

as strychnine, &c, but which, as many of them, are more potent than ordinarily known poisons. There can be no doubt that the material used by Dr. Koch, and so widely but erroneously styled (though not by Dr. Koch himself) his "consumption cure," contains substances of this nature. It is, moreover, now generally believed that the acute symptoms of many diseases are in a large measure due to the production of similar poisons in the body, and lately chemists have been able to detect them in the waste products of the body during the course of such diseases. Still further, it would even appear as though each disease produces its own specific poison. It would seem, therefore, that by the co-operation of medical and chemical science great possibilities are before us in the direction of the discovery of the nature of the poisons present in the body during disease, and, therefore, we may venture to hope of the alleviation ultimately of the suffering produced by them. But although chemistry has done a good deal, and we hope will do much more, in tracing the various transformations going on within the animal or vegetable system, and although it is known that the exercise of certain bodily functions, the contraction of a muscle for example, produce certain definite chemical changes, yet it must be confessed that it throws no light on the origin of life itself; that is a question to be solved by the biologist—if he can. It is true, as has been stated, that many substances so found within plants and animals have been produced by artificial means in the laboratory, and it may be granted that the scientific chemist sees nothing impossible in the evolution of a new chemistry which may be capable of dealing with substances hitherto beyond the reach of chemical synthesis; but there are apparently materials in the animal system which cannot exist outside the body in the condition in which they are within it, and which immediately undergo an important change when removed from the sphere of vital influence. Such, for instance, are some of the constituents of the blood. Moreover, many of the complex substances of which the tissues of plants and animals consist rapidly undergo putrefaction and decay unless protected by highly artificial means. Immunity from such changes is obviously, therefore, conferred by some agency due to the presence of life itself, but of the nature of which we know absolutely nothing.

"Hours might be occupied in the further elucidation of the various matters I have so far touched upon, but I have, I think, said enough to justify the position occupied by chemistry as one of the subjects of study for degrees in medicine and science, and to vindicate its claims to be a science of great practical importance. A word or two more on another point and I have done. It will have been obvious from what has been said that there are problems of great practical and theoretical importance to be solved, and that therefore there is ample room for research in chemical as in other sciences. On his return from England not long ago Professor Anderson Stuart said—and said rightly—that if colonial Universities are to keep in touch with the older Universities of the world they must prosecute original research; but he, I am sure, would be one of the first to admit that conditions here are very different from those existing in Europe, and much less favourable for original work. To begin with, in the Universities of older countries there are always numbers of advanced students willing and eager to undertake investigations either on their own account or under the direct supervision of their teachers, and the latter, therefore, have ample opportunities of pushing enquiry in any direction they may choose. Here we have practically no such students. In these new countries, moreover, where systems have not yet crystallized into a settled condition, the teacher's time is necessarily much occupied with organization inside the University itself, and in various institutions more or less directly educational or professional outside its walls, so that there are innumerable interruptions to work which needs constant and close attention and endless delays before it can be satisfactorily completed.

Nevertheless, something has been accomplished, and we hope much more may yet be done. The geology and biology of Australia, two subjects of great value in a new country, have received contributions of no mean importance from members of the scientific staff within this University. It is too much to hope that in the near future some of our own students and graduates will come to our help in this work. I am well aware that the majority of our young graduates are compelled to seek the means of living so soon as they have completed the course for their degree, but are there not some who have the means or who can be supplied with the means to continue their work here for a little longer after taking their degree? Even if they intend ultimately to proceed to Europe such time spent here would not be wasted, but would give them a grasp of any subject which would place them in a position of immense advantage on arrival at the older seats of learning. By so doing they would greatly advance the best interests of their *alma mater*. Students and graduates may be reminded that the laboratories are open without cost to those wishing to undertake work of this kind. Sooner or later I have no doubts that the Australian Universities will take a position as centres of scientific investigation of which their members will have no reason to be ashamed, but the sooner the better. That students of the necessary ability are not wanting is beyond dispute. Already members of this University have shown that they can hold their own in competition with the students of Great Britain, and one of them now occupies a distinguished scientific position in University College, London. Given but the students who can stay with us for a longer time, or who means to enable us to keep such students for a longer term, and there is no reason why the University of Adelaide should not do her part in the prosecution of scientific research, and, therefore, I might add, in promoting the interests of the colony in which we dwell." (Loud cheers.)

The CHANCELLOR expressed the thanks of the University to His Excellency the Governor for the honour he had done them by his presence that afternoon. Every one of Her Majesty's representatives in this colony since the University was founded had taken a warm interest in the welfare of the institution, but His Excellency was the first Governor of South Australia who had come amongst them as one of themselves. (Cheers.) It added to their pleasure in meeting His Excellency with the hood and gown of a Master of Arts of the University of Adelaide. (Cheers.) He next had to thank Professor Rennie for the very interesting and suggestive address which he had just delivered. The Professor had very effectively vindicated the position of a Professor of Chemistry in a seminary of learning, and from the applause which the latter part of his address evoked he understood that the undergraduates who were now studying in the University of Adelaide—the scientific section of them at all events—would undertake that they would derelict themselves after their undergraduate days were over to the prosecution of original research. (Cheers.) While on his recent travels he saw something of the realization of a hope like this. The American Universities were not above a century, the most venerable of them, older than our University, and when he was travelling in Palestine he found himself an occupant of a room with a past graduating student of the Yale University, who was devoting himself not to money-making, like so many of his countrymen were accustomed to do, but to the study of languages, and he had no doubt that the day was not far off when graduates of this University would carry out the ideal of Professor Rennie by devoting themselves to the prosecution of sciences the elements of which they had learnt within the walls of this University. (Cheers.)

The CHANCELLOR then declared the meeting of the University closed.

As His Excellency was taking his departure several of the students whistled "God Save the Queen," and immediately afterwards upon the assembly dispersing they sang the National Anthem somewhat discordantly.