

THE UNIVERSITY OF
ADELAIDE.

COMMEMORATION DAY.

Commemoration Day at the University of Adelaide on Wednesday afternoon, December 19, was as usual the occasion of a very large attendance of graduates, undergraduates, and citizens who delight in observing the progress of our higher education system. The gathering this year was so large that in addition to the library, which has hitherto been considered sufficiently roomy for the annual functions, the room to the north, to which immediate entrance has recently been established and an archway built in, was also opened up to accommodate the students' friends and others. The plants, small flags, and other pleasing decorations enhanced the attractiveness of the Assembly-room. The Chancellor (His Honor the Chief Justice) and members of the Council and Senate, wearing the academico-eccelesiasm proper to their respective degrees and offices, proceeded from the museum to the library at 3 o'clock. The formal proceedings began at a quarter past 8, shortly after the arrival of His Excellency the Governor, Lord Kintore, who was in his academic robes, and was accompanied by his Private Secretary (Major Scourfield), the Minister of Education (Hon. Dr. Cockburn), also clothed in his academic gown, the Vice-Chancellor of the University (Mr. J. A. Hartley, B.A., M.A.), and other members of the Council. The undergraduates, who usually make Commemoration Day the occasion for a display of song, were very quiet until the reading of the Chancellor and the long procession of graduates. Up to the time of the arrival of His Excellency they amused themselves with singing choruses, and familiar tunes, one being that hackneyed street refrain "Get your hair cut." The entrance of certain of their favourites was the signal for personal observations, which were well understood by those to whom they were directed. The "Dead March" in "Saul" was being whistled in discordant tones when Lord Kintore was coming up the stairs, but immediately the Governor entered the hall the students rose with the rest of the audience, and went to the more appropriate extreme of sounding the National Anthem. At times during the subsequent proceedings instructions bordered closely on rudeness, though with the merriment was accented in good feeling by all concerned. Just as the admission to degrees was being concluded a remark from the far end of the hall led the Chancellor to say—"I think it would be a little courteous of you, gentlemen, who will have an opportunity this evening, not to interrupt the Chancellor in the performance of his duty." There was emphasis upon the words "gentlemen" and "Chancellor," and thereafter the students refrained from carrying out any remaining items on their programme.

Degrees were conferred by the Chancellor in the following order:—

M.A. Degree.—Thomas Abram Le Mesurier.

M.B. Degree.—George Ash, Walter Henry Waley, William Joseph Gunson, and Edgar Harold Newman.

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

B.A. Degree.—Percy Emerson Johnston, Maria Chapple, and John Kollische.

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

The following graduates of other Universities were admitted *ad eundem gradum*:—Rev. Henry Widdelston, M.A., University of Oxford; the Rev. John George Kenneth Mackenzie, M.A., University of Oxford; the Rev. Joseph Kollische, M.A., University of Sydney; Christopher Boleo, M.D., University of Toronto; and Edward Jacob Minchin, B.A., University of Dublin. David Hastings Young, M.B., University of Edinburgh, was admitted in his absence.

The following scholars were presented to the Chancellor and congratulated by him:—Winners of Sir Thomas Elder's prizes for physiology—Charles Eckerton Blackburn (student in medicine of the first year), Allan Elliott Kendall (student in medicine of the second year); John Howard Clark Scholar—Isaac Herbert Solomon and the Everett Scholar—Frank Sandiland Hone.

All the graduates were more or less applauded as they stepped forward, accompanied by the Deans of the various faculties, but there was a special outburst of cheering by the students when Mr. George Ash, M.P., was presented. The CHANCELLOR, addressing Mr. Ash, said—"I congratulate you upon your distinguished student career, which is especially creditable to you considering the circumstances of difficulty which you had to encounter." (Lord Kintore.) The CHANCELLOR, in congratulating Messrs. Hone and Fischer, was pleased that they had graduated in arts before graduating in medicine. (Cheers.) To Miss Chapple the CHANCELLOR smilingly remarked—"I think I may venture to first present you to the Warden of the Senate (Mr. Chapple)." In admitting Mr. Kollische to the CHANCELLOR, said—"Your success is all the more creditable because you have not had the advantage of studying the lectures of the University." (Laughter.) And "Oh! from the

students.) Mr. Kollische, you are one of the first who have graduated under the regulations for the Higher Public Examinations. (Cheers.) Mr. Readall was congratulated by the CHANCELLOR upon appearing before him a second time as a winner of Sir Thomas Elder's prize.

The admission of graduates and presentation of scholars having ended, the CHANCELLOR had pleasure in calling upon Dr. Stirling to deliver the annual address, and ventured to ask his young friends at the end of the hall to confine themselves to punctuating by their applause the more eloquent passages of the address. (Applause from the students.)

Dr. STIRLING, greeted with cheers, said:—At a previous commemoration he pointed out that no country in the world offered biological and physical problems of greater interest than Australia. But when making that statement it was necessary to indicate an unsatisfactory aspect from the point of view of an Australian, namely, that many, if not the majority, of the scientific discoveries of first rank had emanated from other than Australian sources, being introduced from beneath our eyes by visitors or emigrants or sojourners in these regions. Fortunately better teaching institutions throughout Australia had now called into existence a class of men competent to deal at first hand with the problems of nature, and he was glad to say that the precious custom of sending to other countries for the determination of questions that could be perfectly well determined here was on the wane, though, he regretted, not entirely obsolete. There was at present in the Northern Territory a naturalist equipped by the enterprise of the University of Christiania holding instructions to remain in the country a year or more to devote his whole energies to the scientific exploitation of the country and to the collection of its products. "What had we, who nominally owned the country, done for the nature? How was it possible that anything like equivalent results could accrue from the flying visits and piecemeal examinations of such of our own scientific men as so rarely set foot upon the shores of our northern dependency? He mentioned these facts as indicating the feelings of satisfaction with which the expeditions fitted out by Sir Thomas Elder and Mr. Horn were to be regarded. To what extent the latter expedition had been successful it was not yet possible to say, but most earnestly did he hope, and as confidently did he believe, that the results of a scientific expedition to justify from the point of view of science Mr. Horn's liberally conceived enterprise, and the trust he reposed in his party. Ethnology—in respect of which he was personally connected with the Horn expedition—was chosen as his address, with the view to directing attention towards an enquiry into the origin and characters of the Australian aboriginal races. The subject was then made to the scope, methods, and general results of the science, and the doctor proceeded to show that, contrary to the opinion of the earlier ethnologists, it was now generally accepted that the ethnic characters of first importance were physical, not linguistic, and among the physical characters three stood out as pre-eminently persistent, and consequently of the greatest value as factors in the determination of race, these being the complexion, the colour and texture of the hair, and the shape of the skull. In the classification of mankind he proceeded on purely zoological lines, and in judging of man's racial affinities applied very much the same kind of physical criteria as are applied to the other members of the animal world. In any case the difficulties of the task were immense, as shown by the numerous attempts which had been made to found a rational system, beginning with that of Bernier in 1772, and followed soon after by that of the great Swedish naturalist, Linnæus. To whatever degree elaborated by the multiplication of races there was evident in most of these systems a tendency to keep in view the three conspicuous and fundamental divisions proposed by Cuvier nearly seventy years ago, viz., the White or Caucasian, the Yellow or Mongolian, and the Black or Negroid and Ethiopian. The various types of races were next carefully classified. The Australian, he observed, appeared as one of the primary stems of the great negro stock, but their peculiar combination of physical characters had always constituted an ethnological puzzle, and formed a great difficulty in every attempt at classification. Of negroid complexion, features, and skeletal characters, they yet as a race lacked the characteristic and ethnologically important frizzly hair; thus by Mr. Huxley they were placed by themselves in a class of primary rank called the Australoid, in which that scientist also included the Dravidians of India, better known, perhaps, as comprising the tribes of Prearyan origin from which the Indian coolies were mainly recruited. There existed, however, some grounds for the belief that the Australians should not be regarded as a homogeneous group formed by modifications of one of the primitive human stocks which had preserved its racial type unchanged. One of these grounds was the existence at various parts of the Australian coast of groups of individuals who had hair closely resembling that of the negro type. This had led to the establishment of two divisions into which the Australians were divided by Mr. Quatrefages and other writers of the so-called Neanderthaloid.