

Record of Progress

The University of Adelaide

GREAT GROWTH DURING 50 YEARS

Yet Still Cramped for Room

No other institution in South Australia has done so much as the University of Adelaide for the advancement of arts, science, literature, and commerce. In less than 50 years it has accumulated a handsome and extensive aggregation of buildings on North Terrace, and in the same time has increased the number of its Chairs from four to nineteen. It has been richly endowed, yet even now it is urgently in need of money and particularly is wanting more accommodation.

The University of Adelaide was established by Act of Parliament in 1874, but did not begin working until 1876. It is, therefore, just about half a century old. That is a very short time in the life of a University, but already the University of Adelaide has attained world-wide fame. Its degrees and diplomas are accepted in any country, and its graduates have gone out to all parts of the world and acquitted themselves with much distinction. Its record of progress is one almost to marvel at, and is due to the able guidance of those who have controlled it, and a great deal to the munificence of public spiritedness of prominent South Australians; indeed, it owes its origin to the generosity and high ideals of the late Sir Walter Watson Hughes and Sir Thomas Elder, G.C.M.G., each of whom made a gift of £20,000 towards its foundation. Parliament, too, has been as generous as the State of the finances from time to time would permit. In the Act of Incorporation the University was endowed by Parliament with "an annual grant from the public revenues of South Australia of five per cent. on the capital funds possessed by the University, but not to exceed in any one year the sum of £10,000." By the Amending Act of 1923 this limit was extended to £20,000. The Act of Incorporation also included an endowment "in land of 50,000 acres, and a grant of five acres in the city of Adelaide as a site for the University buildings." The country lands were subsequently repurchased for £40,000 by the Government, but the city area has been extended by further grants. Parliament has from time to time increased the annual grants which, in 1924, together with the statutory grants, amounted to £39,618. The total annual income from all sources in 1924 was £75,244.

From Four Chairs to Nineteen

Prior to the provision of the first building at North Terrace, which was completed in 1881, lectures were delivered in chambers in Victoria Square. The original University building is the Gothic structure now used as the administrative block, and is the nearest edifice to North Terrace with the statue of Sir Walter Watson Hughes in the front. It was originally designed to take four professors, with their libraries, private rooms, and lecture rooms. These professors were:—(a) The Hughes Professor of Classics and Comparative Philology and Literature, (b) the Hughes Professor of English Language and Literature and Mental and Moral Philosophy, (c) the Elder Professor of Pure and Applied Mathematics, and (d) the Elder Professor of Physics. An idea of the growth of the University may be obtained from the fact that there are now 19 chairs, 29 full-time and 72 part-time lecturers, and 50 assistants, including technicians, while there are 38 on the administrative and literary staffs. Lectures are given and degrees granted in arts, science, law, medicine, dentistry, engineering, and music.

Diplomas are given in commerce, music, education, economics, and political science, and in some branches of applied science.

The first lectures in 1886 were attended by eight matriculated students and 52 non-graduating students. The number of under-graduates in 1924 was 764, of post-graduates 58, non-graduating students 631 and there were 56,4 students attending the Elder Conservatorium.

Rapid Extension

An addition to the original structure provision was made in 1886 for the accommodation of Professor Sitrling's department. This is in front of the Prince of Wales Theatre Block, which was a still later addition. The Elder Conservatorium was erected as the result of a bequest by Sir Thomas Elder, and was completed in 1899. Then came the Prince of Wales Building, known as the Science School. The foundation stone of this structure was laid in 1901 by the present King when his Majesty visited Adelaide as the Duke of York. With his permission the building was named the Prince of Wales Building when he received that title. Then in 1904 came the Anatomical School on the slope at the rear of the main buildings and behind the tennis courts. The next important extension was an addition to the main building to provide room for the Laboratory and Botanical Department. This extension consisted of an additional story on the back portion and was effected in 1912.

There were no further additions until after the war, when the great influx of students made it necessary to provide extra accommodation for the department of Science. In order to meet this urgent need a jarrah building was erected behind the Elder Conservatorium, and equipped as an elementary laboratory in Chemistry, for which purpose it is still being used. The geological wing of the Prince of Wales building was added in 1903.

New Block Ready Next Year

The handsome and commodious Darling Building, to the cost of which the family of the late Hon. John Darling liberally contributed, was the first of two important recent extensions of the University. This fine structure is behind the Art Gallery, and is used for the physiological, biochemical, zoological, and pathological departments. For many years the engineering and physics departments have been badly cramped in their operations because of lack of room, but the Government are now erecting an extensive building to accommodate these departments, and the structure is nearing completion. The University will be in occupation of it next year.

Arts School in Want

Although the University has been extended from time to time in response to pressing needs, the Faculty of Arts is still in urgent want of further accommodation. The University has been occupying temporary quarters in the old police barracks where the Workers' Educational Association and the caretaker are housed. The W.E.A. department is

extending very rapidly, and it will soon be necessary to provide adequate accommodation for it as well as for the Lecturer in Economics, and for the arts side, which is suffering a good deal in consequence of the restriction of space. A great need is for private rooms for the Professors and members of the staff. At present the University is unable to provide some of the lecturers with any private rooms, and most of them are poorly accommodated. The University has been promised by the Government an extension of land to the north of the Darling Building, and the first structure to be erected there will no

doubt be a much-needed Common Room for students. A movement is being organised to continue the work of raising funds for this building which Professor Henderson so enthusiastically started a few years ago, when he succeeded in raising a fund of £6,366. The need for this building is becoming more pressing as the women students at present occupy temporary quarters in the building formerly used by the military behind the Museum, but part of their cottage was demolished to make room for the engineering building, and this restricted their quarters still more and rendered them really unsuitable for accommodation.

The Waite Research Institute

The munificent gift of Mr. Peter Waite when he transferred the whole of the Urrbrae Estate, comprising 134 acres and a mansion house, to the University, followed by the gift of the adjoining estate of Claremont and part of Netherby, comprising in all 299 acres of agricultural and grazing land, opens up a bright prospect in the matter of agricultural research and education. With the Government subsidy the Waite Agricultural Institute has an income of £8,000 per year. The success and extent of the work of this branch of the University is likely to be in keeping with the funds available for the payment of the staff. This institute might easily become the scientific centre for all agricultural industry, including the breeding and treatment of animals, which cannot be touched within the limits of the present endowment.

POINTS ON PSYCHOLOGY.

W.E.A. LECTURE.

A lecture on "Some points in Psychology" was delivered by Mr. H. C. Garnett at the Prince of Wales Lecture Hall at the University on Tuesday evening to members of the Workers' Educational Association. He said psychology threw a good deal of light on various questions. In immigration, for example, intending settlers were subjected to a physical examination, but it was curious that no demands were made regarding their mental equipment. There was therefore no adequate means of keeping out the mentally deficient. That was the more serious because mental deficiency was always hereditary, and mental defectives always tended to multiply more rapidly than ordinary people. From the fact that a recent examination of children in the London schools indicated that 4 per cent. of the school population was mentally deficient one could reasonably suppose that quite a considerable number would emigrate to Australia. Psychological tests had developed well beyond the experimental stage, and was largely used in commercial and military life in the United States. It should be easily possible to establish a centre for such tests of intending migrants, which could be applied in about 20 minutes by trained clerks under the guidance of a psychologist. Such an institution would effectively remedy the undesirable element in the Mediterranean immigration. Judging by the proportion found to be deficient among immigrants to the United States, to whom the army tests were applied, from 35 to 70 per cent. of Southern European and Slavonic immigrants would fail. Psychology also threw an interesting sidelight on conceit and bashfulness. The idea of self was formed at about the fourth year in a child's life and remained with him throughout his life. If the child was unduly admired or praised it gave rise to the idea in the child's mind of superiority. Future experience was powerless to modify that impression when it had become a subconscious habit. That was the explanation of conceit. The saying that it was more blessed to give than to receive also had a certain psychological significance. Pleasures came from the satisfaction of instincts, and joys came from the satisfaction of affections. Affections were habits of feelings, habits were made by actions, and actions in the first place were prompted by instinct. Affection was cultivated by doing affectionate acts or in other words, by giving. The more widely one gave, therefore, the stronger and wider would be the affections and the greater one's capacity for joy in life.

The University of Adelaide, showing the main administrative block on the left, the Elder Conservatorium on the right, and the Prince of Wales building in the middle with the Anatomical School at the rear. The roof of the Darling building is discernible behind the administrative block, but the uncompleted Engineering and Physics School is hidden by the main structure.

