

quicken the taste for the highest type of English drama. Dealing with present day fiction the speaker said there was much fiction being written that possessed the highest qualities of good literature. Many, he said, did not have sufficient time to properly appreciate the flights of fancy such as dealt with in poetry, and to such good fiction could render a great service.

NEWS 15 29

### "TOO MANY TEXTBOOKS"

### OBSTACLES FOR STUDENTS

### Strange English of Examiner

(By G. G. Newman, B.A.)

Writing from the country, a correspondent asked if I could supply him with suitable textbooks for the leaving geography examination.

This at once sent me to the New Manual. I made a careful study of the geography syllabus and notes. Then I spent some time in looking through other sections in the book.

Under what is termed the syllabus I found a number of books recommended. So many are given, in fact, that a poor student is unable to procure them.

Here is the list:—Davis, "Physical Geography" (an American work); Wilmore, "Groundwork of Modern Geography"; Salisbury, Barrows, and Tower, "Modern Geography"; Hardy, "Plant Geography"; Bulge, "Geography of Commerce and Industry"; Rudmose Brown, "Principles of Economic Geography"; J. C. Cunningham, "Products of the Empire"; J. A. Haslam, "Geography From a Commodity Point of View"; Stamp and Price, "The World; a General Geography."

### Chance of Poor Student

From the syllabus I turned to the notes by examiners, and found a still further list of works recommended.

"I am risking little in saying that students who had had access to 'The National Geographic Magazine' mopped up this part of the paper easily; the evidence was transparent," says the examiner.

Later he remarks:—"I venture to recommend three valuable books—E. W. Shannahan's 'South America,' R. C. Murphy's 'Bird Islands of Peru,' R. H. Whitbeck's 'Economic Geography of South America.'"

And again, "Might I suggest the chapter on Florida in J. Russell Smith's 'North America'? Teachers are referred to L. Rodwell Jones' 'North England: an Economic Geography'."

What chance has a poor country student or even the majority of metropolitan pupils to procure this formidable and costly list of books? Why not set four books and give everyone an equal chance? The honors could go to the fortunate candidates who can get the other authorities.

The notes by this examiner are interesting. He works on a graph idea throughout, and talks about "the crest of the curve" and "the graph of answers to number four gave a very flat hat," and, stranger still, "the graph for six was good, high peaked, and skewed toward the high marks."

### Cryptic Comments

He wants sketch maps, and says, "Only such facts should be given as are relevant to the question, and teachers should be insistently Socratic with the generalisers." Surely this needs a note of explanation to the ordinary student.

In speaking of bad writing he remarks, "The difficulty of the examiner is whether he shall refuse to read a practically illegible script or do his best to get at the candidate's meaning, charitably assuming the cause to have been an accident in doing household chores." How many candidates know what that means?

Some of these expressions have the darkness and obscurity of an ancient oracle. His two similes are strange—"like soursops in a wheat crop;" "like bits of silk in a common rag-bag."

I like this examiner when he says, "Most of my boy friends can spot a tin Lizzy a mile away." How would the examiner in English comment on that?

This examiner has one great virtue. In common with nearly all the other examiners, he says, "There were too many candidates who should not have been presented." Generously, however, he passed 133 and failed only 79.

Now in mathematics II, there were 214 passed and 239 failed. In arithmetic 178 passed, 283 failed. Unlucky candidates who struck these subjects!

Finally in English literature, which is compulsory, 484 failed and 497 passed. But in German 38 passed and there was no failure! This should be a good subject to take.

NEWS 2.5.29

### Leaving Geography Examination

"Free Country," Unley:—I read with great interest the article in "The News" yesterday by Mr. G. G. Newman, B.A., in regard to textbooks for the leaving geography examination.

If a candidate pays his entrance fee surely he has a right to sit for the test, especially as there appears to be a certain amount of luck nowadays in scoring a pass.

"Poor Student," Keswick:—Mr. Newman points out the large number of costly textbooks recommended for the leaving geography examination.

Why not limit the books to three or four volumes? These would then be carefully studied by the majority of students.

"Parent," Mitcham:—The burden of purchasing books is a pressing one for a parent in these times.

It is true that the Government will give books free to a poor person. But most parents do not like the idea of making application for them. Consequently they pay the piper.

I agree with Mr. Newman that four textbooks should be set. If that were done then the students would thoroughly master them.

"Dinkum Aussie," Kingswood:—Mr. Newman points out that a certain examiner uses words and phrases to which exception might be taken.

Why should we not be able to use such phrases as "Most of my boy friends could spot a tin Lizzy a mile off"? Words coined by Australians in the war have become part of the language. "Dinkum" appears in a recent dictionary, as does "gadgets."

If these expressions are used in such books they will certainly be found in examination papers. No examiner should object to them.

"Young Student," Hyde Park:—I have bought the 1929 Manual and as a student who will sit for an examination have read the notes by the examiner.

I think that simple language, which all students can understand, should be used.

"Pro-examiner," Malvern:—Mr. Newman raises many important points for the teaching of geography. But I think he has overlooked one.

Students should not learn geography with the sole idea to pass examinations. They should be taught to study it from all angles. This can be accomplished only by reference to a large number of textbooks and magazines.

I am a student. Although I did not present myself for examination in geography last year I purchased a number of copies of "The National Geographic Magazine," which have proved fountains of interesting knowledge.

I support the examiner.

NEWS 2.5.29

### EXHIBITION BUILDING

### May Go to University

### COMPREHENSIVE SCHEME

The Government has under consideration a comprehensive scheme of handing over to the University the whole of the Exhibition Grounds. This information was given by the Hon. R. L. Butler (Premier), in the Assembly today, in reply to a question by the Hon. F. W. Coneybeer, who referred to a clause in the speech of the Governor dealing with the granting of land to the University. He desired to know what land was referred to.

The Premier said that the Government was considering setting aside the Exhibition land for educational purposes. The Government would retain the use of the hall and the oval until they were required by the University. The University had never been able to lay out a proper scheme, because it never knew what land it could get.

The Government, said Mr. Butler, thought that the consent of Parliament should be obtained to the scheme. He knew that every member was vitally concerned with the question of education and the provision of facilities for the future of higher education.

The Premier told Mr. Anthony that when the Government was considering the question, the interests of the School of Mines would not be overlooked.

ADV. 7.5.29

### CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION

### GREEK AND MEDIAEVAL DRAMA

At the annual meeting of the Classical Association, held at the University on Friday, May 3, Mr. D. H. Hollidge was in the chair. The following officers were elected:—Sir George Murray (patron), Mr. D. H. Hollidge (president), Sir William Mitchell, Sir Archibald Strong, Professor McK. Stewart, Professor W. K. Hancock, Professor J. A. Fitzherbert, Rev. K. J. F. Bickersteth, and W. R. Bayly (vice-presidents); Messrs. R. P. Barbour and G. A. McMillan, Mrs. Wilson, Miss M. Wait (committee), Miss V. M. Grosvenor (treasurer), Mr. J. H. C. McIntosh (secretary).

After the election of office-bearers Mr. R. C. Bald read a paper on "The Origin and Development of Greek and Mediaeval Drama: A Parallel." Just as mediaeval drama owed its origin to the Christmas and Easter festivals of the Catholic Church, so Greek tragedy, he said, was "a fusion of the rustic plays of Thespis with the choral lyric of the Dorian peoples." In time the miracle plays became separated from the festivals that had given them birth. Instead of being performed by clerics at Easter and Christmas they passed into the hands of laymen in the trade guilds, who gave them on Corpus Christi Day. In like manner the two elements in Greek tragedy were detached from their original surroundings by the institution of the tragic festivals at the Greater Dionysia, under Pesistratus, and with this rise in the status of tragedy development was rapid. The Homeric legends provided the dramatists with a variety of subjects, and these were soon pressed into service. Aeschylus's Persae showed that even subjects of contemporary history could be dramatised, and it was not long before the Greek drama had achieved complete freedom of subject matter. The subjects themselves were all Scriptural. Furthermore, it was noticeable that the cycles contained exceptionally few plays that could not be connected in a logical fashion with the events of Christmas and Easter. If the most original of these plays had been taken from their setting and acted separately, freedom of subject would immediately have been achieved and a comedy of native growth might easily have sprung up.

After showing how the forms and conventions of mediaeval drama were due largely to its early history, Mr. Bald pointed out that there was also in the form and conventions of Greek tragedy much which threw light on its earlier history. The choral element in classical tragedy persisted right to the end of its literary history in Seneca, in spite of the fact that the dramatists became less able to make the choral odes an integral part of the drama. The convention of the Messengers' speeches went back to the times when tragedy was still largely choral. Thespis introduced the first actor, Aeschylus added the second, and, although Sophocles once employed four, three was the usual number of actors in Greek tragedy.

Beyond a consideration of these general aspects in which a resemblance could be found between Greek and mediaeval drama, it would be unwise to force parallels. The parallels which had been suggested could not be pressed too far or worked out in detail, but this was natural when one was considering two developments which took place in different countries and in different centuries. Such correspondence as might be found must of necessity be of the broadest and most general nature, but that they should be found and recognised was one more assurance that the human instincts, even when applied to problems of art and religion, reacted similarly all over the world.

ADV. 7.5.29

### UNIVERSITY BUILDING EXTENSIONS

The Registrar of the Adelaide University (Mr. F. W. Eardley) referred on Monday to the announcement by the Government that they intended to introduce a Bill in Parliament this session to provide that the Jubilee Exhibition grounds should be reserved for the University for building extensions. He said that plans for the Barr Smith library were under consideration by the council, but those for the great hall had not yet been prepared. Mr. R. Barr Smith during his lifetime had given funds for the purchase of books for the University, that endowment had since been increased by £20,000 by members of his family, and Mr. T. E. Barr Smith had now given £20,000 for the erection of a library building; it was desired that the great hall, for the erection of which Sir Langdon Bonython had provided £40,000 should occupy a site between the Elder Conservatorium and the Exhibition Building, but in alignment with the original buildings of the University.

REG. 7.5.29

Professor Walter Howchin, F.G.S., at the meeting of the Royal Society on Thursday evening, will receive the Sir Joseph Verco medal for research in geology. He will be the first recipient. Professor Howchin, who is in his eighty-fourth year, has contributed valuable original data on pre-Cambrian fossils in the Adelaide hills. He was formerly a lecturer in geology at the Adelaide University.



Professor Howchin.

ADV. 8.5.29

### RADIUM MINES

### PRODUCT HIGHLY SATISFACTORY

### ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY GIVES CERTIFICATE

The first sample of South Australian radium extracted, mounted, certificated, and ready for hospital use was shown at "The Advertiser" office on Tuesday by the Australian Radium Corporation operating the mines at Mount Painter. The applicator was a standard full strength type used for dermatological treatment, having an active surface of one square centimetre. The certificate of quality was issued by the department of physics of the Adelaide University, and the measurement certified by Professor Kerr Grant, head of that department. The Australian Radium Corporation purpose using Adelaide University certificates in future, unless other recognised standard certificates are requested by purchasers. This action will result in revenue to the University on a total yearly production of 12 grammes, which is the company's programme. Radium is always offered for sale on the basis of the quantity stated by the certificate of a recognised institution, as the substance is totally enclosed in sealed metal containers.

ADV. 9.5.29

### THE GLOBULAR CLUSTERS

### LECTURE BY PROFESSOR R. W. CHAPMAN

At a meeting of the Astronomical Society at the Institute, North-terrace, on Wednesday evening Professor R. W. Chapman, the president, delivered an illustrated lecture on the globular clusters.

Professor Chapman said these clusters were formed of a limited number of very beautiful objects, some of them covering an area of the sky almost equal to that of the moon. They were about one hundred in number, and all appeared to lie in one hemisphere of the sky. They consisted of a dense mass of glittering stars, apparently packed into a round globe. Each of these stars was believed to be a separate sun, and each of the globes was a little globe on its own in which there were thousands of suns. Recent discoveries had shown that the distances of these clusters of stars were completely beyond conception, the nearest being 20,000 light years away, which meant that when a telescope was pointed to such a cluster the light which reached the eye had left that cluster long before human history began. The farthest of them lay at the unthinkable distance of 200,000 light years away, and the cluster of suns was of such magnitude that it would take nearly 400 years for light to travel from one side to the other. Whether these suns were accompanied by revolving planets was not known, but the possibilities seemed to be against such a supposition, for the suns were packed so closely together that their distance apart was much less than the distance of the stars apart in the inhabited portion of the universe. It was one of the curious deductions of recent research that the number of planetary systems on which life, such as it was known on earth, must be exceedingly small, in spite of the magnificent scale on which the universe was built. The greater part of the matter of the universe was at far too high a temperature to sustain any of the forms of life with which the inhabitants of the earth were familiar. Most of these globular clusters had been known for many years.