

UNIVERSITY JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

A Visit to Urrbrae.

Headed by the Chancellor (Sir George Murray) and the Vice-Chancellor (Professor W. Mitchell), a party of about 100 delegates to the jubilee celebrations of the University of Adelaide, and ladies and others interested, were motored to Urrbrae, at the foothills beyond Fullarton on Wednesday morning, and spent a couple of profitable hours in making an inspection of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute, and the valuable scientific work being carried out there. The visitors included the Chancellor of the University of Sydney (Sir William Cullen), the Vice-Chancellor (Sir Mungo MacCallum), and the Chancellor of the University of Melbourne (Sir John MacFarland). The weather was fine, and the delegates were delighted with what they saw and the operations being carried out under the aegis of the University of Adelaide, the Council of which was congratulated on its good fortune in having received such a magnificent bequest from Mr. Peter Waite.

The visitors were received by the Chancellor and Professor J. A. Prescott, the Acting Director of the Institute, in the absence of the Director (Professor A. E. V. Richardson), who is on a trip abroad. They assembled in the ballroom of Mr. Waite's former home, and Professor Pres-

cott expressed his pleasure at seeing such an important gathering as was present. He explained that the institute was founded through the generosity of Mr. Waite for the purpose of the investigation of scientific problems underlying primary production. Mr. Waite had presented the mansion house of Urrbrae and 300 acres of park to be used as an arboretum and experimental field, besides a sum of money, and the Council of the University had decided that as agricultural teaching was already well catered for, it should be used as a research institute on post-graduate lines. For the present, the work carried on there was being restricted to plant problems, but the institute was permitted to make an investigation into animal diseases when funds permitted an extension in that direction.

The operations, said the Professor, were divided into four sections. Field experiments in agriculture were being carried out by Professor Richardson, ably assisted by Mr. H. C. Trumble. Permanent rotation crops were grown for the study of the most suitable rotation for 20-inch rainfall, and experiments conducted in the manuring of wheat, oats, and barley; the time of sowing, and rate of seeding; and variety tests of wheat, oats, and barley. These experiment areas provided raw material for laboratory investigations. In the plant-breeding section the work was in its infancy, and Mr. J. F. Phipps was taking a special post-graduate course at Cornell University to equip himself for the investigations to be carried out at the institute. Professor Richardson was also making special enquiries in Sweden, and they expected to be able to carry out a programme that would be foremost in the Commonwealth. The plant diseases section was in charge of Mr. G. Samuel. It was an off-shoot of the botanical department of the University conducted by Professor T. G. B. Osborn. Advisory work for the State Government would be carried out and already the Commonwealth Government had requested the institute to make investigations into the disease known as tomato wilt. The Commonwealth had provided the funds for the erection of a special glass house, and adequate assistance to cover a three-years' investigation. The institute was co-operating with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in other directions. Then enquiries were being made into fodder and pasture problems, such as top-dressing and an investigation of the suitability of imported

of native grasses. Another section of the operations, explained Professor Prescott, was that of agricultural chemistry, which was in charge of himself and Mr. C. S. Piper, aided this year by Mr. R. M. Jacobs (Lowrie Scholar). The laboratory was equipped for a systematic study of soils, and the department was co-operating with the Lands and Survey Department on the question of the classification of soils. Investigations were being made into forest soils at Kuitpo and the volcanic soils at Mount Gambier, and it was hoped to extend them to the most important soil types to be found in settled areas, linking up eventually with the work of Government departments in regard to a soil survey of the State. Arising out of that were the broader aspects of soil classification, and fundamental chemical and physico-chemical problems.

In regard to future developments, the work was now being carried on in scattered laboratories, two in the basement of the main building, and three in the stable buildings. Mr. J. T. Mortlock had given £2,000 towards the erection of a laboratory for chemical research, and it was being reserved for the equipment of new laboratories, which it was hoped they would be able to erect before long. The institute had been generously aided by implement manufacturers in South Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales, who had donated between them a complete farm outfit, valued at about £1,000. That generosity had released a considerable sum for development in other directions, with the result that they were really six months ahead of their programme.

The visitors were divided into three parties, and in charge of Professor Prescott and Messrs. Trumble and Samuel they made an interesting inspection of the various exhibits, which were fully described. Besides the field experiments with crops, the delegates saw in a small glasshouse how investigations were being conducted into temperature and soil moisture conditions affecting "take all" in wheat. There were pot experiments on a disease which affects oats in the South-East. In a larger glasshouse the water requirements of crops were being enquired into, and by water cultures the food requirements of plants were demonstrated. Introduced and native fodder plants were seen in a glass garden, and in the basement of the house were large maps showing the factors which control primary production throughout the Commonwealth. The seed-testing laboratory was inspected, and in the chemical laboratory were seen the experiments being carried out to illustrate the analysis of soils. The equipment for the study of plant diseases was viewed in the plant pathological laboratory.

At the invitation of the Council of the University, the visitors were entertained at morning tea, daintily served by Messrs. J. A. Prescott, H. C. Trumble, F. W. Farley, and Harvey Johnston, and Miss W. A. Peake.

DELEGATES HONORED.

COMMONWEALTH CLUB LUNCHEON.

"SELF-SACRIFICE AND UNSELFISHNESS."

The Commonwealth Club tendered a luncheon to the visiting University delegates in the Adelaide Town Hall on Wednesday. The president (Mr. S. H. Skipper) occupied the chair, and he was supported by the Rev. G. O'Neill (representing the National University of Ireland), Archdeacon Whittington (Tasmania), Professor Gunn (representing the University of Liverpool), Professor Mitchell (Vice-Chancellor of the Adelaide University), Professor Duffield (of Canberra), the Rev. J. Murphy (representing the National University of Ireland), Colonel Sclator (of British Columbia), and Professor Ross.

The president said the members of the Commonwealth Club were pleased to be given the opportunity of associating themselves in some way with the jubilee celebrations of the University of Adelaide. They had with them the Vice-Chancellor of the Adelaide University (Professor Mitchell) and a number of distinguished delegates, who had come to Adelaide to pay their respects to the University and take part in the celebrations. They were a potent force in the community. Throughout the ages knowledge had gained power, but whereas in the olden times those who acquired that knowledge guarded it jealously, in the days in which they now lived the knowledge was broadcast through the world as a benefit to humanity as a whole. That result had only been achieved through the self-sacrifice and unselfishness of those who had set out to teach themselves and of those who had engaged in research, which made for the sum of human knowledge an ever increasing quantity. (Cheers.)

Professor Mitchell introduced the speakers.

Famous Professors.

Professor Duffield said he was proud of

having been invited to speak on behalf of the Adelaide University. When he first undertook the duties of a lecturer he was obsessed by the nightmare of being called upon to speak without having anything prepared. Sometimes dreams came true, and he felt in a similar position that day. He had many things to say, but hardly knew which were the right subjects. It was his privilege to attend the Adelaide University somewhere about 1900. He left with a certain amount of valuable knowledge, picked up from such men as Professors Rennie and Brazz, and other lecturers and professors. The Adelaide University had grown enormously since the days when he was a student. There had been wonderful developments. He was proud to have been connected with an institution which had shown such a virile youth. It was virile in spite of the regret expressed that there had been no internal dissension. He was not quite sure that a University could be virile without internal dissension, but he could not say he hoped they would have cause for dissension. Many of them would remember Professor Lamb. (Hear, hear.) It was his privilege to see a great deal of Professor Lamb in England at Manchester and Cambridge. He always carried in his heart the welfare of the University of Adelaide. He need not remind them of the Brazz, father and son, who had since become so famous. It was his privilege to leave Adelaide and go to Cambridge and Manchester, where he had an opportunity of studying the particular branch of science in which he was engaged, and the development of the inorganic universe. He became associated with Reading, the youngest university in the British Empire, which was barely three months old, and had but recently granted its charter. He understood the granting of a charter in Australia was on a different footing. He hoped some day there would be a university at Canberra, and he wondered what would be the procedure to secure a university there on the same footing as the universities of other parts of the Empire. He had been placed in charge of the Commonwealth solar observatory by means of which an unexplored field of stars would be studied. It was hoped to add to the knowledge of the development of worlds from their earliest infancy until they became old like the sun, and finally when they passed away out of their ken and emitted no light. It was hoped to be able to find some connection between solar and terrestrial phenomena which would be of real value to the agriculturist, and the people of Australia. He owed a great deal to the University of Adelaide, and to the professors, whose personality was an inspiration to him. (Cheers.)

Qualifications of a Teacher.

Professor Ross said as one of the original professors of the Western Australian University, he was pleased to be there. Universities were springing up in various countries throughout the world, and on many occasions it was found difficult to make a good beginning, because a university required a good foundation of primary and secondary education. Before the Western Australian University was founded in 1913, the Adelaide University conducted examinations in Western Australia in secondary education, and enabled men to take degrees. For that reason Western Australia owed much to the University of Adelaide. A large number of the teaching staff in the University in Perth held Adelaide University degrees. He also represented his University of Glasgow. When he was on the professorial staff at that university, he attended its ninth jubilee in 1901. The two universities had much in common. He believed that a University could have a great deal of power for good in a country, and the University of Adelaide had adopted a very high standard in the selection of its staff. A teacher required three qualities: first he must know his subject; secondly he must know his subjects and make his study interesting, and thirdly he must be in earnest, because a teacher who did not take a deep interest in his subject would not be able to fire his students with ambition, which should be the aim of every university. When he came to Australia he was rather doubtful what kind of reception he would have. He recognised that Australia was a young country which had developed to a remarkable extent. In the Western Australian University they had a staff which consisted of Englishmen and Australians, and they worked together in perfect harmony. He believed that nothing but good could come from the uniting of the two slogans, "Advance Australia," and "Scotland for ever." (Laughter and Cheers.)

Value of Residential Colleges.

The Rev. J. Murphy said he did not have the privilege of being born in Australia. With Father O'Neill he had the honor of representing the National University of Ireland at the jubilee celebrations. He had been much impressed by what he had seen, particularly by the arrangements which had been made for the visiting delegates' reception. When he received the invitation he was asked if he cared to bring any members of his family. (Laughter.) He had no doubt that they felt very much relieved when he replied in the negative. (Laughter.) He took the opportunity to thank them for their very kind reception. Nearly every country in the world had its tourists. They stopped for a few hours, took in the whole situa-

tion, and then wrote books. (Laughter.) He had his own impressions about the University of Adelaide, and he paid a tribute to its wonderful growth. He hoped that Adelaide in the stress and strain of life would not forget the humanities. He did not know if he was talking heresy—he was not in the habit of doing so. (Laughter)—in saying that their commerce would not lose, but rather gain, by association with university men. (Cheers.) He had heard it said that the Adelaide University was not lavishly endowed, but from what he had seen he would like to see, in spite of their bacteriological department a few germs crossing the border into his State. They wanted a great deal more money, and he hoped that the reports of those festivities would be read by the careful people in Victoria, with the result that there would be an increased generosity and a growing interest in the Melbourne University. There were four residential colleges at the Melbourne University, and Newham, of which he was principal, was the youngest. It started with 36 students, the object being to give each a bedroom and a study. However, they had not found this entirely practicable, as there were now 91 students in residence. He did not think that they could have the real university spirit unless they had a large measure of residential life. (Cheers.) In Melbourne they had inter-collegiate debates and athletic and rowing contests, and those greatly improved the social life. There was every indication that the inter-collegiate university spirit would grow. He had inspected St. Mark's College in Adelaide, and found that it had made an excellent start. (Cheers.)

Education and Commerce.

Professor Gunn thanked those in charge of the University celebrations for the cordial manner in which he had been received. He represented the University of Liverpool, which received its charter in 1902. The commercial community of Liverpool adopted the motto, "God created these riches for us," and the University added, "These riches foster learning." He was proud to be a connecting link between the university and the business community. At Liverpool, although the university was only 24 years old, it had 57 fully endowed professorships. One of the reasons for this was the interest taken by business firms. Although endeavoring to encourage scientific research, they also believed in working for the humanities. While recognising that technical education was necessary for the development of material forces, they should also recognise that they must have education that aimed at the culture of the soul and the qualities of the mind. He believed it was possible for a university to carry out these ideals. (Applause.) The student of to-morrow might have to work harder owing to the increase of specialisation, but he was strongly of the opinion that the aims he mentioned should be kept before them. It was becoming the practice in Liverpool to employ men in responsible commercial positions who had been successful in the study of classics or philosophy. Many philosophers had proved great administrators, as their own Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mitchell had done. (Applause.) It was felt that first-class University men would become first-class business men. He would like to see a similar recognition of the work of the Universities in Australia. It could only be accomplished by collaboration between business firms and the University, as was the case in Liverpool. The position with regard to entry into the Civil Service of Australia was unsatisfactory, because by the time a University student concluded his studies he was too old. A comparison with the British Civil Service would show they were acting on apparently wrong lines in Australia. The matter had been discussed at a University conference, and a change might be brought about in the future. They had good reason to be proud of the record of the Adelaide University. With regard to the work of universities generally, he considered visits to universities in other countries should be encouraged, so as to broaden the vision. It would be an advantage to Australian universities if, in addition to the work at home, time could be found to visit universities abroad. They must avoid the danger of becoming insular, although he did not think there was much to be feared in that respect in Australia. They had made a definite advance since the war, and they should remember that peace had her victories no less renowned than war. An advance they should aim at was enlightened citizenship on the lines of true democracy. It would give everyone a broad vision and knowledge, with an appreciation of the highest ideals. He thought Adelaide was well on the way towards holding a banner of progress for the youth of the State. He hoped she would long continue to do so, and that the State from an educational point of view would be a beacon of light. (Cheers.)

AUSTRALASIAN UNIVERSITIES.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESEARCH.

Archdeacon Woothorpe, into Professor of Economics and Director of Tutorial Classes at the Otago University, Dunedin, a delegate to the University Jubilee celebrations, who left by the express on Wednesday, said he had been greatly impressed by the history of the University, and much struck by the generosity of its



Professor Prescott.