

educated at St. Peter's College under Archdeacon Farr, and gaining the Westminster Scholarship, went to Europe to complete his studies. He received instruction for 18 months in Germany and France, and then matriculated at Trinity College, Cambridge, as B.A. with natural science honours, and began the medical curriculum. He acquired subsequently the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine, Master of Arts, and Doctor of Medicine. Having become a pupil at St. George's Hospital, London, he was in due course a member and subsequently a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons at St. George's. After holding various minor appointments Dr. Stirling was appointed House Surgeon, and was subsequently elected to the staff as assistant surgeon, a position which he held until he left London for his native State. In the Medical School of St. George's he held the posts of Lecturer on Microscopic Anatomy, Joint Lecturer on Operative Surgery, and Lecturer on Physiology.

**—On Coming Home.—**  
South Australia saw him again in 1881, and he was appointed senior surgeon of the Adelaide Hospital (a post which he retained for 14 years) and Lecturer on Clinical Surgery at the Adelaide University. Later he became Lecturer on Physiology, and held that position until it was converted into a professorship in 1900, when he was appointed to the chair. So numerous were his other activities that to record them all would make a long catalogue. The endowment of the medical school of the late Sir Thomas Elder was an era in the history of the Adelaide University, and Professor Stirling took great interest, as a member of the council of the University, in the development of that portion of its work. He was elected President of the first Intercolonial Medical Congress at Adelaide in 1887, was President of the section of surgery at the second similar congress in Melbourne in 1889, President of the South Australian branch of the British Medical Association in the same year, President of the Royal Society, and first President of the State Children's Council of South Australia. Sir Edward Stirling was eminently fitted for the last-named office, for he took a deep interest in child welfare. In fact, when he was in London he acted as surgeon to the Belgrave Hospital for Children.

**—Museum Activities.—**  
Sir Edward Stirling was one of the earliest members of the board of management of the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery, having been appointed in 1882. He was elected to the board by the University of Adelaide, and after having been on it for a considerable period he was appointed Honorary Director of the Museum, and for 17 years acted as Director at a salary. He resigned, and comparatively recently rejoined the board as again the representative of the Adelaide University, and continued for a time as honorary director of the Museum. Throughout his long connection with the institution his principal object has been to make the section of Australian fauna as full and complete as possible. He devoutly hoped that the efforts made to retain sanctuaries for birds would be successful. At the time of his death he was Chairman of the Museum committee and honorary director of the ethnological collection. When he relinquished the position of salaried director of the Museum the members of the staff of that institution, with all the others employed in the various departments of the Public Library Board, presented him with a handsomely bound address.

**—In Exploration Fields.—**  
The deceased scholar was widely known because of his exploratory work. He was of the species of scientist who are not content to theorize. In pursuit of his scientific work he made many great efforts, and journeyed several times into the heart of the Australian continent. In 1892 he accompanied the Earl of Kintore on his trip by land from Darwin to Adelaide; two years later, with the Horn exploring expedition, he served as medical officer and anthropologist, and embodied the results of his research in the proceedings of that expedition. The discovery at Idracoura Station, on the Finke River, of the blind marsupial mole, *Notoryctes typhlops*, by Mr. J. F. Baxop, was first made known to the scientific world by Dr. Stirling, whose minute description of the "find," published in the proceedings of the Royal Society of South Australia, gained for him a fame which was accentuated by the work done in collaboration with Mr. Zietz on the fossil remains of the great *Diprotodon* Australia and the enormous extinct wingless bird, *Genyornis Newtoni*, portions of whose bony structure are now shown at the Adelaide Museum. These indicate that the Australian bird was equal in size to some of the bulkiest of the moas of New Zealand. In the journey with Lord Kintore, Sir Edward especially busied himself in the collection of flora and fauna, with specimens of which he subsequently enriched a number of museums; and by means of descriptive scientific papers contributed largely to the store of public knowledge concerning them, not only in Australia, but also elsewhere. Among other institutions the Museum of Natural History at Leyden, in Holland, benefited; and the Netherlands Government conferred upon Sir Edward a gold medal "for science and art."

**—Searching the Past.—**  
Professor Stirling was an earnest student of the aboriginal natives of Australia. Anything and everything that pertained to them he seized upon with avidity, and much of his knowledge was obtained at first hand. He came to the conclusion that no objective evidence had ever been found in Australia of a race which existed prior to the blacks. His opinion was that they wandered in from the continent of Asia, either by way of the land bridge believed to exist then, or by passing from island to island, which, of course, could easily have been done. He thought that was the most reasonable assumption, but the answer was pure conjecture. They, at any rate, reached Australia, and were thus separated from the race from which they sprang. The

whole idea was of the world at a time when mammalian life had advanced no further than the marsupial, and if that were the case any race coming to Australia would have had no first ancestors here for scientists to discover. Their ancestors were one with the ancestors of the Old World races.

**—As a Gardener.—**  
It may be in strict accord with the sequence of things to refer to Sir Edward Stirling's scientific works (his writings) first; but as he was eminently a nature lover his ability as a gardener can well be mentioned here. His residence, St. Vigeans, Mount Lofty, was (and is) a show place. He had a deeply inborn love for landscape gardening, and the beautiful site of his mountain home next to the Mount Lofty Railway Station, allowed him full scope for his bent. He was once happily termed "The father of gardening in the hills," and if he were not that he was an elder member of a now numerous family. He devoted himself extensively to the collection of ornamental trees, coulters being the prevailing feature. In particular his garden was known for its splendid show of rhododendrons, which beautiful shrubs he could claim the credit of having introduced into cultivation in South Australia.

**—Authorship.—**  
The deceased scientist was a prolific writer. He was the author of many contributions to medical and scientific journals, and, with Dr. J. C. Verco, constructed a valuable treatise on hydatid disease. He investigated personally the discovery of *diprotodon* fossil remains at Lake Callabouna, in Central Australia, and to his intense delight the bones unearthed enabled him to be the first to complete the skeleton, a cast of which is now in the Museum. These animals must have been widely spread over the whole continent, for their bones have been found in a great number of places, from the Gulf of Carpentaria in the north to the State of Victoria in the south, and from the Blue Mountains in the south-east of the continent to Kimberley on the north-west coast of Australia. Sir Edward also studied closely the structure and habits of the kangaroo; and his paper, entitled "Some points in the anatomy of the kangaroo," contributed to the Zoological Society of London in 1889, is recognised as a standard.

**—Numerous Honours.—**  
It was natural that the scientist should have been invested with many distinctions in acknowledgment of his erudition and zeal. In 1893 he received the highest honour to which an English scientific man can aspire in the Fellowship of the Royal Society; and in the same year the Companionship of the Order of St. Michael and St. George was bestowed on him. In 1917 the King conferred upon him the dignity of Knight Bachelor.

**—Political Activities.—**  
Sir Edward Stirling in 1884 contested the North Adelaide constituency for a seat in the House of Assembly, and was placed at the head of the poll, with the late Sir G. C. Hawker as junior. He took a keen interest in the question of woman's suffrage, and was the first to carry, although without an absolute majority, a measure for the admission of women to the privilege of the franchise. He was defeated at the election of 1887, and did not again seek Parliamentary honours. His brother, Sir Lancelot Stirling, is at present the President of the Legislative Council of the State.

**—Public Library Board Tribute.—**  
As a token of respect to the memory of the late Sir Edward Stirling, who was one of the members of the Public Library Board, the President (Sir William Sowden) has postponed for a week the usual meeting of the board, which would have been held to-day.

**—The Family.—**  
Professor Stirling was married in 1877 to Jane, eldest daughter of the late Mr. Joseph Gilbert, of Pewsey Vale. The deceased has left a widow and five daughters—Mrs. S. Russell Booth (North Adelaide), Mrs. Brailsford Robertson, of Canada, whose husband is Professor of Biochemistry at the Toronto University, and Misses Mary, Harriet, and Nina Stirling, of Mount Lofty. Professor Stirling had one son, who was accidentally killed at the age of about eight, by a fall from a swing.

Reg. 22.3.19.

## MUSIC AND THE STAGE.

[By Bohemian.]

The Elder Conservatorium of Music is reopening for the new session under happy auspices. The names of 330 students have been enrolled for study in practical subjects, and ensemble work has necessitated the creation of two big circles, an advanced one under Mr. Gerald Walden and an intermediate grade with Mr. Harold Parsons in charge. Gradual progress is aimed at, so that the musical needs of Adelaide may be fully catered for. The creation of a school of wood-wind players is one of the Director's projects, when such a little-known instrument as the bassoon, for instance, will come into its own once more. The Conservatorium concerts will be organized so that they will represent a solvent proposition without taxing the funds of the Conservatorium. All students of principal subjects will be entitled to free admission, but the general public will be asked to pay a small charge or secure a season ticket (transferable) for the whole series of 21 concerts, which will be given from April 14 to December 8. Fifteen concerts will be given by the ordinary staff and students, and six will be devoted to chamber music. Next year Dr. Davies hopes to form a Conservatorium orchestra, and to that end looks to the genuine music lovers of Adelaide to come forward with the essential guarantee. Meanwhile the Director and staff will co-operate in a campaign for widening the sphere of usefulness of the Conservatorium. Among the innovations are instruction in musical form and analysis, ear and rhythm training and musical appreciation, and sight-singing and musical dictation.

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## THE UNIVERSITY.

### THE COURSES IN COMMERCE. HISTORY AND PROSPECTS.

(By the Registrar of the University.)

A course of commerce at the University of Tasmania has now been arranged. The question of the establishment of courses in commerce in Tasmania was raised several years ago by Mr. Herbert Heaton and others, but until 1917 no definite steps were taken in that direction. In 1917, the Tasmanian branch of the Federal Institute of Accountants held a conference on the subject with the University Extension Board, and a committee was formed to discuss the matter, on which were represented the council and teaching staff of the University, the Hobart Chamber of Commerce, and the local branches of the Federal Institute of Accountants, the Commonwealth (then the Victorian) Institute of Accountants, and the Australasian Corporation of Public Accountants. Courses were drafted, and the scheme was adopted by the Council of the University. It was then too late in the session for the matter to be placed before Parliament, and in 1918 the Government placed £500 on the estimates to establish the courses, and Parliament unanimously passed the vote. In the meantime the Hobart Chamber of Commerce collected £500 for the purpose of forwarding the proposals. A committee of the Board of Studies of the University, with Professor McDougall, the Professor of Law, as chairman, prepared an exhaustive report, and the regulations, which have been adopted by the Council of the University, are based upon the recommendations of that committee. By reason of the shortness of time between the passing of the vote and the beginning of the academic year it was impossible to begin work at the usual date, but all preparations are now practically completed, and the dates for the receipt of entries and for the beginning of lectures will be announced in a day or so.

The establishment of the courses will be remarkable by reason of the fact that it is the result of a popular movement (perhaps the first of its kind in Tasmania in recent years) for the extension of the work of the University. There is no doubt that the success of the courses will justify the enthusiasm and energy which has marked the preliminary work. It is expected that, in addition to the immediate work of the courses, students will learn the value of wider study, and that the public will realise the place of the University as an important factor in the welfare of the community.

There is every reason to believe that the courses will be largely utilized. So many persons engaged in Government services and business life now study for the examinations of the several institutes of Accountants, that they will be glad to seize the opportunity to obtain tuition offered, not only in the subjects which form part of these examinations, but in other subjects, which contain the principles upon which business is founded. The fact that the courses have a University status will appeal to all. Many inquiries have been received. The management of the Electrolytic Zinc Company proposes to enter some of its staff for subjects of the courses, and the Repatriation Department is giving consideration to the adoption of the courses for returned soldiers. All that is needed is that the mercantile community shall appreciate the value of the trained employes in preference to the rule of thumb clerk of days gone by. Inquiries prove that the appreciation of modern methods is already widespread in Tasmania, and it seems unnecessary to do more than mention the fact that American business houses regard such studies as are contained in the courses as the foundation of all sound business. American writers declare that many commercial failures are due solely to ignorance of the principles of accountancy. Has it not been said that the great war was a war of card indexes? One result which is expected from the establishment of the courses is that the Legislature will be persuaded to place the profession of accountancy upon the same footing as other professions as is done in many of the States of America. The Council of the University yesterday adopted the amendments of statutes and regulations which are required to render the commerce courses part of the University system, and the new regulations, which contain the necessary special provisions. These have yet to receive the sanction of the Senate and the Executive. A meeting of the Senate will be called in a few days' time.

### THE NEW FACULTY.

The new department will be governed primarily by a faculty specially created for the purpose, called the Faculty of Commerce. The important feature of the statute creating the new faculty is that there is introduced for the first time into University control representatives of the business community. The statute provides that the faculty shall consist of the Vice-Chancellor, the professors and lecturers in the subjects of its department, and seven members appointed by Council, two of whom shall be members of Council, and five of whom shall be nominated as follows:—One by the Hobart Chamber of Commerce, one by the Launceston Chamber of Commerce, one by the Tasmanian branch of the Commonwealth Institute of Accountants, one by the Tasmanian branch of the Federal Institute of Accountants, and one by the Tasmanian division of the Australasian Corporation of Public Accountants. The representation of the Chambers of Commerce and of the Institutes of Accountants is both desirable in itself, and is the natural consequence of the part played by those bodies in the establishment of the courses.

The faculty will have charge of all subjects except economic history, economics, modern history, and the mathematical and science subjects. The first three are under the control of the Faculty of Letters, and the others of the Faculty of Science. Such division of control is unavoidable, and is usual in all Universities in respect of subjects which are common to the courses for several degrees.

The functions of the faculty are many and various, such as to prepare for the Board of Studies the details of examinations (other than public examinations); to watch over and advise the Council and the Board of Studies on the studies in the subjects under its control, and to carry out other duties imposed on it.

The faculty elects to the Board of Studies two representatives, and, following on the introduction of the new principle before mentioned, one at least of these is to be one of the members nominated by the Chambers of Commerce and Institutes of Accountants. It has been assumed that the bodies mentioned will be willing to play the parts assigned to them, for it cannot be but that they will be glad to take such a part in the government of the new faculty, and to interest themselves in University matters.

### THE CERTIFICATE COURSE.

Two courses have been instituted. One is a course leading to the grant of a certificate of commerce. It requires the passing of examinations in the subjects of two lists, there being four compulsory specified subjects in the first list (technically called the "first examination") and three compulsory specified subjects, and a fourth to be chosen by the student from several other subjects (technically called the "second examination"). The division of work into "years" does not obtain in the University, nor does it obtain in the