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Librarian and Lecturer

Mr. R. J. M. Clucas, B.A., is a Manxman with a geographical outlook on life. He has been librarian at the Adelaide University for nearly 24 years, but as soon as vacation comes along he takes up his hobby of topographical survey.



Mr. R. J. M. Clucas, B.A.

When he first entered the service of the University the library was practically all in one room, which contained nearly 9,000 volumes. That room was used also for commemoration purposes and for public functions.

Today there are more than 60,000 volumes spread over several libraries. Periodicals alone amount to 700. As is the case with every library, the demand is greater than the revenue received for purchases. In 1901 Mr. Clucas took over the secretaryship of public examinations. At that time the University catered not only for South Australia, but also for the West. The sister State acquired its own university in 1913.

When first in charge of these examinations there were 1,600 candidates. Of these more than 800 sat for the primary test, which has since been abolished. This year there were 2,640 examinees, representing nearly 15,000 papers.

In addition to this work Mr. Clucas is lecturer in economic geography, which he finds of absorbing interest.

Besppectacled, slightly bald, deliberate of speech, reticent, and shy of publicity—this sums the man up. While he will not admit it, he is one of the most valued officers on the University staff.

He took his degree in Adelaide, and his affection for his Alma Mater knows no bounds. He insists that he is an uninteresting person, but those who know him best call him a mine of information.

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SOURCE OF MONEY.

The Public Library has to purchase the great majority of its books. Thus the inflow of new books has been limited by financial reasons rather than by the unwillingness of the board to increase the stock of literature.

Dr. Morgan Thomas, who was a constant user of the library during the latter part of his life, bequeathed £65,000 to the Library, Museum, and Art Gallery, and it is part of the interest on this sum which constitutes the main, sometimes the sole, fund from which new books are purchased.

The Government grant, contrary to expectations, is used mainly to pay salaries and wages. This means that South Australia is paying annually less than twopence a head for the upkeep of one of the chief educational institutions in the State.

VALUE OF LIBRARY.

More than 330 people used the library daily during 1922-23. Many persons, naturally, are regular readers, but apart from these, many thousands of different individuals have found the institution of great benefit at some time or other. It is not merely of advantage to students and authors, but to tradesmen, business men and others of a more practical turn of mind. Library attendants state that the most-used section in the building is the one on "applied arts." Many industrious individuals have probably increased their earning capacity through well-spent hours of reading in this section.

Information, knowledge, enlightenment is needed far more than population. Civilisation wants men, but it must not be forgotten that the type of civilisation will depend upon the type of men.

Libraries play an important part in the development of man and society. Their purpose is to be stores of information. But information must be up-to-date, and libraries should keep abreast of the times.

It has been estimated that more than 155,000 books, pamphlets, and periodicals are published annually in the various countries of the world. To purchase this amount would, of course, be impossible, but there is every reason why

the present annual acquisitions of the library should be increased.

NEED FOR BEQUESTS.

When a man has some money to leave to a public institution the last place he thinks of is the Public Library. This situation has arisen probably because the average man believes that that institution has sufficient financial support.

A bequest to the Library for the purchase of books would do an immense amount of good, although it might not be apparent. For the good effects, in this case, would be mental. But, because they are mental, they would be the most far-reaching.

Rejoice
FORESTRY CONTROL.

New Conservator in Charge.

The announcement made to the House of Assembly last October that Mr. Edward Julius, of Tasmania, had been appointed to the position of Conservator of Forests of the State, in succession to Mr. Walter Gill, F.L.S., F.R.H.S., whose term of office was to expire at the end of that year, aroused a deal of comment, several members asserting that the Government had not exercised a wise choice, and stating that one of the local applicants should have been selected. A full explanation was given by the Premier, in the course of which he detailed the qualifications of Mr. Julius for the post, and the newspaper correspondence on the question and the criticism in Parliament then ceased. Mr. Julius's appointment dated from January 1 of this year, and that gentleman arrived from Tasmania, in company with his wife and son, last Saturday. He took charge of the department on Wednesday, and spent the morning with Mr. Gill in going into many matters connected with his new duties. It is not the first time by several that the Conservator has visited Adelaide, and one occasion he was here when on his honeymoon. Mr. Julius is a great advocate of the planting of softwoods, and refers to this State as the one in which the greatest progress of any has been made in connection with the work. He states that Tasmania is entering upon a large scheme of planting with the assistance of Barnado boy immigrants.

Biographical.

Mr. Julius is 55 years of age. He was educated at Newington College, Sydney, and during the last 15 years has been in the service of the New South Wales department and for two years in the Tasmanian Forestry Department. He was stationed at Burnie as district forester in charge of the north-western division. In New South Wales he was successively forest guard, forest assessor, and assistant district forester; the duties of the last-named position entailing the administration of an area of 20,000 square miles in the north-western district of that State. His duties included the administration of the Forestry Act, and also regulations, forest survey and assessment, forest management (embracing the silvicultural treatment of forest areas by protection and encouragement of natural regeneration of forest species of commercial value), treatment of waste lands by the establishment of plantations and nurseries, and commercial utilization of the crop. Mr. Julius has made forest valuation surveys of 300,000 acres. He has made a special study of the increment growth in relation to the rotation of crops of various indigenous and exotic species and other matters. He has also studied the growth of conifers, and has visited New Zealand for the Tasmanian Government in connection with an enquiry regarding pine growing. Mr. L. G. Irby (Tasmanian Conservator of Forests), in supporting Mr. Julius's application for the South Australian position, said that he held him to be one of the leading foresters of Australia, and that of all the foresters known to him Mr. Julius stood alone. Mr. R. Dalrymple Hay (Chief Commissioner of Forestry in New South Wales) considers that Mr. Julius is capable of performing high duties associated with the formulation and direction of a forest policy under Australian conditions.

The annual conference and convention of the Australian Christian Student Movement is being held in Adelaide at present. Attended by 150 delegates from all the States, the convention will last from January 3 to January 10. The representatives have made the Scotch College, at Torrens Park, Mitcham, their headquarters, and are quartered there by courtesy of the council.

Discussing that movement, Mr. D. K. Picken, M.A. (master of Ormond College, Melbourne University, and chairman of the Australian movement), stated that it was strong in Australia, and was doing valuable work among the University students. The gathering was in the nature of a picnic to the delegates, and although much serious business was discussed, it was not done in a solemn manner. It was a most sociable gathering, where no introductions were necessary, cards tied to the coat lapel serving that purpose.

Mr. Picken, who took the place of Prof. J. McKellar Stewart as chairman, when the latter came to Adelaide as professor of philosophy, was born at Glasgow, Scotland, and is a master of arts at the Glasgow, Cambridge, and Melbourne Universities. Still youthful, with a well-trimmed brown moustache, and spectacles, Mr. Picken was formerly chairman of the New Zealand conferences, where the movement is flourishing in a gratifying manner.

A programme has been arranged for the week, and is as follows:—

Thursday, January 3—7.30 p.m., preliminary convention session; 8 p.m., prayers.

Friday, January 4—9 a.m., morning prayers; 9.15 a.m., preparation for Bible study; 10 a.m., Bible study; 11 a.m., period for quiet; 11.30 a.m., convention session. Afternoon—Recreation. 7.30 p.m., address, "Christ's Conception of Life" (Mr. D. K. Picken, chairman A.S.C.M.); 8 p.m., devotional.

Saturday, January 5—9 a.m., morning prayers; 9.15 a.m., preparation for Bible study; 10 a.m., Bible study; 11 a.m., period for quiet; 11.30 a.m., convention session. Afternoon—Recreation. 7.30 p.m., discussion groups; 8 p.m., address: "Eternal Life" (Professor J. McKellar Stewart); 8.30 p.m., devotional.

Monday, January 7—9 a.m., morning prayers; 9.15 a.m., convention session; 11 a.m., period for quiet; 11.30 a.m., tutorials. Afternoon—Recreation. 7.30 p.m., short addresses, "Students of India" (Miss E. Good); "The W.S.C.F." (Mr. E. V. Newman); "European Student Relief" (Prof. R. G. Wilton); 8.30 p.m., devotional.

Tuesday, January 8—9 a.m., morning prayers; 9.15 a.m., preparation for Bible study; 10 a.m., Bible study; 11 a.m., period for quiet; 11.30 a.m., tutorials. Afternoon—Recreation; 7.30 p.m., address, "The Student Movement and the Church" (Rev. G. H. Wright); 8 p.m., devotional.

Wednesday, January 9—9 a.m., morning prayers; 9.15 a.m., preparation for Bible study; 10 a.m., Bible study; 11 a.m., period for quiet; 11.30 a.m., tutorials, afternoon, recreation; 7.30 p.m., convention discussion groups; 8 p.m., address—"Christ's Conception of Life" (Mr. D. K. Picken); 8.30 p.m., devotional.

Thursday, January 10.—Mornings to be occupied as on other mornings, and the closing address of the convention to be delivered by Professor Stewart at 7.30 p.m.

The officers are:—Chairman of conference, Professor J. McKellar Stewart; secretaries, General, Mr. W. E. Northey, women's section, Miss Marthe Wait; literature, Miss N. C. Kildahl; treasurer, Mr. F. E. Brown; medical officer, Dr. Cecil S. Mead; transport officer, Mr. A. L. Dawkins.

Advertiser
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THE UNIVERSITY AND THE WORKERS.

From E. H. ERYER, Hectorville:—We hear from all sides the cry going up for greater facilities in education, but do we take sufficient advantage of the opportunities already afforded to us? The tutors of the University are making a great effort to meet the needs of the people. "Knowledge is power," and the worker is finding the truth behind this statement more and more. Yet once again a golden chance is being thrown away. The W.E.A. Summer School, which should be held at Brighton at the end of this month, is another opportunity given to the workers to meet the tutors in educational and social intercourse. Hurry on, please!

Advertiser
3 JAN 1924

An exploring party, consisting of Professor Wood Jones and his two daughters, Professor Osborn, Mr. Edgar Waite (Director of the Museum), Dr. T. D. Campbell (of the Dental Hospital), and Mr. Eldridge, will leave Port Adelaide this morning by the steamer Wookata on a visit to the Flinders Islands for the purpose of studying the flora and fauna of the group and gathering specimens.

New
MORE BOOKS NEEDED

Small Public Library Fund

(By T. S. OPIE, B.A.)

Forty miles of shelves housing nearly five million books are contained in the British Museum Library. Incredible though it may seem, the Bibliotheque Nationale of Paris has even a larger amount of literature within its walls. Each of these libraries, in fact, contains more than one-third of the calculated number of books published—about 14,000,000—since printing was invented.

The Adelaide Library, compared to the above huge storehouses of literature, with its total of about 120,000 volumes, appears insignificant. South Australia is a young State, and consequently one would expect her public library to be small. During the last financial year, however, only 3,500 new books were acquired, at a cost of about £1,500.

New
3.1.24

STUDY OF BIBLE

Australian Convention

MEETING IN ADELAIDE

Recruited from past and present students of the Universities of the world, the Student Christian movement has for its object the advancement of Christian principles in the Universities. The movement is inter-denominational, and world-wide, and is chiefly concerned with the study of the Bible. Christian Unions have been formed in most of the Universities of the world, and they have regular meetings, and do a great deal of work, mostly of a studious nature.

Advertiser
4.1.24

Dr. Angus Johnson (nominated by the Minister), Professor F. Wood Jones (nominated by the University), and Mr. E. R. Waite (nominated by the Royal Society) have been appointed by the Government as members of the Fauna and Flora Board of South Australia.