

and full advantage has been taken of the system, as the lectures have been largely attended by persons of all ages, of every class of society, and of the most varying degrees of previous knowledge.

The written paper work and the examination is of course taken only by a minority among the auditors, but one is surprised as first to discover who the persons are who follow up the lectures with separate private study leading during the written work by book. To give an idea, I might mention who some of the students were in different centres who did the work for my own course, and what lectures could no doubt give you more remarkable instances. At a centre in the North of England I made the acquaintance of a gentleman in business who had originally been a stevedore at the docks. He was now an important merchant and town councillor. I found he had attended no less than twelve courses, each consisting of twelve lectures. He had done the written paper-work for all these courses, and successfully passed the examination in each instance. At another town in the west of England, where I was giving two courses at once, a doctor from the hospital attended both these courses and found time to answer the weekly questions on both. In Newcastle one of my best students at a literary course was the foreman of a gang of playboys on the Great Western Railway. At the same centre I had a set of excellent papers written on my course by a lady who was well known and well paid. One may say, in a word, that these occasional lectures in England draw audiences from every class of society, and are one of the most varied occupations and interests. It is more and more being recognised that without what, for want of a better word, must be called 'culture' life is only half worth living. It cannot be too strongly stated that the class of occasional lectures are merely to impart information, but to stimulate interest and to induce one's auditors to think and read for themselves.

Have you had experience of the system outside England?

"Yes, I have seen it worked in Melbourne and Sydney, and I have lectured on the subject myself in America and South Africa. The tendency of the time is for interests to be broadened and extended, and one of the important duties of a university is to encourage and assist such a movement.

"We have had two courses here last term which were very well attended, but one finds that comparatively few people realise what the system means. We are trying an experiment this term. The extensive lectures which I shall have the pleasure of delivering on Wednesday next will be given both in the afternoon and evening, so that such time of day best suits the convenience of the audience. Professor Bunsen is giving a course of lectures on the atmosphere, and in one of these lectures he will speak of the extremely interesting discovery of the new gas, 'Argon.' My own course is one on 'Rome,' which will deal chiefly with the architectural remains and their historic associations. It will be illustrated with lantern views from photographs and engravings, and I hope it will prove of assistance to all who contemplate visiting Rome some day."

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

On Wednesday and Thursday next the second series of University extension lectures will be commenced. On Wednesday Professor Bunsen, the recently-appointed professor of chemistry, will lecture on "Rome: its origin, history, architecture, &c.," and the lectures will be illustrated by lantern views. Professor Bunsen will lecture on the "Atmosphere; its constituents, &c.," on Thursday evening. These lectures will be illustrated experimentally as far as possible, and will contain references to more recent investigations. The lectures will be of an elementary character, and the audience will be supposed to have no previous knowledge of chemistry. During the course Professor Bunsen will lecture each Wednesday at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Professor Bunsen's lectures will be given each Thursday at 8 p.m.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

12th September 1895

Giving the public an opportunity of acquiring scientific knowledge of a useful and artistic character is fast becoming a distinctive feature of University work in Scotland and America, and with the advent of our latest Professors, new from the great leading centres of education, the idea of popularising accurate learning promises to be a success. A biconomy. A course of popular lectures was commenced some months ago by Professors Mitchell and Brazg, which were so enthusiastically successful as to induce the authorities to arrange a second series, the first of which was given by Professor Beady, M.A., at the University on Wednesday afternoon and repeated on the same evening the science lecture room on each occasion being filled. Applications have been sent in to the authorities to have these lectures delivered at Glasgow and Mount Barker, and the authorities intend to meet the applications as far as possible. The subject chosen by Professor Beady for his course of six lectures is "Rome," one reason for the choice no doubt being, as indicated in his opening remarks, that the power of supercharging Rome in all its varied associations and interests to the English-speaking people is an indication of what might fitly be termed the completion of a liberal education. These lectures were intended to be instructive to those who had already visited Rome, to those who may visit the city at some future date, and also to those who may never have the opportunity of so doing. It was not necessary, however, to visit a city to know a great deal about it and thoroughly appreciate its interests. In proof of this was cited the fact that even had it recently been quoted as standard authorities upon the greatest existing cities which they had never seen. The attention of the audience was first solicited to the site of the great City of Rome, and after picturesque descriptions into the lecturer went on to tell the story of its foundation and origin, its geological formation, its various governments and growth of power, its buildings, the energy of the two millions of its inhabitants, and the sad decline from its original grandeur and beauty. An instructive description of the growth of Rome during the time of conquests by its Emperors over the surrounding country up to the time when the Goths and Vandals were very clearly shown, as well as the beginning of its end, when the seat of government was removed to Constantinople. Special interest was manifested in the reasons assigned for the growth of the Western Church as against that of the East. After dealing with the historical, political, and social interests the lecturer passed on to the architectural features, which appear to be the theme for the rest of his course. While the artistic work of the architecture was performed under the instruction or actual labour of the Greeks, the Romans themselves apparently having but little artistic skill, the boldness, vastness, massiveness, and variety were the creations of the citizens themselves. They had also good material and good workmen, who were probably for the most part slaves, and dared not go on strike for fear of being crucified. The decline of the city was due to neglect and the wanton destruction which was incredible, the modern vandalism being the most execrable. The lecture was illustrated by lantern views, under the management of Mr. Rogers, and the Professor kept his audience for an hour and forty minutes, intensely interested, while he handled the subject with the ease of a master and the knowledge of an animated cyclopaedia.

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