly every city has installed ornamental street lamps on the kerb-line. Each of the standards—which are sometimes in cast iron, sometimes reinforced concrete—carries five tungsten lamps. One of these surmounts the bracket, and the other four are attached to extended arms. The effect is