



STRATHSPEY, MITCHAM, the former home of the late Sir John and Lady Duncan, now St. Andrew's College, which is affiliated with the University of Adelaide.

ALTHOUGH Strathspey, Fullarton road, Mitcham, the home of the late Sir John and Lady Duncan, is not one of the oldest homes of Adelaide, nevertheless it is rich in history. Built in 1899 by Mr. G. K. Soward, it was the home of the Duncan family until 1927, when the sons and daughters of the late owner bequeathed it to the State for a residential college to perpetuate the memory of their parents. The beautiful home of 26 rooms with an underground suite for summer use, extending in 19 acres of ground, is now known as St. Andrew's College, and is affiliated with the University of Adelaide. It was transferred to the trustees in August 30, 1927, for a residential college in connection with the Presbyterian

Church in South Australia, and the original name Strathspey was changed to St. Andrew's. It is interesting to note that the second residential college in Adelaide connected with the University of Adelaide should be founded by descendants of Sir Walter Hughes, who, with Sir Thomas Elder, gave £20,000, thereby enabling the University to be brought into existence. Sir Walter Hughes was an uncle of the late Sir John Duncan. The sequestered calm of St. Andrew's makes it an ideal spot for study. It stands on rising ground and commands a wonderful view of the waters of the gulf. Parks of stately trees surround the house, and a beautiful flower garden adds to the beauty of the place. The walls of the house are mellowing

with the years, and clambering wistaria and other creepers lend a picturesque note. In the background the neighboring hills make an attractive setting. The college was officially opened by His Excellency Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven, V.C., shortly after his arrival in the State. Sir John Duncan was a well-known politician, and Lady Duncan was the Lady Bountiful of Mitcham. The pretty foothills suburb greatly misses her interest and sympathy. The members of the Duncan family who lived at Strathspey are Capt. J. C. Duncan Hughes, Hon. W. G. Duncan, M.L.C., Messrs. Colin and Keith Duncan, Mrs. Max Fotheringham, and Mrs. Alan Dean, who married a son of Brig.-Gen. George Dean, of Mount Lofty.

The various interests of the students, their different careers, and the whole work of the university are merged into one grand fellowship at the close of the year, when the event so dear to the hearts of all students is celebrated, Commemoration Day. Then all the faculties participate in a merry conglomeration of mischief and humor. Lectures are forgotten, learning is cast aside, and for the day students become carefree young comedians. As a grand finale comes Commemoration dinner, which means a farewell dinner to some, and merely marks the milestone of another year for others.

REG. 10 12 28

ANCIENT LIFE.

Crabs and Seed Spores.

Work of Sir Edgeworth David.

Professor Sir Edgeworth David arrived in Adelaide on Saturday morning to pursue investigations regarding a remarkable discovery made a few months ago of some ancient fossil fauna believed to be about 600,000,000 years old.

Interviewed by a representative of The Register, Sir Edgeworth said he was visiting Adelaide chiefly for the purpose of accompanying Sir Douglas Mawson (Professor of Geology at the Adelaide University) over some of the chief areas in the neighbourhood of Adelaide where he had been able to locate the occurrence of remarkable fossils, probably of the age of approximately 600,000,000 years. This was an older assemblage of normal life than any age which had hitherto been discovered in other parts of the world. Sir Douglas Mawson was taking over the work, and further exploiting the discovery by means of his own research aided by his staff and students at the Adelaide University.

The fossils contained in the rocks near Adelaide, said Sir Edgeworth, were very much disturbed and crushed through extensive movements of the earth's crust, and it was thought that similar strata further north in the Flinders Range would be much less disturbed, and less crystalline, and it was hoped that more complete specimens would be obtained in the higher area. Already remarkable specimens had been obtained from the Beaumont quarries and at Teatree Gully. In the latter place the rock contained a great abundance of the remains of lobster-like animals which must have attained the length of about a foot. They were closely allied to the modern King crab, which was now found in the warm waters near Japan and elsewhere. Several of the limbs, head, shield, and traces of the eyes, of these remarkable crustacea had been found, and there was almost sufficient material available to recast the essential portions of these extinct creatures, which in their time appeared to have dominated the universe. It was hoped shortly to discover a more or less complete skeleton. Eminent zoologists to whom the specimens had been shown had been thrilled to find that creatures so high in the scale of animal life were in existence at the extremely remote period of time when the limestones and quartzites of the Mount Lofty and Flinders Ranges were being deposited. Sir Edgeworth is also visiting Adelaide to secure further information for a three-volume book, upon which he is now engaged, from the Government Geologist (Dr. L. Keith Ward), Professor Howchin, and Sir Douglas Mawson.

Ancient Seed Spores.

Sir Edgeworth said a remarkable discovery had recently been made by Professor Charles Lipman (one of the professors of botany at Berkeley University, California) of what he termed living organisms in pre-Cambrian rocks from Canada, and the Grand Canyon in Arizona. Those were in the form of spores of the most lowly types of plants. Professor Lipman said that when those microscopic spores were isolated from the rock and treated by a process they multiplied, showing that there was still vitality surviving in them. The rocks yielding the spores were approximately the same age, if not older, than the strata of the Adelaide series. The scientific world was naturally awaiting with interest a detailed paper by Professor Lipman on his discovery. Professor Lipman added that he had yet to make it absolutely certain beyond any possibility of error that the spores had not penetrated into the pre-Cambrian rocks in relatively modern times. At present he thought that such penetration was absolutely impossible. He also stated that the spores were unlike any modern forms known, and were very much slower in growth. As the Adelaide rocks, added Sir Edgeworth, were of approximately the same age, and appeared also to contain spores in large numbers, a further interest would be added to their study if subsequent experiments confirmed Professor Lipman's remarkable observations.

ADV. 8 12 28

EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH.

OFFER FROM CARNEGIE CORPORATION.

Melbourne, December 7. In order to take advantage of an offer from the Carnegie Corporation to provide the necessary money, steps are being taken in Australia for the formation of a Commonwealth institute for educational service and research. The constitution of the body will probably be modelled on that of the Commonwealth Bureau for Science and Industry, with local committees in the six States, and annual conferences of the State chairmen. The offer from the Carnegie Corporation is the outcome of the visit paid to Australia last year by Dr. J. E. Russell on behalf of the Carnegie Corporation. The Director of Education (Mr. Hansen) stated to-day that from his conversation with Dean Russell it appeared that money from this source had previously been spent in Canada in improving educational facilities for children in localities remote from towns. Since Dr. Russell's return to America the Carnegie Corporation, which had expended large sums in promoting educational research in other parts of the world, had intimated that it was prepared to consider favorably the extension of that service to Australia. The corporation stated that when it was possible to perfect an organising capable of administering funds and of directing scientific investigations the corporation would consider making a grant of £5,000 to £6,000 annually for a period of 10 years, beginning on January 1, 1930. The corporation will also entertain an application for an annual grant sufficient to meet reasonable administrative expenses, and the salary of an executive officer. The corporation has invited

Mr. Tate, the former Victorian Director of Education, and Professors A. Mackie and H. T. Lovell, of Sydney University, to act as an executive committee to bring about the formation of a constitution for the establishment of a Commonwealth Institute for Educational Service and Research.

NEWS 8 12 28

AWAY FROM BOOKS

Students and Recreation

UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES

Although lectures progress and university students fill their brains with knowledge, they still find time for recreation. Sport takes up some of their leisure. The clubs are affiliated with the University Sports Association, which is financed and managed by a general committee.

Each club has a separate committee which is subject to the general one. Hockey and tennis are popular sports, but hockey takes premier place as it is a universal sport.

Intervarsity matches are played each year. Once in five years the matches take place in South Australia, when visiting teams are entertained by Adelaide University students. During the other four years the Adelaide team visits other States.

To raise money for the intervarsity matches various means are employed. This year the students formed a dance committee, and through its activities £30 was realised. Except for the funds raised in this and similar ways, the students pay their own fares. This year the hockey team visited Brisbane, and the basketball team went to Melbourne.

Women in Debate

Another club which affords plenty of interest and amusement is the Women's Debating Club, which holds three meetings

a term. Team debates are held and impromptu speeches cause much merriment. At the end of each year a "sausage tea" is held. Eating the sausages with skewers is one of the rules of this festival.

The Students' Representative Council directs the intervarsity debate and the magazine. A party of debaters visits other States as do the sports teams. Although there are good speakers among the women students, they do not attend the interstate debates.

About the middle of the year the students hold a conversazione. The university is thrown open to members of the general public, who are at liberty to wander through the building at will. A charge is made for this privilege, to raise money for the Men's Union Building.

Another function which takes place about the same time is the at home held by the University Women's Union. This is one of the chief events of the year, and the students are all in carnival spirit when the day arrives. They play games, bridge, or dance.

According to authorities it is practically impossible to have properly organised recreational clubs among the students because they all attend different lectures at different times, and partly because they have no settled meeting place.

However great things are hoped for when the Lady Symon building shall be completed and the women students move into their new quarters next year.

Faculty Society

In spite of the difficulties presented the students manage to have a Faculty Society, which meets once a month. At this gathering they generally arrange a programme so that the performances are inclined to be of spasmodic degrees of perfection. Various members deliver addresses, songs are rendered, and evenings are concluded with supper and much hilarity.

A branch of the sports association is the Women's Swimming Club. The main activity of this club is the swimming carnival which takes place at the beginning of each year. Members do not learn lifesaving or partake in any swimming matches.

To assist in the current expenses of the year, the Women's Union holds a concert once a year. In the past students have written short topical plays which have been enacted by their contemporaries, but this year no distinguished young playwrights have appeared.