

PROFESSOR WOOD-JONES

Resigned from Adelaide University.

Important London Appointment.

Professor Wood-Jones, of the University of Adelaide, has been appointed Professor of Anatomy at the University of London, and will leave South Australia at the end of the year.

The University of Adelaide has been almost uniformly fortunate with its teaching staff, and a succession of brilliant men has filled its professional chairs. In recent years, particularly, South Australia has had reason to be proud of the virtually world-wide eminence in their respective spheres of learning occupied by several of the professors of the Adelaide University. Probably the most distinguished of them all is Dr. Frederic Wood-Jones, Professor of Anatomy; and very general regret will be felt that he has resigned his position. The disappointment of his South Australian friends, however, will be qualified by the announcement that he has received an appointment of outstanding importance, that of Professor of Anatomy, at the University of London. In this position, he will have charge of the famous medical school attached to the historic hospital of St. Bartholomew's, which has just celebrated its octocentenary.

Leading Comparative Anatomist.

Professor Wood-Jones, dark, slim, and youthful looking, and altogether the physical antithesis of the traditional figure of professional genius, is one of the leading comparative anatomists of the world, and heads a new and growing school of thought in the subject of the ancestry of man. His conclusions, based almost wholly on an extraordinarily wide and intimate knowledge of comparative anatomy, are vigorously opposed to the commonly-accepted notion of the Darwinian theory, but are less flattering to modern man. As Professor of Anatomy at the Adelaide University, Dr. Wood-Jones followed the unknown Professor Watson, and his presence in South Australia has extended only a little more than four years, these four years, however, have enabled him to do exceptionally valuable work, particularly in the study of the unique fauna of Australia, a subject in which he has been profoundly interested. His illuminating writings on the typical fauna of Australia, make it inevitable that his name should always be associated with the State, which has benefited so much from his scientific knowledge and enthusiasm that it will be most loth to lose him in general has reaped the advantage of his residence in a country affording him unique advantages for the study of some of the most primitive life as still extant, the importance of which, in relation to the larger problems of evolution, he had long ago learned to appreciate. During the earlier stages of Australian researches, local scientists were not a little surprised to discover that he knew far more about the duck-billed platypus, for instance, than they knew themselves. His uniform courtesy and complete lack of self-consciousness, however, have contributed very largely to his popularity, and particularly among his students at the University, to whom the news of his impending departure will be doubly unwelcome. Fortunately, he is able to delay his departure until the completion of the work of this year.

A Brilliant Career.

Dr. Wood-Jones has had an eminent career, and holds the degrees of M.B., B.S. (London), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (London, 1904), and D.Sc. (London, 1918). He was born in London on January, 23, 1879, and was educated at the Enfield Grammar School, and the London University. He married Gertrude, a daughter of the late Sir John Clunies Ross, who was Governor of the Keeling and Cocos Islands. Dr. Wood-Jones was demonstrator of anatomy at the London Hospital from 1904, after which he was a medical officer in the Far East, and at the Keeling and Cocos Islands for two years. In 1907 he was anthropologist to the Egyptian Geological Survey of Nubia, and in 1909 he was lecturer on anatomy at the Manchester University, and demonstrator of anatomy at St. Thomas's Hospital in the following year. For three years after that he was Arris and Gale lecturer at the Royal College of Surgeons in London, and at the time of his appointment to his present position, was professor of anatomy in the University of London School of Medicine for Women. He is a member of the Anatomical Society, and a Fellow of the Zoological Society, and of the Royal Anthropological Institute.

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Advertiser 19.7.23.

UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY.

A meeting of the University Law Students' Society was held on Tuesday evening at the University. Mr. E. Bean presided. The question set for debate was:—"Jones, Collector of Customs for the State of Victoria, for and on behalf of the Commonwealth, sues Wheatstreak, alleging that the defendant, a manufacturer of agricultural implements, had between certain dates manufactured certain stripper-harvesters, of which the defendant was owner; that the said implements were dutiable under the Excise Tariff, 1906 (No. 16), and were not manufactured under any of the conditions as to remuneration of labor specified in the proviso to Section 2 thereof, and that the defendant had not paid the duties imposed in respect of such implements. The defendant denies the whole statement of claim, the question being whether the Excise Tariff Act, 1906 (No. 16) is valid." Counsel were—Mr. Wheatstreak, with him Mr. E. Haywood, for Jones; Mr. P. J. Kelly and Mr. J. Harper, for Wheatstreak. The following also spoke:—Messrs. Butrose, J. C. McCarthy, H. N. Tucker, M. Bednal and C. C. Crump.

In giving judgment the adjudicator pointed out that the case of R. versus Barger could not be regarded as good law. This was proved by arguments in the Western Australian Trading Concerns' case. The adjudicator dealt serially with the grounds on which Barger's case was decided, and showed in what respects the arguments were defective. Judgment was given in favor of the plaintiff.

Herald 19.7.23.

THE DELINQUENT CHILD

An address on applied psychology as related to the delinquent child was given by Miss Berry at the monthly meeting of the National Council of Women. She pointed out that psychology as a pure science had been known for centuries, yet a hundred years ago a child making use of a horse or cart belonging to someone else, was hung for the offence, without any regard to the motive which lay behind it. Now many juvenile courts had a trained psychologist to assist the magistrate, as a delinquent child was often mentally sick, and the magistrate was called upon to prescribe the remedy. Out of this had developed the mental test, and a fairly reliable scale as to what should be expected of a child at given ages, had been arrived at. An abnormal child fell into one of two classes. He was the victim of retardation through lack of opportunity and training or he was feeble-minded. It was for the psychologist to discriminate. Moral training and education were the chief factors in prevention but suitable education must be provided. It was useless to cram a backward child with book knowledge, but it was usually fond of doing something with its hands. The life of a reformatory, with its regulated routine destroyed initiative, and left the child unfit to make decisions for itself. Organized play, Scout and Guide movements, were constructive and preventive. The feeble-minded should be segregated, for every feeble-minded child was a potential criminal, and every feeble-minded woman a potential prostitute and a constant expense to the State. With the application of psychology to the individual, society had the means of doing away with two-thirds of juvenile delinquency.

Register 17.7.23.

CONSERVATORIUM STUDENTS.

From "CELLO":—"I was glad to read in The Register on Monday that somebody else thinks the same as I do about the Conservatorium students. It does seem a shame that an institution which should be teaching the higher grades of music should allow any one and somebody to become students. Cannot something be done by the staff to prevent this? Is it not really an insult to them to have to teach elementary details when they could be training those who have done 'the grind' and have come to appreciate real music?"

STRUCTURE AND GROWTH OF MUSIC

LECTURE BY DR. DAVIES.

Under the auspices of the Adelaide University, Dr. Harold Davies, the director of the conservatorium of Music gave the first of three extension lectures on "The Structure and Growth of Music," at the Prince of Wales lecture hall, at the University on Tuesday evening.

Dr. Davies said that musical education might be divided into three classes, the training of performers, of composers, and of hearers. At present there was considerable scope in the first named. With regard to composing it was only given to a few to write great musical works. The training of listeners was practically wholly neglected. He was thankful to say people in South Australia were fond of music, but only in a very few cases did they understand its meaning. Were they able to teach people the proper manner to appreciate music, and how to discern its true beauty, it would mean a much greater demand of good compositions—a demand that would naturally be followed by the production of the movement?

In Wales, music was included in school curricula. It was a well recognized fact that creative faculty was the highest ideal of education. In the Welsh schools those children were taught discernment by being allowed to choose their own times, and the result had been found to be a much higher standard of education.

Music was purely a creation of man. It had no laws except those man-made. Music was not arbitrary, but something natural, arising out of a human demand. It was then further embellished by art, subject only to laws from within and not from without.

As an illustration of the advance of music through the ages, Dr. Davies played two records, one being one of the most beautiful of Mozart's creations, the other a record of an Australian aboriginal corroboree. Between those two he explained there were three distinct stages. The first terminated at the close of the 9th century, the second period was that known as ecclesiastical, and the third was the secular, and it was during the latter that harmony came in.

Music was truly the speech of the feeling, as was words the speech of reason. The contents of music were sounds and silence and movement and non-movement. The former was constituted by pitch (high or low), duration (long or short), intensity (loud or soft) and quality (tone flavor). They were combined in succession as melody and simultaneously as harmony. The second contents were responsible for rhythms of every order, both separate and combined, relieved by periods of immobility partial or complete.

Dr. Davies reviewed the progress of music throughout the ages from the first attempts to secure sounds, down to the beautiful music of the present day. The review was fully illustrated by the lecturer on the piano.

THE CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC.

From "MUSIC TEACHER":—"I must show my agreement with the sentiments expressed by 'Violin' and 'Cello' with regard to the Conservatorium of Music. One's impression is that the Conservatorium should stand in the same relation to music as the rest of the University does to sciences, &c., viz., that it should cater for and encourage those who are more advanced in their subjects, and should not have to devote its valuable teaching time to those who have not advanced very far in their musical studies. There is a point in this discussion which has not previously been mentioned—that it is most unfair for such a generously endowed and well equipped institution to compete with private teachers in imparting the rudiments of music. Is there a matriculation standard for entrance to the Conservatorium? If so, it would appear that, as a city, we are very far advanced, musically, for the bulk of students one sees entering the Conservatorium look remarkably young & have mastered more than the elementary knowledge of an instrument or of voice production.

PROFESSOR MACKAIL ON AUSTRALIAN POETRY.

When The Sydney Sun interviewed Professor J. W. Mackail last week, he explained at once that he had never even seen the Harbour. When, however, the professor was assured that Australians would probably be more interested to read his views on Australian literature than an opinion of Port Jackson, he took up the conversation again. He had, he said, read a good deal of both the prose and verse of Australia. Among the books that had struck him most were Professor Ernest Scott's "Short History of Australia," and Mr. C. E. W. Bean's first volume of the "Australian War History."

"AUSTRALIAN CLASSICS."

"Then," he added, "there are also the Australian classics."

The Australian classics! Opinions will differ on this point. Indeed, Professor Mackail seemed somewhat dubious himself as to the identity of those "classics," but when a few titles were suggested to him he ranked "Geoffrey Hamlyn" (Kingsley); "For the Term of His Natural Life" (Clarke), and "We of the Never-Never" (Mrs. Gunn) fairly high, with "Robbery Under Arms" (Baldrewood) rather lower.

Of our verse-writers, the visitor knew surprisingly few names. Hugh McCrae and Roderic Quinn, for instance—living poets whom The London Times bracketed in terms of warm praise—were not known to him; nor was the work of the late Henry Lawson at all familiar matter. This would suggest that comparatively little of Australian poetry is read in Britain. Professor Mackail stated, however, that British readers gained a fair idea of this country's poetic product through the medium of anthologies. He mentioned the Oxford book of Australian verse—of the unrepresentative nature of which he was not aware. However, he has seen sufficient of the verse of local writers to be struck with "the immense output which goes on here, just as it does at Home."

"As far as I have observed Australian poetry," he added, "probably only a small proportion of the miscellaneous collection will have permanence; but it is full of promise, and in some cases there is creditable performance. The mere fact that there is so much verse being produced and published shows in a gratifying way how widespread is the general interest in poetry. It shows, too, appreciation of the fact that poetry is a thing of real importance."

After a passing reference to the swinging verse of C. J. Dennis (in which he has found a good deal to admire), Professor Mackail went on to say that it is the destiny of Australians to work out a poetry of their own. So far as he had seen, a good deal that was vital in Australian poetry had been derived from European sources. That, of course, was right and proper. It would be a fatal mistake for Australians to cut off from the whole stream and body of English poetry that was theirs by heritage. The founding of the English Association would, he hoped, do much to strengthen the feeling of continuity between older English literature and the new.

"You do not wish it suggested," Professor Mackail was asked, "that Australians should slavishly model their literature on that of England?"

"No," he said, "models in any art are not meant to be slavishly followed, but to be inspirations."

In response to a further question, one bearing on the old local controversy as to whether Australian writers should be more Australian or less Australian, the visitor was diplomatic.

"One cannot really say 'Yes' or 'No' to that question," he said. "Your literature should be Australian; it should be national; and yet it should be in touch, in vital connection, with not only older English poetry, but with the whole of poetry—poetry being an art that does not limit itself within the boundaries of any nation any more than it limits itself within the boundaries of any period. The ideal of Australian poetry would be to be distinctively Australian and yet closely akin to the best poetry of the world. That old phrase, 'the commonwealth of letters,' applies to poetry equally with all forms of scholarship."

After a little more general conversation, Professor Mackail began to think—almost aloud—that he should return to some notes upon which he had been engaged at the beginning of the interview. The diary-like appearance of these documents suggested, however, just another point; and the professor was asked if he was going to emulate Sir Conan Doyle and Lord Northcliffe by putting his "colonial" experiences into a book.

"No," he affirmed, smilingly; "you may take it at once that I am not. Nor am I going to run The London Times. Nor am I going to lecture on spiritualism!"