Advertiser 20th Dec 1894

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY.

COMMEMORATION DAY.

Commemoration day in connection with the University of Adelaide was celebrated on Wednesday afternoon in the library, when the Chancellor (his Honor the Chief Justice) presided over a large attendance. On the platform were also the Vice-Chancellor (Mr. J. A. Hartley, B.A., B.Sc.), the warden of the senate, Mr. F. Chapple, B.A., B.Sc., and Dr. E. C. Stirling, M.A. His Excellency the Governor, who was accompanied by the Minister of Education and Major Sebright, was also present.

Degrees were conferred on the undermentioned candidates:—

M.A. Degree—Thomas Abram LeMesurier.

LL.B. Degree—George Ash, Walter Henry Wadey, William Joseph Gunson, Edgar Harold Newman.

M.B. and Ch.B. Degrees—Frank Sandland Hone, George Alfred Fischer, Cecil Corbin, Arthur Murray Cudmore, Arthur Goode.

B.A. Degree—Percy Emerson Johnston, Marian Chapple, John Kollosche.

B.Sc. Degree—Alfred Chapple, Lawrence Birks.

The following graduates of other universities were admitted *ad eundem gradum*—The Rev. Henry Gladstone, M.A., University of Oxford; the Rev. John George Kenneth Macknnzie, M.A., University of Oxford; the Rev. Joseph Robertson, M.A., University of Sydney; Christopher Bollen, M.D., University of Toronto; Edward Jacob Minchin, M.A., University of Dublin; David Hastie Young, M.B., University of Edinburgh (in absentia).

The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine then presented to the Chancellor the winners of Sir Thomas Elder's prizes for physiology—Charles Bickerton Blackburn (student in medicine of the first year), Allan Hillier Randell (student in medicine of the second year).

The Dean of the Faculty of Arts presented to the Chancellor the Everard Clark scholar, Isaac Herbert Solomon.

The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine presented to the Chancellor the Everard scholar, Frank Sandland Hone.

When Mr. G. Ash, M.P., was presented to receive the degree of LL.B. the CHANCELLOR, addressing him, said:—"I congratulate you, Mr. Ash, on the distinction of your student career, which is especially gratifying to us considering the circumstances and difficulties, which you had to encounter."

Dr. E. W. Way presented Frank Sandland Hone for the M.B. and Ch. B. degrees and the CHANCELLOR said:—"Mr. Hone, you have graduated in the right way, in arts first and medicine afterwards."

Addressing Mr. Fischer, he said:—"I am glad that you also graduated in arts before graduating in medicine."

Addressing Miss Chapple, who took the B.A. degree, he said:—I think I may venture to present you first to the warden of the senate. (Laughter.)

In congratulating Mr. John Kollosche, who took the B.A. degree, the CHANCELLOR said—"Mr. Kollosche, your success is all the more creditable because you have had the advantages of attending the lectures of the University. You are the first student who has graduated under the regulations for the higher public examinations."

To Mr. Blackburn he said—"I congratulate you on having obtained Sir Thos. Elder's prize for physiology." And to Mr. Randell—"I am exceedingly glad to see you for the second time as a winner of Sir Thos. Elder's prize for physiology."

The CHANCELLOR congratulated Mr. I. H. Solomon on taking the John Howard Clark scholarship.

When Mr. Hone was presented the CHANCELLOR said—"I congratulate you on having achieved the distinction of being the Everard scholar this year."

The CHANCELLOR said—Your Excellency—It is now my pleasure to call on Dr. Stirling to deliver the annual address, and I think I may venture to ask my friends—my young friends—to confine themselves to punctuating by their applause the more eloquent passages of the address.

Dr. STIRLING delivered the annual address. He said however honorable might be the position he occupied that day he regarded it as being moved by some of the feelings which must animate the mind of a prisoner at the bar. The duties of the chair on this occasion might be considered as merely a transference which he so imperfectly exercised elsewhere. The permission of the council to accompany Mr. Horn's Central Australian exploring party, a permission for which he took that opportunity of thanking the council, had afforded him opportunities that could not often occur in the life of a University teacher. In that half he had pointed out that no country in the world offered biological and physical problems of greater interest than Australia, with its quaint and antique fauna, its varied and peculiar flora, its vast extent of scientifically unexplored country, and he might add, its unexplored race of autochthonous inhabitants. But when making that statement it was also necessary to point out an unsatisfactory aspect from the point of view of an Australian, namely, that in fact the majority of the scientific discoverers of the Australian rank emanated from other than Australian sources, being as it were snatched from beneath our eyes by visitors or temporary sojourners in these regions. The reason was obvious. Advanced educational institutions, which should be the cradle of scientific work, grew only with the growth of a nation in wisdom and in wealth. For a long time neither the men, money, nor appliances were available for the pursuit of science for its own sake, of a science which could not promise the criterion of success too often expected of any immediate practical or financial return. Consequently problems in physical and natural science, which in a new country so abound, and under such novel and interesting aspects, had either to be solved elsewhere or if solved here the credit of the solution did not attach to ourselves. Under such circumstances hundreds of valuable objects had been deported to grace the walls of foreign institutions. Now, however, things had changed for the better. Higher teaching institutions throughout Australia had called into existence a class of men competent to deal with the problems of nature, and the persistent custom of sending to other countries for the determination of questions that could perfectly well be determined here was on the wane, though not entirely obsolete. So far then there was a manifest improvement, but the Australian worker still labored under great disability. The endowments for research in older countries, the existence of a class of men with a learned leisure to devote to work of that kind, and the establishment of institutions such as the biological stations at Naples, gave advantages and opportunities for investigation that were not waiting in Australasia. So from time to time did they see enthusiastic naturalists equipped with every scientific appliance sent out by some such institution, or a wealthy patron, to investigate the problems of other countries. If the enthusiasm of our own men led them to embark on similar enterprises they frequently had to be carried out at their own expense in their vacations. Thus had it come about that so much of the work relating to Australia had been done by zealous visitors and so many unique specimens carried off to other lands. At the present moment in the Northern Territory there was a naturalist equipped by the University of Christiania, with instructions to remain a year or more, and devote his whole energies to the scientific exploration of the country. What had we who personally owned the country done of a like nature. No wonder did we find foreign museums richer in our own products than our own. He mentioned these facts not much by way of complaint but rather as indicating the satisfaction felt by well-wishers of the colony in the expeditions fitted out by Sir T. Elder and Mr. Horn to enable them to add something to the knowledge of the scientific terra incognita of the great central Australian regions. It was not yet possible to say what the results obtained from Mr. Horn's liberally conceived expedition would be but he trusted they would be found to justify from a scientific point of view the trust reposed by him in the members of his party. On the subject of ethnology, in respect of which he was personally connected with that expedition. Briefly, ethnology was the study of different peoples or races which compose the various populations of the globe, their language, customs, beliefs, origin, history, and present geographical distribution. Ethnology was a branch of anthropology (a section of zoology), so that even when they confined their attention to the term ethnology it required for its prosecution a versatility of talent rarely found in one individual. Contrary to opinions of earlier ethnologists it was now generally accepted that the ethnic characters of first importance were the physical and linguistic. Of first rank among the physical features was the shape of the skull. It was a curious fact which had been pointed out by two German philologists that though the lines of linguistic demarcation in Europe had little relation to the race divisions, the religious divisions adhered very closely to the racial frontiers. Wherever is found the dolichocephalic or long-headed race there Protestantism flourished, and Roman Catholicism prevailed among the brachycephalic or short-headed races. They were forced to the conclusion that they would be on safest ground in the classification of mankind if they proceeded on purely zoological lines. The difficulties of the task were immense, as shown by the numerous attempts made to found a rational system, commencing with that of Bernier in 1684, followed even after by the great Swedish naturalist, Linnæus. There was evident, however, a tendency to keep in view the three divisions proposed by Cuvier nearly 70 years ago, viz.—The white or Caucasian, the yellow or Mongolian, and the black or Ethiopian. The negroid races with which they were more immediately concerned embraced the distinctly dark as opposed to the fair, yellow, and brown varieties of mankind. Their original home was the inter-tropical and sub-tropical regions of the eastern hemisphere. During the early and