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UNIVERSITY PROGRESS.

A striking change in public opinion has taken place in the last 20 years or so with regard to the functions of a University. The old-world idea of it was a place for the sons of wealthy men to have a good time, while other youths who cared for work fitted themselves for one of the learned professions. Business men, Labour men, practical men in general, ignored it. The word "academic" survives, as an exact antithesis to "practical," to indicate the learning that might be an end in itself, but certainly was to lead to no other end. To-day everything is changed. The community realizes that most of the highest intellect, the trained knowledge, is to be found at the university. From engineering to farming, from chemical analysis to tests of the strength of steel or wood, anything that puzzles the community is likely to be referred to the judgment of the Professor of that subject. This is, of course, exactly as it should be. The word University in itself implies an all-round knowledge, with no limits. How the bad old principle crept in is not easy to decide, but it is being effectually discarded now. Meanwhile, there are many other professions that are considering themselves "learned," or at any rate realizing that learning is a big asset. Engineer and electrician, commercial man and dentist, all may aspire to the university degree or diploma as a real help in business, proving, as it does, that they have the basis of expert knowledge on which to build the further knowledge that only experience can give. An inevitable result has been the increase of "Chairs," and the present number of professors might greatly have astonished the original founders. For instance, when Mr. Peter Waite's generous gift of Urrbrae—with an equally munificent endowment for the maintenance of it, a point that some benefactors are apt to forget—brought the science of farming within the University's range, there was a natural doubt whether to appoint as its head an agriculturist with some knowledge of chemistry, or a chemist with some knowledge of agriculture; and the problem was solved by appointing both.

Not long ago the most outstanding needs were thought to be Chairs of Modern Languages and Economics. So great has been the pressure of events that half a dozen other chairs have been created, while these two remain still a hope. In Economics there is possibly the same difficulty that has always prevented Theology from having its professor, namely, that differing fundamental views are possible; it would never do to have the University professor regarded as just the head of a faction, instead of the supreme local authority on the subject. Still, the association of Commerce and the higher learning steadily grows closer. Auditorship, for example, is quite a different thing from the mere adding of figures and checking of receipts, found sufficient a few years ago. The generosity of the commercial side of the community may well be looked to, to make a Chair of Commerce or Economics possible. All this, of course, requires money. The cry is much the same everywhere, and both Melbourne and Sydney are complaining at the moment of being "half-starved." In Adelaide, the position is realized, and the Government now gives as much every year as would have financed the whole institution not long back, while generous donors keep adding to the endowment list on which so much depends. Sir Langdon Bonython has been specially munificent lately, and in 1930 his gift of £40,000 will render possible the building of a great hall to serve as the formal meeting place of the University. A side issue now under been discussion is the erection of a

Students' Union. Sir Josiah and Lady Symon have made a gift for the women students' part of it that must spur all others concerned to some special effort, if this wing is not to outshine the rest of the building. It must be remembered that the University Council now considers the furtherance of healthy athletics as within its province, and has undertaken a liability, on the students' playing grounds, that runs into nearly four figures annually. A place of rest and indoor recreation seems to be a different matter, and is properly being left to private enterprise; as is the matter of residential colleges, where St. Mark's has set an example not yet imitated. Learning is the main object in a university, no doubt, but world-wide experience shows that communal life can at the same time give added results, of which a common enthusiasm is one of the most valuable. The Union or Common Room, when it comes, will probably be placed down near the Victoria Drive, with some hope of eventually getting a light bridge thrown across the river towards the University Oval.

The question of removal of the University into a suburb may now probably be taken as finally negated. All students in law and commerce, very many of the lecturers, and of the school teachers whom the University trains for the Government, would be inconvenienced by having to journey out to Parkside or elsewhere, as has been suggested. The recent erection of the Darling and Engineering buildings on the central site seems to imply non-removal; the Union building and the Great Hall, when they come, will settle the question. Meanwhile, changes in personnel go on inevitably. Middle-aged men may need, or desire, retirement and rest. The really brilliant staff that the University has collected must inevitably excite envy in other centres of learning, with the result that offers of advancement are received that no one could blame the recipient for accepting. Professor Wood-Jones, for example, will shortly move on, to renew in the Pacific Islands such investigations as have for some years brought both himself and Adelaide into the world's notice. It remains only to mention the Council, or governing body, elected by the graduates themselves, though not necessarily from among themselves, and having added to their numbers five members of Parliament. Here, too, among a body of men necessarily not youthful, changes must come. Professor Darnley Naylor has gone, but Professor Mackellar Stewart should replace him worthily. Sir George Brookman retires, after more than 20 years of the most devoted service on the financial side. Dr. Ray comes on to the Council, rather notably. The third requirement for Rhodes Scholars, insisted on by that great man himself, was a capacity for leadership, the idea being that prominent places in all the Dominions should gradually be filled by men to whom a few years at Oxford had given a wider outlook. Brilliant as the Scholars have been, it is not unfair to say that as yet they have hardly "pulled their weight" in public affairs. Dr. Ray, in accepting a seat on the University Council, is showing the true Rhodes spirit. But, indeed, Adelaide has always been fortunate in finding so large a body of public men ready to accept, without any shadow of remuneration, so arduous a task as is the management of a great university. When the Chief Justice, as Chancellor, to-day records the Jubilee celebration of a body of which the whole State is proud, he will have every reason for looking to the past with pride, and to the future with hope of even greater things to come.

THE ABORIGINAL.

ADELAIDE SCIENTISTS TO INVESTIGATE.

EXPEDITION INTO THE INTERIOR

A scientific expedition which should prove of importance to the anthropological records of the State and of interest to the public generally will be undertaken at the end of the year. On December 30 a party of Adelaide scientists and others will leave for Central Australia. The object of the expedition will be to gather information relating to the Australian aborigines. It is being organised by Dr. T. D. Campbell, who is in charge of the Dental Hospital on Frome-road. In addition to Dr. Campbell, the party will comprise Dr. J. B. Cleland (Professor in Pathology, University of Adelaide), Dr. E. Harold Davies (of the Elder Conservatorium), Mr. Hackett, a medical student, and Mr. Jeffries, a cinematograph operator.

Each member of the party will specialise in his own particular class of work. Dr. Campbell will concern himself chiefly in matters relating to teeth and things of general anthropological interest; Dr. Cleland in physiological investigations; and Dr. Davies in gathering records of corroborees and ceremonial songs.

The expedition is being assisted financially by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. The grant is the first of a series which will be made annually for carrying out such work in each State in the Commonwealth. The expedition is in a measure due to the visit to this State last year of two American scientists, Mr. Endree and Dr. Clark Wissler.

Emphasis has been laid on the importance of obtaining information relating to the natives of Australia before the race dies out or becomes entirely altered by European influence. On account of the rapidity with which the Australian native is passing away but a few years remain in which that work can be done. The data which it may be possible to gather during the next few years will be practically the only information remaining of a race which is almost certain to become extinct shortly. That means that for hundreds of thousands of years the matter which will be gathered in the next few years will be studied by scientists the world over, and it is considered that it is a duty which the State owes to future generations to see that every effort is made to obtain the necessary material.

Up to a certain amount, and for a fixed period, the Rockefeller Foundation will subsidise on a pound for pound basis funds raised for carrying out that work. The fund may be subscribed to by the Government, public bodies, or private persons.

The party from Adelaide will leave by train for Oodnadatta, and after making investigations there will continue its journey to Alice Springs by motor lorry. Most of the work will be done in the Alice Springs district, although if the opportunity offers the scientists will also pursue their investigations in other parts of the interior. The expedition is expected to return to Adelaide about the end of January.

At the head table at the annual luncheon given to new graduates by the Graduates' Association of Adelaide University today were Mr. S. Talbot Smith, Mr. C. T. Madigan, Prof. T. Brailsford Robertson, the Hon. P. McMahon Glynn, K.C., Mr. Wallace Bruce (Lord Mayor), Mr. E. W. Holden, B.Sc. (president), Dr. W. Ray, Prof. E. Harold Davies (director of Elder Conservatorium), Mr. A. Grenfell Price (master of St. Mark's College), Dr. C. S. Hicks, Dr. R. H. Pullaine, and Mr. D. H. Hollidge (secretary of the Graduates' Association).

Dr. H. L. Brose, who has been staying in Adelaide for a few days, will leave for England to-morrow. He will take charge of research work in physics at University College, Nottingham.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL RESEARCH.

Much valuable anthropological research work among the Australian aborigines is being performed by parties of Adelaide University men who visit the back country during vacation. At the end of the month an expedition will leave Adelaide to work in the country between Oodnadatta and Alice Springs. The party will probably comprise Professor J. B. Cleland (Professor of Pathology), Dr. Harold Davies (Director of the Elder Conservatorium), Dr. T. D. Campbell (of the Dental Hospital), Mr. J. C. Hackett, and Mr. F. Jeffery (photographer). Previous parties organized by Dr. Campbell have worked among the tribes along the East-West railway line. Professor Wood Jones has visited the country towards the MacDonnell Ranges, but this will be the first time a University expedition has worked there. The most important work will be physical anthropology. The natives will be measured and physical observations recorded, and general pathological conditions will be studied and noted. Cinematograph films will be taken of the aborigines in their native habitat, recording their tribal life and customs, and gramophone records will be made to preserve their speech, cries, and songs. Anthropologically, the Australian native is one of the most interesting of the peoples of the world, and the investigations of Adelaide scientists are attracting attention and receiving high commendation from many quarters.

At the University Commemoration this afternoon, among the graduates to be admitted to the degree of LL.B. is Mr. William Donnithorne. His achievement is meritorious from the fact that he was over 40 years of age when he started for the law course. After a successful business career in Adelaide, he devoted his time to the study of painting in oils, and in furtherance of this object he visited the leading galleries of Rome, Paris, London, Florence, and New York, and thus obtained first-hand knowledge of the old and modern masters. On his return from abroad Mr. Donnithorne enlisted for service in the Great War. His travels had encouraged him to cultivate literature, and acting on the advice of Mr. G. G. Newman, he decided to matriculate with a view to studying law. It has been said that men of middle age lose the readiness to retain all the intricacies and grammatical constructions necessary for the acquirement of skill in language. But by sheer grit, hard work, and determination Mr. Donnithorne passed at his first attempt in Latin, French, English, history, and physiology. As the arts subject in the LL.B. he chose French, as his visits to Paris gave him familiarity with this language. His University career has been highly successful, as in four years he has passed in eleven subjects. His example should be an incentive to all young students, as well as to those studying later in life. Mr. Donnithorne served his articles for the law course with Mr. Ralph F. Newman, of the firm of Newman and Harris. That he has not been completely absorbed in his studies is shown by the fact that he was secretary and president of the Cornish Association, and has been a member of the Johnian Club for five years, this year having been elected a vice-president.

In his address at the annual commemoration of the University of Adelaide on Wednesday, the Chancellor (Sir George Murray) said they hoped to have the honor of admitting H.R.H. the Duke of York to the degree of Doctor of Laws during his visit in May. He also stated that the Fisher Lecture on Commerce next year would be delivered by the Prime Minister (Mr. Bruce).

References to the valuable services rendered by Sir George Brookman as a member of the council of the University of Adelaide were made on Wednesday by the Chancellor (Sir George Murray), who, at the annual commemoration said:—"Sir George Brookman ceased to be a member of the council in November, and for reasons of health did not desire to be nominated for re-election. The service he rendered during the 25 years of his membership has been of inestimable value and accounts to a marked extent for the sound financial position in which we are today. Sir George takes with him the gratitude, respect, and good wishes of every member of the University." The references were greeted with applause.

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