

Professor H. H. Woollard's Views.

Darwin's theory concerning the kinship between man and the great apes has, according to Professor H. H. Woollard, been amply fortified by time and more recent discovery. This contention was made in the course of the first of a series of three extension lectures which he delivered on Tuesday evening in the Prince of Wales Theatre at the University of Adelaide.

The professor said the dissection of the human body revealed structures such as the gill arches, vestigial organs, evidences of segmentation, and so on, things which could only be intelligently explained when one considered the history of the human body and its relation to other living organisms. It therefore became the task of the anatomist to place in their correct sequence the structures of living and extinct animals which explained the present form of man. The lecturer proceeded to illustrate, by a series of lantern slides, the bones which composed the skull and face, the ground pattern of which was found in fossilised fishes of Devonian times. The form of the skull and face was traced from those extinct fishes, other extinct amphibians, and reptilian forms, through marsupials and primates up to man. From the general case of evolution, the lecturer dealt with the specific evolution of the horse, which belonged to a group of animals classified as odd-toed ungulates, and was closely related to the tapir and rhinoceros. Special features of the horse were found in its teeth, skeleton, and feet. The evolution of the horse from the five-toed ancestors of Eocene times to the existing species was illustrated by a review of the extinct types, showing the gradual transition from species to species. Those changes occupied about 50 million years, and showed the modern horse to have been formed by extremely slight changes in successive geological periods. The history of the horse demonstrated the actuality of evolution, showing that it took place by gradual transition spread over an enormous period of time. The evolution of the primates was next touched upon, and the differences of opinion that existed between anatomists as to the exact historical sequence in the case of man's immediate ancestors were briefly dealt with.

The lecturer emphasized the validity of Darwin's views of man's close kinship with the great apes. Recent investigations of the mentality of the apes suggested, he said, that they had mental processes closely akin to those of man. There were three things to be distinguished in considering the theory of evolution. There was first the theory itself, namely, the idea of the relationship and lineage between all living creatures both recent and fossil. Against that there was no discussion. Secondly, the exact sequence of those relationships was known for a great many species; in others the record was less complete and there were differences of opinion; but again there was no impugning the theory of evolution. Thirdly, the causes of evolution were still a matter of investigation and experiment. The results so far suggested were that evolution proceeded by gradual changes and not by leaps, that it occupied an enormously long time, and that it was not necessarily progressive. It might lead to degeneration, parasitism, or extinction. Granting the existence of living matter and its power to fluctuate—a matter of common observation—its Darwinian evolution had been fortified by time and further discovery, no facts having been found which conflicted with it. The battle between religion and science, as fought between Huxley and the bishops, concerned itself with facts such as those won by scientific method. That battle was won by the scientists. There was, however, a second and even more important conflict between science and religion which had gone on all through the centuries. Here religion basing itself on the reality of purpose and the pursuit of truth, beauty, and goodness, had been opposed by some, but not all, scientists who had a mechanistic view of life. The mechanist suggested that consciousness and such phenomena were only the flame of the burning candle; blow the candle and the flame disappeared. That battle was not yet over, but so far religion seemed to have had the better of it.

ANATOMY.

THE ORIGIN OF DISSECTION.

At the Prince of Wales lecture theatre at the University on Tuesday evening, Professor H. H. Woollard delivered the first of a series of three extension lectures on "The Science of Anatomy," in which he dealt with microscopic anatomy. He said dissection was the science of taking things to pieces. When one dissected the human body there were revealed peculiar structures, such as the gill arches, vestigial organs, evidences of segmentation, and so on, things which could only be intelligently explained when one considered the history of the human body and its relations to other living organisms. It, therefore, became the task of the anatomist to place in their correct sequence the structures of living and extinct animals which explained the present form of man. The lecturer illustrated by a series of lantern slides the bones which composed the skull and face, which found their ground pattern in fossilised fishes of Devonian times. He dealt with the specific evolution of the horse, from the five-toed ancestors of Eocene times to the existing species, which was illustrated by a review of the extinct types, showing the gradual transition from species to species. Those changes occupied about fifty million years, and showed the modern horse to have been formed by extremely slight changes in successive geological periods. He emphasised the validity of Darwin's view of man's close kinship with the great apes. Recent investigations of the mentality of the apes suggested that they had mental processes closely akin to those of man.

There were three factors to be distinguished, said Professor Woollard, in considering the theory of evolution. There was first the theory itself, namely, the idea of the relationship and lineage between all living creatures, both recent and fossil. Secondly, the exact sequences of those relationships was known for a great many species, but in others the record was less complete, and there were differences of opinion; but again there was no impugning the theory of evolution. Thirdly, the causes of evolution were still a matter of investigation and experiment. The results so far suggested that evolution proceeded by gradual changes and not by leaps; that it occupied an enormously long time; and that it was not necessarily progressive. It might lead to degeneration, parasitism, or extinction. Granting the existence of living matter and its power to fluctuate—a matter of common observation—its Darwinian evolution had been fortified by time and further discovery, no facts having been found which conflicted with it. The battle between religion and science, as fought between Huxley and the bishops, concerned itself with facts, such as those won by scientific method. That battle was won by the scientists. There was, however, a second and even more important conflict between science and religion which had gone on all through the centuries. Here religion basing itself on the reality of purpose and the pursuit of truth, beauty, and goodness, had been opposed by some, but not all, scientists, who had a mechanistic view of life. The mechanist suggested that consciousness and such phenomena were only the flame of the burning candle; blow the candle and the flame disappeared. That battle was not yet over, but so far religion seemed to have had the better of it.

UNIVERSITY BUILDING EXTENSIONS.

On Tuesday representatives of the Council of the University of Adelaide waited on the Premier (Hon. R. L. Butler) requesting that the Jubilee Exhibition grounds should be dedicated for University purposes. Subsequently the Premier stated that the deputation had pointed out that at present the council was not in a position to decide upon the disposition of proposed new buildings in the best interests of higher education owing to the unsettled nature of the arrangements in respect to land. They were anxious to begin at an early date the erection of the Bonython Hall and a library. If the Government would dedicate the land to the council, the sites for those buildings could be definitely decided upon. The council was prepared for a certain portion of the land to be allocated for School of Mines purposes, and for the ground upon which the Exhibition Building stood to be under the control of the Government for a period of years. The deputation also asked that monetary bequests to the University should be free of succession duty. It was pointed out that that practice prevailed in practically all the other States. The council believed that the concession would encourage gifts which would relieve the Government of some of their present financial responsibility in connection with the University. The Premier, replying to the deputation, said, realising that the land should be utilised for the purposes of higher education, he was favorable to the request that it should be dedicated to the University, and that he would submit the matter to the Cabinet for decision.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSIONS.

Exhibition Grounds Wanted.

On Tuesday representatives of the Council of the University of Adelaide who waited upon the Premier (Hon. R. L. Butler), and asked that the Jubilee Exhibition grounds should be dedicated to it for University purposes, received an encouraging reply.

The Premier subsequently stated that the deputation had pointed out that at present the University Council was not in the position to decide upon the disposition of proposed new buildings in the way it would like to, in the best interests of higher education in the future. It was anxious to begin at an early date the erection of the Bonython Hall and a library; and if the Government would dedicate the lands to the council the sites for those buildings could be decided upon to the best advantage. The council was prepared for a certain portion of the land to be allocated for School of Mines purposes, and for the ground upon which the Exhibition Building stands to be under the control of the Government for a period of years. The deputation also asked that monetary bequests to the University should be free of succession duty. It was pointed out that that practice prevailed in practically all the other States. The council believed that the concession would encourage gifts which would relieve the Government of some of its present financial responsibility in connection with the University.

Premier Favourable to Dedication.

The Premier added that, in reply to the deputation, he had said that, realizing that the land should be utilized for the purposes of higher education, he, personally, was favourable to the request that it should be dedicated to the University, and that he would submit the whole matter to Cabinet for decision.

"TOO INWARD LOOKING."

Professor's Outspoken Criticism.

That we in Australia are too inward looking, and that the immigration figures of Australia are much better than most people imagine, were statements made by Professor Hancock, at a meeting at the Town Hall on Wednesday.

Professor Hancock's theme was, "How We are Meeting Political Changes." In the course of his remarks, he said he thought the people in Australia were losing some of the enthusiasm possessed at the beginning of its history as a nation. To-day 60 out of every 100 people were street dwellers. Australia had been 95 per cent. British in 1900; now it was 98 per cent. Regarding Australia's policy of racial exclusion, it had been accepted by the world as reasonable, and had not been challenged by any other nation. Their only concern now should be to keep a reasonable attitude on that matter. Otherwise the whole of the policy would be brought into jeopardy. A White Australia, if it meant anything at all, meant an Australia occupied by white people. Right from the start Australians had been quite consistent in deciding to attract white immigrants to their shores.

Policy More Efficient.

The professor said the main point to him was that Australian immigration methods were now more efficient. Before the war the country swallowed mouthfuls of immigrants like the boa-constrictor swallowed food, suffered acute indigestion, and became sick, which was most uncomfortable for Australia, and more uncomfortable for the immigrant. Since the war the country had been trying to find its capacity for absorbing immigrants. Those ideas had taken greater shape in better co-operation between the responsible organizations in Australia and London.

Further than that, went on Mr. Hancock, the Development and Migration Commission had been appointed. At present it was the "Aunt Sally," but, after all, even if economies were necessary in certain Government departments, there should be no economy in the application of brains to the problems of Australia.

The speaker said he felt that some modesty was needed about Australia, because that country had not done much which would be set up as an example for the world. There was one aspect, however, which they could hold up—the province of law and order. The development of legal regulation in industry was exemplary. He knew there were examples

where that was not so; but, as with the accusation that Australia was a land of strikes, only one or two industries were concerned. The Commonwealth only recently had been considering her arbitration laws, and he was glad to see that the Government intended to hang on to the system. It was a trait of Britons, as Miss Maude Royden (a previous speaker) had remarked, to hang on to a thing, even if it were a caricature of its original content.

Too Inward Looking.

"We in Australia are far too inward looking," said Professor Hancock. "We imagine that just as we exclude merchandise from the outer world, so we can exclude the ideas of the outer world. As a new country, we have everything to learn. The Commonwealth Government is realizing the benefits to be derived from economic collaboration. Our mental attitude is changing very little. We are smug and quick to resent criticism; we are too inward looking. We should begin to give a little more attention to what is happening in the rest of the world."

THE UNIVERSITY.

More Ground Required.

Views of the Acting Vice-Chancellor.

Following the deputation which waited on the Premier on Tuesday morning, consisting of representatives of the Council of the University of Adelaide, who requested that the Jubilee Exhibition grounds should be dedicated to it for University purposes, a representative of The Register sought some information on Wednesday from the Acting Vice-Chancellor (Professor R. W. Chapman, C.M.G.), in regard to the matter.

Professor Chapman said that the land formerly occupied by the Royal Agricultural Society for show purposes, at the rear of the University, had been transferred to the institution about a year ago. That additional area provided room for the Students' Union Building; probably the new Library Building would be placed there; and the Research Laboratory for the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research was now nearing completion. Notwithstanding this addition to the area of the University, difficulty had been experienced in formulating plans for University buildings, on account of the uncertainty of the land to be made available in the future. The buildings in prospect, including the Great Hall, for the erection of which Sir Langdon Bonython had provided an endowment of £40,000, had rendered it necessary that further provision should be made for University extension. Successive Governments had been in favour of the proposals of the University that the ultimate reversion of the land to the east should be secured to it, under certain conditions. There was an endowment from Mr. Tom Barr Smith, which amounted to £20,000, for the library, with the stipulation that it should be erected within the next five years. That endowment was made two years ago.

The Pride of Adelaide.

"It is obviously desirable that the University," continued Professor Chapman, "should be in the position of being able to arrange its plans for the future, and to lay out a general scheme for the buildings, so that ultimately the result may be satisfactory from an architectural standpoint. It is quite impossible to do that now, because we are not sure of what land is coming to us. We started with four acres; then we got an additional four acres; and a couple of years ago we acquired a further four acres, thus making our total area 12 acres. The whole of our ground is either built on or, at any rate, we have buildings proposed that will occupy the whole of it. We are looking forward to a scheme under which all of this land will be devoted to educational purposes, and we hope eventually to have a block of buildings which will be the pride of Adelaide. We have an opportunity here such as does not exist in the other States, since the University is right alongside the city. We want more room for the Conservatorium, and we specially want an excellent site near the terrace for the great Bonython Hall. Our idea is to put it on the east side of the Elder Hall, but nearer to North terrace, and we would then have three sides of a quadrangle similar to that provided by the Museum. With regard to the Library, that requires to be in the centre of our group of buildings as far as possible; but, at the present time, we don't know where the centre is, or where it is going to be. If we knew for certain that in the future we were to have land to the east of us, we might move the library from the location on the flat that has now been assigned to it."