UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

The first of the valuable lectures under the extension movement was delivered at the University on Tuesday evening by Professor Boshirt, M.A., D.D. In order to indicate that these lectures are not only a distinctive feature in the present point of view the Professor chose his course to demonstrate experimentally as well as on the commonest elements of the atmosphere, their properties, composition, and temperature of nature. Although the lectures will be given in a manner consistent, each will be of such an elementary character that it will be readily understood without any previous knowledge of the geochronology. The Professor, proceeding by exulting that it was his intention, so far as conditions would allow, to illustrate the geography of the great mixture of gases of different gases, weight, and characteristics. The degree of force was spoken of, which hold particles together, forming gases, liquids, and solids. All particles in solids were necessarily held very closely together in accordance with pressure, while they were not necessarily in actual contact. This was also the case with liquids, as demonstrated by the action of water need in hydraulic apparatus, but not so with the gases, which were not cohesive, but very loosely held together, being easy for the hand to be moved through the air, as the atmosphere. The properties of gases as distinguished from liquids and solids were then demonstrated by experiments of a very simple nature with a balance, thermometer, and other apparatus. While it was possible to convert gaseous substances into liquids and solids, it was also shown that solids could be converted into gaseous and liquid state. After demonstrating the liquefaction of air, the Professor went on to show the behavior of gases with changes of temperature and pressure. One of the most interesting experiments of the evening was the freezing of water by the use of lime through the application of intense cold to a cryogenic tube. This experiment was concluded with demonstration of the weight of gases, it being shown that carbon dioxide weighed twenty times as much as hydrogen, which was the lightest gas.

During the course of the lecture an experiment was in progress which proved that by the application of a freezing mixture composed of ice and salt, carbon dioxide can be liquefied, the liquid being collected in the bottom of a tube. To show the marvelous properties of this chemical mixture, the Professor showed some results which must have been somewhat surprising. For instance, the boiling of water by pouring cold water upon the reservoir in which the liquid was contained needed some explanation to the incredulous. This process proves to be exceedingly interesting as well as instructive upon a most useful science.

CULTURE—NOT OF THE SOIL.

It is with pleasure that we note that an endeavor is likely to be made to obtain for Mount Barker the intellectual advantages appertaining to a course of University extension lectures. The system, which aims at giving those who are not professional students an opportunity of keeping up their general education and of adding to their stock of knowledge, has been tried with considerable success in other places, and increased attention is being given just now to this method of disseminating University instruction among the people. Cultivation in most of the country districts will not be afforded the chance of imbibing mental culture which is offered to the more fortunate metropolitans, but in a few of the provincial centres it will be possible to secure occasional visits from one or other of the professors at the University, who will give lectures on subjects such as history, literature, economics, or science, as may be desired by the local supporters of the movement. Gawler has already made application for extension lectures, and Mount Barker should follow the good example with as little delay as possible, for, in view of the obvious limitations, those who are earliest in the field with a request are the most likely to have their wishes complied with. Readers of the daily papers no doubt perceived the interesting interviews which the reporters had with Professor Boshirt, who was recently appointed as the professor of classics at the University, when full information respecting the scope and the working plan of the extension system was given by the gentleman, who is very enthusiastic on the subject. His general remarks on the benefits attaching to well-conducted study, not purged in "cramping" fashion but as a relaxation after business or the toil of the workshop, were worth reading and taking to heart, while special notices should be paid to what he says in regard to the lectures which we have made reference. He emphasizes the fact that the idea is not so much to give people a great deal of information on certain subjects as to show them interesting subjects are and to encourage them to read on their own account—in brief, to enlarge the general views of life and its intellectual interests. To quote the Professor—"One is more likely in a new community to people in that side—there is so much to engage the mind—but one does not get the real sense of life, the real force of living, unless one takes a wider interest in things; and it is culture that opens new pleasantries for us and teaches us to appreciate the marvels and beauty of Nature. The man of refinement and culture is contented with less than the man who lives only for wealth, for he gets more rational enjoyment out of existence." It is because there is particular need, where the density of population is not great, that the country districts are concerned, for arousing and stimulating interest in mental pursuits that we welcome the proposition to invite University lecturers to come into our midst and talk to us about some among the numberless branches of knowledge.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

Professor Boshirt continued his course of lectures upon "Rome," with illustrations of the eastern views, at the University on Wednesday morning and evening from good audiences. Having already introduced his listeners to the city and its people in order to possess them of a general acquaintance with its subject, the Professor proceeded in particular upon the architectural greatness, variety, and beauty in three divisions of study—the buildings, the materials, and the workmanship of construction, and the styles of architecture. The great bulk of the necessary material for the latter was obtained from the hills of Rome, since the marbles of the great temples were of a white marble, the so-called "Dolorous," some of which was said to have come from Asia Minor or Persian. The ancient stone, the stone of the Roman Temple, was much sought after in modern times, and the modern material was mostly brought in over from Europe. The marble was worked from every available source: the yellow with pinkish, with its splendid, hard, soft, or black; the reds or granite, the ancient red, and the Portland stone were mostly brought into use. To give some idea of the amount of one of the works of the century it was stated that a German firm sent to work the Roman marble quarries found that it would cost £2500 to transport a single piece of marble to England. The use of stone and wood for roofing was ample, and the method of construction was dilated upon, the wood being approached with great care and precision. The most important change was to be seen in the construction of the halls and schools, where the old method of using stone and wood was discontinued and brick, as a more convenient material, was employed. In finishing and interior work the author showed a graphic description of the styles in Roman, Greek, Corinthian, and Doric, being shown separately and in combination, according to the skill and taste or the architect and builder.