

MR. R. BARR SMITH.

We publish this week a portrait of Mr. Robert Barr Smith, the generous donor to the colony of a steam-lifeboat. Mr. Barr Smith is well known to South Australians as a member of the firm of Elder, Smith, & Co. He is the son of an eminent divine, the Rev. Dr. Smith, of the Free Church of Scotland, and was born at Lochnwinnoch, Renfrewshire, Scotland, in 1821. Mr. Smith came to the colony about forty years ago, and joined the firm of A. L. Elder & Co. The name was subsequently changed to Elder, Stirling, & Co., and still later to that of Elder, Smith, & Co., by which it is still known. Mr. Barr Smith has for many years been largely associated with pastoral and mining as well as with commercial pursuits. He is also a warm patron of hunting and the turf, and his colours are seen regularly at the principal race meetings in this colony and in Victoria. Although he has never offered himself for election to Parliament, or even for a seat in any municipal body, he has always taken a keen interest in public affairs. He is a polished and effective speaker, and although the occasions upon which he has addressed large audiences have been rare, his remarks have always been weighty. The University have also been benefited by his generous nature. In April, 1892, he handed to the Council a cheque for £1,000 to enable them to increase the library. This is being done in a most careful manner, and the Committee are purchasing the best editions procurable of the highest merit in literature and classics and having them stamped "The Barr Smith Library." In politics he is a genuine Liberal, and he has ever been ready to assist in promoting higher education and the intellectual advancement of the community. He has not only taken an important part in building up the very extensive business of Elder, Smith, & Co., which some years ago was converted into a Limited Liability Company, but he has rendered valuable service to several large financial institutions in the capacity of Director. He is, with good reason, regarded as one of the soundest and best authorities upon finance and mercantile matters in South Australia. His recent splendid gift of a steam-lifeboat, which will cost £3,500, is but one of many benefactions which have made the public his debtor. Added to this by Mr. Barr Smith are noted for the generous scale upon which they dispense hospitality, and altogether it may be said that there is no more liberal minded or more widely popular man in the colony than Mr. Barr Smith. About twenty-one years ago he bought the estate of the late Sir W. W. Huggins at Mitcham, known as Tomasa Park, one of the finest properties in South Australia. He has also a residence at Mount Barker, where he and his family spend the summer months. Mr. Smith married a sister of Sir Thomas Elder, his partner in business, and has living three sons, Messrs. G. T. and H. Barr Smith, and four daughters, Mrs. G. Hawker, Mrs. T. O'H. Giles, and two Misses Barr Smith. Like her husband, Mrs. Barr Smith is a generous giver, and she is respected and loved alike by poor and rich.

Advertiser 3rd July 1895.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION SOCIETY.

The first of the new series of popular lectures on "English literature and philosophy from 1700 to 1750" in connection with the University extension movement, was delivered in the music lecture-hall of the University on Tuesday evening, by Professor Mitchell. A large number of students and other ladies and gentlemen assembled to listen to the address of the professor, who handled his subject in an interesting manner. He began by detailing the influences affecting the general literature of the period under review, and mentioned that much of it was undervalued and neglected. Even in those early days the authors made very large incomes from the disposal of their works, and the satire which characterised much of the writing of the day was singularly good. The modern "hoodlum" or "larrikin" was not an unknown individual in those times, and the peripatetics of bands whose characters were referred to in literature, as well as the escapes of highway robbers, and the rapid development of the drinking propensities of the people. The punitive methods of inflicting punishment on criminals; the degraded tastes of the age in respect to amusements, such as bull-fighting, cock-fighting, and dog-fighting; the innumerable quackeries distinguished the people as promoters of windmills and lotteries, the undesirable custom of trepanning, the habit of gambling, the practice of quackery, the nature of educational thoughts of the church, and the rise of periodical literature were the limits of the professor's discourse, and his remarks were attentively listened to.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

The efforts to popularize studies in the higher branches of literature and science was inaugurated on Tuesday evening, when Professor Mitchell, M.A., D.Sc., delivered the first of a series of six lectures at the University of Adelaide upon "English Literature and Philosophy from 1700 to 1750." The room in which the lecture was given was inconveniently crowded with students of all ages and both sexes. Without formal introduction the Professor set to work upon his task, and divided his subject under the following headings:—"Influences affecting the general literature of the period, state of politics, patronage, standards of taste and morals, nature of education, influence of the Church, social habits and manners in London, and the rise of periodical literature." In general terms the lecturer referred to the two factors of literary work being the matter and form of production, and in illustration made discursive references to the poetry of the time from the authorship of Pope, Thomson, Collins, Grey, and Goldsmith. These points divided the period into four distinct sections, each having their own particular matter and form of writing. The prose period of the age was more continuous and less distinctive in periodical form, the matter being less individual in character and more reflective of the varying circumstances of the time. The influence upon the literature of this period was largely of a political nature, and much of it emanated from the clergy, who sought the patronage of the State. The lecturer, who had evidently well mastered his subject, succeeded in rendering it interesting to his audience. Judging by the first lecture of the series the praiseworthy effort that is being made to popularize the work of the University is bound to command success.

Advertiser 4th July 1895.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION SOCIETY.

On Wednesday evening Professor Bragg delivered the first of a series of six lectures on "Radiation" at the University in connection with the University Extension Society. A large audience assembled, and the professor dealt with the subject in a lucid and interesting manner. At the outset he explained the emission theory of light, and illustrated it by means of blackboard illustrations, during the progress of which he observed that the most minute calculation showed that light travelled at the enormous speed of 186,000 miles per second. The wave theory was then spoken of, and the professor mentioned that all bodies emitted radiation, but that visible radiation came only from bodies at a high temperature. For a century the wave theory of light was unsettled, but early in the present century Thomas Young, who was regarded as one of the greatest scientists who ever lived, solved the problem, and proved the accuracy of his contentions by the most wonderful demonstrations. The wave lights were so very small that they measured only five-fourths of the 26,000th part of an inch. The professor resorted to the blackboard to illustrate his remarks on the wave theory also, and he closed the lecture with limelight reflections of bubbles to show the beautiful colors which occur in soap films.

Register 4th July 1895.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

The second of the series of popular lectures being given at the University under the new extension system was delivered by Professor Bragg, M.A., on Wednesday evening, in the Physical Science Lecture-room, which was filled by an interested and appreciative audience. "Radiation" was the subject taken, and this will be divided into six lectures. In dealing with the first of the series the Professor by his familiarity with the abstract character of the science, was enabled to show his audience by his own experiments how extremely simple is the knowledge of physics when one knows all about it. By a clever avoidance of all technical terminology the lecturer showed to the dullest intelligence the difficulties that had beset the pursuit of the subject from Pericles, through Newton, down to Young, the latter of whom had solved the problem of light waves which had puzzled and were rejected for so many years by the great Newton. By blackboard sketches and an electric-lighted camera he showed how colours were produced as the result of the interference of the light waves. This was demonstrated by a very beautiful and interesting experiment with a soap film. This course of popular science lectures promises to be as attractive as those upon literature.