UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

On Tuesday evening in connection with the University extension course Professor Mitchell delivered the second lecture on "English Humanism and philosophy from 1750 to 1780." There was a large attendance. After referring to the influence of the poetry and critical theories of the age preceding the one on which he was treating, Professor Mitchell dealt with the works of Pope, whose life he divided into two periods—the first was from 1715 to 1725, during which time he wrote most of his poems, and a number of the works with which he was so universally acquainted; the second period comprised the years 1725 to 1755, when he came to the world of letters. The "Dunciad," his moral essays, and the "Essay on Man" in rapid succession the lecturer gave brief biographies of Andreason Philips (1674-1718), John Gay (1679-1732), Allan Ramsey (1686-1758), and Matthew Prior (1664-1721), giving quotations from the works of each in his turn to illustrate the distinctive elements in the influence of the age upon poetry, stating that owing to the correctness of the style, the age with which he was dealing had been called the classic period of English literature. The prevalent forms of verse, such as the heroic couplet, blank verse, sonnet, measure, mock-heroic, Spenserian stanza, and lyrical verse were referred to and many quotations were given illustrative of each.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

The second of the lecture series of the University Extension lectures was delivered by Professor Mitchell to a good audience on Tuesday evening. The lecture introduced the subject of English literature and philosophy from 1775 to 1780 by some interesting and important notes on the literary life and personal character of the more prominent authors, taking Pope as the most characteristic poet of the age. The physical weakness, eccentricities, and afflictions of the poet were revealed by comments upon quotations from his clever satire and in the contrast between the criticisms and sarcastic controversies with his friends and his real and imagined rivals. While some of his actions were condemned publicly others exhibited the greatest liberality towards those of others. Other authors who came under review illustrative of the various methods of reviewing poetry were Gay, Fizz, and Ramsey. The peculiarities of these authors were even more vividly given in a pleasing narrative form of address. Reference was made to the circumstances and environment which gave matter for the poetry of the age, and special emphasis laid upon the individuality of the men, the omnipresence of Shakespeare, which distinguished the poets, and inspired them to rise above the commonplace influences of their surroundings. A brief review then traced the history of poetry from the discovery of the ruins in the art by Ariosto, through the poetry of Italy, the criticism of France, and the song, calculating correctness of the British. By a scholarly analysis and with pleasing address the lecturer explained the true poetry of Ben Johnson; the savage genius of Shakespeare, as described by Voltaire; the same literature of Addison; the idealism of Dryden; the tenets of Pope, which made him so generally popular; the emotional pressure of Cowper; and the complacency of the Spenserian stanza. The prevalent forms of verse were shown in a number of quotations, and the lecture concluded with the compulsory expression of admiration that it was the only form of writing by which the emotions could be accurately interpreted.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

Professor Bray delivered the second of a series of lectures on "Radiation" at the Adelaide University on Monday evening last. On this occasion he dealt with the longer, and in some of the more elementary principles, the reflection and refraction of light, and showed models of lenses and prisms, the workings of which were explained. Reference was made to mirrors, while the eye and its functions were minutely described.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

The second of the series of scientific lectures under the extension system of popular instruction was delivered by Professor Bray at a University on Wednesday evening. Following up the first lecture, which dealt with a mathematical explanation of radiation in the form of waves of light, the lecturer proceeded to deal with the effects produced by diagrams upon the blackboard and an electric lighted lantern with lenses, mirrors, prisms, and other optical appliances; the demonstration of the waves of light being manipulated to strike upon the eye. The reflection and refraction of radiation uniformly expounded by experiments of a simple but most effective character, which demonstrated the fixed laws governing the rays of light. The optical arrangements of the eye were explained, the method of working carried on by the self-adjusting lens of this organ being very instructive and, indeed, to a certain extent, a little to those whose sight is defective through the eye being otherwise adapted to the of the proper focusing which gives correct vision. The judgment of the eye in detecting the position and forms of objects was carefully shown, and the deception of such illusions as mirages and the effect of a diverting light from its proper home to the eye was dealt with. The detector was equipped with which the Professor carried out his experiments and the exceedingly simple methods of unravelling the mysteries of a difficult branch of science did him infinite credit, and proved the truth of the announcement to the public that the lectures would be of an elementary character, and the audience would not be supposed to have knowledge of physics.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

Professor Mitchell explained his course of lectures upon "English Literature and philosophy" on Tuesday evening at the University. The lecture dealt with the third division of poetry and drama, and analytical details of the matter and form of poetry were given, showing that the influence which inspired the poet resided in appeals to human nature, to feeling, and to will. While these aspects of poetry were always apparent, the predominant influence of nature, generally that of feeling, in illustration of this, the pastoral poetry first introduced by Spenser, descriptive of external nature, was commenced upon, and elaborated into a complete poem from Pope's sympathetic and classical poem, the pastorale of Racine, which is regarded as a forerunner to Burns; and the graphic descriptions of rustic and pastoral scenes shown in Thomson's poems, particularly "The Seasons," wherein the poet luxuriated in his powers. Much of the poetry of this first half of the eighteenth century had a stiffness and artificiality in its description and language which is in many of the examples of love poems there was a coldness of passion. Some of the productions were the results of keen study and satirical irony, given by Gay, Addison, Pope, and Swift. The illustrations given of the genius of the various poets aptly demonstrated the lecturer's power of analysis, and were listened to with rapt attention.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

The science course of lectures under the extension system of popular instruction was continued by Professor Bray on Wednesday evening. The science lecture had been filled for enthusiastic audience, which accompanied the difficult, fascinating, and popular lectures conducted by the Professor and his able assistant, Mr. Rees. The subject of radiation was treated in the third stage of demonstrating the action of waves of light and its colour. By the adjustment of prisms and the use of an arc light a spectrum was formed and the nature of the rays and their color was explained. By passing an electric current through a barium bulb and in the clearer of the heated part of the bulb, silver, copper, zinc, and brass the colors given to the arc and the distinctive colors of each lamp were seen upon the screen. The effect of the arc on the screen was then shown, and the action of the resulting spectrum to discover the composition of the sun and stars, also the velocity of approaching a rapidly receding star, was demonstrated by diagrams and simple explanations devoid of scientific difficulties. The composition of light and stars, their motions, sizes, distances, and temperatures were treated familiarly and confidently and the Professor clearly gave his audience the impression that the facts must have been born and educated in the heavenly regions, and that those cosmical laws held sway over the inhabitants of the mundane sphere.