

UNIVERSITY JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

FIFTY YEARS OF PROGRESS.

A REMARKABLE RECORD.

The growth of the University of Adelaide during the 50 years of its existence may be gauged from the fact that its four original chairs have increased to 19, its students from 60 to 2,118, and its teachers and demonstrators to 147. The Government have assisted it with grants for buildings and other purposes exceeding £100,000, and last year contributed nearly £43,000 to its income of over £81,600, of which £22,293 came from fees. Endowments and donations from private citizens exceed £400,000.

The jubilee celebrations of the University of Adelaide, which will be inaugurated this evening by a conversation in the Elder Hall, will be attended by representatives of all the other Australian universities, as well as by graduates of many famous seats of learning overseas. South Australians have good cause to be proud of their University, which, although small in comparison with similar institutions in Europe and America, has, nevertheless, in half a century attained a position of eminence in the scholastic sphere, and produced scholars and scientists whose fame is world-wide. Though its jubilee is being celebrated this month, there is no event in the history of the University corresponding to the dates selected. They were chosen because they happened to come at the end of the University's second term, and were the most convenient for both students and staff. This evening and the greater part of next week will be devoted to the celebrations, the official programme for which is as follows:—

August 14 (evening)—Reception by the Chancellor (Sir George Murray), from 7.45 to 8.15. Conversation; inspection of laboratories; lecture demonstrations; cinema films and dramatic performances.
 August 15 (afternoon)—Service at St. Peter's Cathedral.
 August 16 (afternoon)—Special congregation; reception of delegates; Chancellor's address and addresses by visiting delegates; conferring of ad eundem degrees. Evening—Conservatorium concert.
 August 17 (morning)—Official opening of the new physics and engineering building



Sir Richard Davies Hanson, Chancellor of the University from 1874 to 1876.

by the Premier (Hon. J. Gunn). Afternoon—Students' sports and motor excursions. Evening—University dinner at the Town Hall.
 August 18 (morning)—Inspection of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute, Urrbrae. Afternoon—Students' sports and motor excursions. Evening—Students' gathering in the Elder Hall, arranged by the Women's Union.

The Origin of the University.

It is a curious fact that although the University owes its birth to a gift of £20,000 from Sir Walter Watson Hughes, he had no idea of founding such an institution when he made the offer. The circumstances leading up to its establishment are described as follows in Hodder's History of South Australia:—

"Lack of means for the higher education of young men, especially those intended for the Christian ministry, had long been recognized by leading men as a distinct want in the colony. Young men had to journey to England to fit themselves for professional pursuits, and colonial pulpits had to be filled at great expense from the home country, because there were no facilities for training young ministers in the colony. Accordingly, in 1871, a number of Protestant ministers belonging to the non-Edenian denominations founded a theological institution known as Union College, in which



Professor William Mitchell, M.A., D.Sc., The Vice-Chancellor of the University, elected 1916.

students could be trained for the ministry. Among those who took a prominent part in this work were the Revs. James Jefferis, LL.B. (Congregationalist), J. Davidson, and J. Lyall (Presbyterians), and S. Mead, M.A., LL.B. (Baptist). Mr. W. W. Hughes was waited upon to ask for assistance in providing an endowment fund. He very favorably entertained the request, and subsequently expressed his willingness to give the munificent sum of £20,000. The committee of Union College, with great patriotism, decided to ask Mr. Hughes to devote this gift to the establishment of a university. To this proposal Mr. Hughes gave his consent, and the project was warmly taken up by all who desired that the means of obtaining a liberal education in the colony should be provided. A meeting was held in Adelaide on September 17, 1872, to discuss the whole question, at which Bishop Short presided, and all the leading ministers and men of influence in the city were present. It was decided that Union College should be retained as a theological institution, and the Adelaide University Association was established for the purpose of taking all necessary steps to found a university. Some years were to elapse before the university could be opened, but Mr. Hughes signed a deed of gift of £20,000 in ten years, with interest at 5 per cent. till paid."

The Act of Incorporation.

That deed of gift is dated December 24, 1872, and in making it Sir Walter Watson Hughes imposed no stipulations other than to reserve the right of nominating the first occupants of the two chairs his munificence had made it possible to establish. He chose the Revs. Henry Reid, M.A., and John Davidson, the former for the Chair of Classics and Comparative Philology and Literature, and the latter for that of English Language and Literature, and Mental and Moral Philosophy. Although the project was launched so auspiciously, it was not until two years later that an Act of Parliament was passed incorporating the University and granting to the Council the power of conferring degrees. It also endowed the institution with 50,000 acres of land in fee simple, granted it five acres on North-terrace as a site for building purposes, and guaranteed an annual grant of five per cent. up to £10,000 on all funds invested by the Council. On November 6, 1874, a few days after the incorporating Act was passed, Sir Thomas Elder placed the success of the institution beyond all doubt by executing a deed of gift of £20,000 for the purpose of maintaining the University.

The First Council.

The Act provided that the Governor should nominate the first Council, and he chose the following:—The Chief Justice (Sir Richard Davies Hanson), the Bishop of Adelaide (Right Rev. Dr. Short), Sir Henry Ayers, the Right Rev. C. A. Reynolds, the Rev. J. Jefferis, the Rev. W. P. Wells, Sir W. Milne, Mr. S. J. Way, Mr. Justice Stow, the Hon. A. Byth, A. Hay, and W. Everard, Messrs. G. C. Hawker, M.P., W. A. E. West-Edwards, and



The Right Rev. Augustus Short, D.D., Chancellor of the University from 1876 to 1883.

R. Boothby, Drs. J. M. Gunson and A. Campbell, Messrs. J. A. Hartley, A. von Treuer, and M. McDermott. The first meeting of the Council was held on December 11, 1874, at which Sir Richard Hanson was elected Chancellor and Bishop Short Vice-Chancellor. At the next meeting Sir Henry Ayers was elected treasurer, a position he filled with much advantage to the University for 12 years. At the same meeting Mr. William Barlow was appointed Registrar, and shortly afterwards the University office was established in Morialta Chambers, Victoria-square west.



Sir George Murray, Chancellor of the University, elected 1916.

Since the establishment of the Council here have been but four Chancellors, of whom all but one have been Chief Justices of the State. They were Sir Richard Davies Hanson (1874-1876), the Right Rev. Augustus Short, Bishop of Adelaide (1876-1883), Sir Samuel James Way (1883-1916), and the present occupant of the office, Sir George Murray. The members of the Council for 1926 are the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor (Professor William Mitchell), Sir Langdon Bonython, Sir George Brookman, Sir Joseph Verco, Mr. Justice Angus Parsons, Mr. Justice Poole, Professors E. H. Rennie, R. W. Chapman, and H. Darnley Naylor, Drs. F. S. Hone



Professor Edward Henry Rennie, M.A., D.Sc., Angus Professor of Chemistry since 1884, and President Elect of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science.

Association for the Advancement of Science.

and Helen M. Mayo, the Rev. K. J. F. Bickersteth, Messrs. A. G. Price, W. G. T. Goodman, E. W. Holden, W. J. Ibbister, W. R. Bayly, W. T. McCoy, T. E. Barr-Smith, and W. J. Young, the Hon. T. Pascoe and W. H. Harvey, Messrs. E. Anthony, M.P., L. C. Hunkin, M.P., and E. J. Shepherd, M.P., the last five of whom were appointed by Parliament under the provisions of the University Amending Act of 1911.

Enrolling the First Students.

One of the first acts of the council was to arrange for the opening of the University. Sir Thomas Elder's gift enabled two more Chairs to be established, and it was decided that these should be for Natural Science and Mathematics. Mr. Ralph Tate, F.G.S., an Associate of the Linnean Society, was selected for the former, and Mr. Horace Lamb, M.A., of Cambridge, for the latter. The members of the Council felt that it would be impossible to open the University until after the arrival of the Elder professors, both of whom had been engaged in England, but in the meantime they were desirous not only of availing themselves of the services of the Hughes professors, but of stimulating interest in the University. They accordingly arranged for the delivery of popular lectures by those professors upon subjects connected with their Chairs. These lectures, which were well attended, had the desired effect, and were really the origin of the extension lectures which are now such a popular feature of the University's winter term. Professor Tate arrived in Adelaide in December, 1875, and Professor Lamb in March of the following year. On the latter's arrival creeps were taken to enrol students, and on March 28, 1876, the professors attended at the Government Training School, Grote-street, where two rooms had been placed at the disposal of the University, to meet their prospective students and to form their classes. Thirteen were enrolled the first day, of whom three were ladies, and of whom four stated their intention of taking the full Arts course, for which they had all enrolled. The number attending lectures in the first year subsequently increased to eight matriculated and 52 non-graduating students.

The Opening Ceremony.

Although the number of students was as yet very small, the members of the Council decided to hold an opening ceremony commensurate with the importance of the project they were launching. That ceremony was to have been held about the same time as lectures were commenced, but the unexpected death of the Chancellor, who was to have delivered the inaugural address, caused it to be postponed until April 25. The Governor (Sir Anthony Musgrave) presided over the ceremony, which was held in the Town Hall. He reminded his audience that "as wealth increases the social necessity and the wisest arrive for cultivating the elegancies of Literature and Art, and for the pursuit of Science for its own sake apart from utility." He also warned them against falling into the error of thinking "that education is valueless which does not immediately lead to money-making or earning a livelihood." Bishop Short, who had been elected Chancellor on the death of Sir Richard Hanson, then delivered the inaugural address.

Constituting the Senate.

The Senate of the University is composed of all graduates of the degree of master or doctor in any of the several faculties, and of all other graduates of three years' standing, as well as graduates of other universities who have been admitted ad eundem gradum by the Council. It was laid down that the Senate should be constituted when at least 50 persons had been admitted to degrees by the University, and once classes had been started the council took steps to form it. At a public meeting in the Adelaide Town Hall on May 2, 1877, degrees were conferred on 73 graduates of other universities, and the senate was duly constituted by proclamation in the "Government Gazette" of May 10, 1877. At its first meeting Dr. William Gosse was elected warden and the registrar of the University (Mr. W. Barlow) acting clerk. The present officers of the senate are Mr. Justice Poole (warden) and Mr. E. W. Eardley, registrar of the University (clerk). They have both held the positions since 1923. The Ven. able Archdeacon Farr was warden from 1880 to 1882, and Mr. Frederic Caspary from 1883 to 1922. The clerkship of the senate has also been held by Messrs. J. W. Tyas (1882-1888) and T. A. Caterer, the first graduate of the University (1888 to 1922).

The University Building.

The need for adequate accommodation for professors and students early forced itself upon the notice of the council, and in 1876 designs were invited for the permanent buildings it was proposed to erect, as soon as funds became available, upon the North-terrace site granted by the Government. During the first year classes were continued at the Training School in Grote-street, but the necessity soon arose of finding other accommodation. The report