

THE NEW PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH.

DR. WILLIAM MITCHELL APPOINTED.

The Council of the University of Adelaide on Friday came to a decision with respect to the vacant Hughes Professorship of English Language and Literature and Mental and Moral Philosophy. There were 38 applications for the position—25 from England and 12 from Adelaide—and six names were selected for final consideration. The result was that Mr. William Mitchell, M.A., D.Sc., was chosen. The appointment, judging from Dr. Mitchell's previous achievements, should be highly satisfactory. He had a very distinguished career at the Edinburgh University, where he graduated with first-class honours in philosophy. As an undergraduate he held the first place in the classes of logic and psychology and of moral philosophy, and he gained the Gray prize essay of £30 for an essay on "A Critical History of Materialism in the Nineteenth Century." After graduation he was awarded the Vans Dunlop scholarship of £300 in moral philosophy, and the Baxter scholarship of £312 in mental philosophy. In 1891 he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science in the Department of Philosophy. In addition to taking the mental arts classes he studied after graduation in the classes of zoology, anatomy, and other subjects useful to a student of modern psychology. He also took the class of political economy, where he had the first and second places (equal) for essays and examinations.

For three years he was assistant to the Professor of Moral Philosophy, and in that capacity he lectured twice a week. In the summer sessions he conducted tutorial classes on his own account. During one winter session he lectured on logic for the Association for Promoting the University Education of Women as substitute for Professor Campbell Fraser. In 1892 Dr. Mitchell was appointed Examiner in Philosophy at Edinburgh University for a term of three years, and on the rearrangement of the arts curriculum by the Universities' Commission he was appointed Examiner in English both for degrees and for the new preliminary examinations. He was also appointed to represent English on behalf of Edinburgh on the new joint board of the Scottish Universities. For the last two years he has been lecturer on education in University College, London, and has twice given two of the May Lectures on Education organized at Cambridge by the University, being this year expert on the theory of education for that University. For four years he was assistant-secretary to the local examination board of the Edinburgh University, and for six years an examiner in the department of English. Two years ago he was offered the professorship of philosophy and economics in the University of New Brunswick.

Dr. Mitchell has made various contributions to the press on questions of philosophy, literature, and education, which it is said "mark him out as a scholar and thinker highly qualified to hold a responsible position in any University." Our London correspondent, writing of him recently, spoke of him as one "whose credentials are of the highest possible character." He added:—"I do not know this gentleman myself, but I am told by those who attended his lectures at University College on education last session that he is an exceptionally found orator with a capital style. The fact that Mr. Mitchell is now lecturing in Scotland in connection with the University extension scheme would seem to confirm this estimate, as the audience attending the extension classes are composed mostly of cannie ladies and lassies bent on improving themselves and by no means easily pleased, indeed, very critical. Mr. David Murray met Mr. Mitchell in Scotland, and was much pleased when he heard he was one of the four selected by Professor Lamb. Should this gentleman prove eventually the University's choice there cannot be a doubt he will be a great acquisition to Adelaide society. Everybody seems to like him and to have a good word for him." Such an eminent authority as Dr. Henry Calderwood, the Professor of Moral Philosophy at Edinburgh, writes:—"Dr. Mitchell shows a philosophical spirit, alive to all currents of modern thought. He is cautious and steady in generalisation, able to grasp and keep steady hold of conflicting positions, and is thus capable of rendering eminent service to students. He is not a man of large professions, and is altogether averse to display; but he is an untiring worker, always happy in his work and ever ready to give help to other workers." Dr. Andrew Seth, Professor of Logic and Metaphysics at the same University, characterises him as "a man of strong character, whose influence upon the students would be wholesome and stimulating." Amongst others who backed up Dr. Mitchell's application for the professorship were Professors Kerr and Sully, of University College, London; Professors Laurie and Masson, of Edinburgh; and Professor Hudson Beare, of the Victoria University.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

DR. MITCHELL APPOINTED PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH LITERATURE.

The Council of the Adelaide University met on Friday, and decided to confer on Mr. William Mitchell, M.A., D.Sc., Edin., the Hughes Professorship of English Literature and Mental and Moral Philosophy, rendered vacant by the transfer of Dr. Boulger to the Classical Chair, formerly occupied by Professor Kelly. Dr. Mitchell, who is thirty-three years of age, has had a distinguished academical career, and evidently possesses special qualifications for the position now conferred on him. He is a graduate of Edinburgh University, with first-class honours in philosophy. As an undergraduate he held the first place in the classes of logic and psychology, and of moral philosophy; and he gained the Gray Essay Prize of £20 for an essay on "A Critical History of Materialism in the Nineteenth Century." After graduation he was awarded the Vans Dunlop Scholarship of £300 in moral philosophy and the Baxter Scholarship of £312 in mental philosophy. In 1891 he gained the degree of Doctor of Science in the Department of Philosophy. In addition to taking the usual arts classes he studied after graduation in the classes of zoology, anatomy, and other subjects useful to a student of modern psychology. He also took the class of political economy, where he had the first and second places (equal) for essays and examinations. He was for three years assistant to the Professor of Moral Philosophy, and in that capacity he lectured twice a week—once to the ordinary class on the history of ethics and once to the advanced class on books prescribed for graduation with honours. In the summer sessions he conducted tutorial classes on his own account. During one winter session, as substitute for Professor Campbell Fraser, he lectured on logic for the Association for promoting the University Education of Women. In 1892 he was appointed Examiner in Philosophy at Edinburgh University for a term of three years. On the rearrangement of the arts curriculum by the Universities' Commission he was also appointed Examiner in English, both for degrees and for the new preliminary examinations. He was appointed to represent English on behalf of Edinburgh on the new Joint Board of the Scottish Universities. For the last two years he has been Lecturer on Education in University College, London. He has twice given two of the May Lectures on Education, organized at Cambridge by the University, and in this year was Examiner of the Theory of Education for that University. For four years he was Assistant Secretary to the Local Examinations Board of Edinburgh University. He was lecturer in English at Breslau, and for six years was Examiner in the Department of English; while some two years ago he was offered the Professorship of Philosophy and Economics in the University of New Brunswick. He has published articles in *Mind* and written a good many reviews. In a testimonial, highly commendatory, Professor H. Calderwood, LL.D., of Edinburgh University, testifies to the fact Dr. Mitchell was in his undergraduate course a successful student in all departments, but concentrated his attention with especial care upon English Literature and Philosophy. He further writes of Dr. Mitchell's intellectual capabilities in the highest terms, and declares him to be "a man altogether averse to display, but an untiring worker, always happy in his work, and ever ready to give help to other workers." Dr. Andrew Seth, Edinburgh, says of him that his experience and excellent good sense would be found very helpful in college business and organization, and adds—"He is a man of strong character, whose influence upon the students would be wholesome and stimulating." Excellent testimonials have been forthcoming also from Professor W. P. Ker, of University College, Oxford; Dr. S. S. Laurie, of the University of Edinburgh; Professor Masson, Edinburgh; Professor Sully, University College, London; and other educationalists of distinction at Breslau, as well as in the United Kingdom.