

Australians, namely those with frizzly hair and extremely long-headed skulls, were found amongst the Adelaide tribes. The nomenclature was, however, unfortunate, for the cranial resemblance to the celebrated prehistoric Neanderthal skull were a very common feature of the Australian race. The fact of the existence of the frizzly haired individuals seemed well authenticated, and was of great importance. Granting their existence, the view was still possible that Australia was originally peopled by a branch of the frizzly haired Neanderthalian stock, which was suggested might have been identical with the Tasmanians, and that its territories were subsequently invaded by a black race with straight hair, such as now inhabit portions of Southern India. Paleologists had traced affinities between the Drakian and Australian languages, and the former were, according to one writer, regarded upon more ancient forms of speech to which Australian idioms supplied a clue. A subsidiary yet noticeable link between the two races was the fact of the use of the boomerang in both countries, and so also resemblances had been traced in a similarity of tribal caste observances. The conclusion from these facts was that the present Australian race were the direct descendants of an earlier primitive type which once had a wider range, and at least included India as its habitat, and that in that country the Australians, like Dravidians, were the surviving remnants of such an antecedent race which had now become supplanted by the mixed type forming the bulk of the present Dravidian population. In the though the Negrito element preponderated, such evident traces of Aryan admixture existed that by some anthropologists they were classed as a section of the Caucasoid Melanochroi. Either theory, however, turned attention to the cooiles of India as near allies of our native race. Having spoken of the distribution of macropods and monotremes and the types of these preserved in Australia, Dr. Stirling proceeded to enquire—Could Australian man also be said to be a zoological survivor? One of the most ancient prehistoric races was that of Canstatt, so called from the locality in South Germany where his remains were found. The celebrated Neanderthal skull presented in an exaggerated degree the peculiar cranial characters of this race. The bones in question belonged to an early part of the great tertiary geological epoch, the age of which could not be accurately stated, but must be reckoned in thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands, of years. This type of skull, which in Europe only appeared erratically and by avatism, was to be found with remarkable frequency amongst the Australians. According to the distinguished French anthropologist, M. Quatrefages, the resemblance was most marked in the skulls of members of the Adelaide tribe, now extinct, who, he believed, the solitary exception of one old man now living at the Point Pearce Aboriginal Station. This writer further stated that the natives of this tribe had not as isolated individuals merely, but as a homogeneous group, preserved to an extraordinary degree the peculiar cranial characters of the man of Canstatt. He himself believed that these special cranial characters were typical of a great part at least of the Australian race. Thus it might well be that no people upon earth possessed a more ancient ancestry and less mixed pedigree than the aborigines of Australia, and that they more nearly than any other exhibited the characters and conditions of prehistoric man. With such speculations in view it was not very creditable to us that our National Museum did not possess a single skull nor a single implement of the Adelaide tribe, and it was humiliating that for the physical and other details of this interesting vanished tribe we should be obliged to have recourse to the museums of the old world and the description of foreign writers. The late respected Dr. Weyss wrote a short account of this tribe, but unfortunately for anthropology it was written in days when craniological details had not assumed their present importance, or assuredly information of this character would have been forthcoming from a man of his keen observation and technical knowledge. The records of the early Australian explorers, with the honorable exception of those of Eyre, were singularly deficient in the invaluable anthropological information that might have been expected from those who had the good fortune to meet with natives absolutely uncontacted by contact with Europeans. Of the numerous pioneers of settlement who for years lived amongst the natives, spoke their language, and gained their confidence, how few had thought it worth their while to record their observations made under circumstances which could not occur again. Under similar neglect of opportunities the Tasmanian race had passed away—so far the only example of the complete extirpation of a whole ethnological branch. Besides that of Adelaide, other Australian tribes had similarly disappeared, and, as with these, so it would be with others in the very near future. Let us profit by our errors to utilize to the best the opportunities which were still left us of preserving all possible relics and records of a race which linked the present with the past. In such a work the South Australian Museum has been endeavoring to play its humble part, and within its walls, in spite of some lamentable deficiencies, was to be found the largest and most complete collection illustrative of Australian ethnology that existed anywhere. To aid in the completion

of such a work—for it was of such magnitude that it could only be completed by co-operation—was a project he had much at heart. The men could be found, but where was the money. A grant of £500—a paltry sum compared with the object in view—from each of the Australian Governments would supply the necessary funds for the publication and illustration of an exhaustive work, while enthusiastic collaboration by proved authorities would be a labour of love. Private enterprises had done much in the past for scientific development in Australia, but surely this was a national matter, for which the cordial assistance of colonial Governments might be appropriately sought.

On the wall facing the audience was a large genealogical table of the negro race together with a chart.

The CHANCELLOR was sure that all present would desire that he should express on their behalf their hearty thanks to Dr. Stirling for the very instructive, interesting, and well-articulated address to which they had listened with so much pleasure. (Cheers.) It must be a satisfaction to Dr. Stirling that the appeal with which he concluded had been addressed in the presence of a member of the University who had the disposal of the public funds for the purpose of advancing the cause for which the doctor had pleaded. (Laughter.) Dr. Stirling on this, as on all other occasions, had demonstrated that he was not the occupant of a teaching chair alone, but also of a chair of original research. (Cheers.) He also took the opportunity of expressing their thanks to His Excellency the Governor for doing them the honour of being present, and their thanks he was sure would be acknowledged when they remembered that in all probability the temperature was more agreeable at Marble Hill than it was in this hall during the hottest afternoon on which the commemoration of this University had ever been celebrated. He also expressed their thanks to His Excellency for the interest he had always taken in the University, and his readiness and anxiety at all times to advance its interests to the utmost of his power. In a few months His Excellency would cease to be Governor of South Australia. They would all regret that. (Applause.) His young friends had vocally expressed wish their sentiments were. (Renewed applause.) But it was a satisfaction to remember that his connection with this colony would not be dissolved, for so long as His Excellency lived he would continue to be a Doctor of Laws in the University of Adelaide. (Cheers.)

The audience rose en masse while Her Majesty's representatives left the hall, and the students, some singing, some whistling, closed the proceedings with the "Song of Australia."

## UNIVERSITY COMMEMORATION.

There were nine new graduates in the professional and only five in the arts and science courses at yesterday's University Commemoration. This fact illustrates the remark made in our columns the other day to the effect that the pursuit of learning purely for its own sake is apt to be at a discount in a new and very practical country like South Australia. In conferring the degrees on two of the new medical men, however, the Chancellor was able to call attention to the fact of their having taken the arts course first, and thus qualified themselves, in lines of general culture, before proceeding to the more purely professional portions of their studies. There were in all five new medical graduates of our own University, while two were admitted *ex ceteris gradibus*—one from Canada and the other from Ireland. Is there really room for so much additional aptitude talent? This is the question which will doubtless occur to the minds of many as they glance at the list of names; and at first sight indeed it looks as if the medical profession were being unduly enlarged. Yet, if note be taken of all the vacancies left by the deaths and removals of practitioners, possibly it will be found that the supply is only being kept up, the difference from the old order of things being that whereas formerly all our young doctors were either imported or educated abroad, the majority of them will in future be local men trained in the colony. No doubt some of the foremost of these latter will take the first opportunity of supplementing their