

WOMEN'S EMANCIPATION.

Effect Upon Civilization.

An Amusing Debate.

Not even standing room was available in the Public Library lecture room on Monday evening, when Bates College, America, scored a meritorious victory over Adelaide University in the second and last of the international debates arranged by the University Students' Council.

Such a subject as "That the So-called Emancipation of Woman Has Not Been in the Best Interests of Civilization," offered intriguing possibilities, and the fact that the affirmative had to be taken by the team from America—a country in which woman has attained greater freedom and lack of convention than possibly any other, lent an added touch of piquancy to the situation. Once again the youthful visitors carried the day by their admirable platform presence, their convincing air of assurance—which bespoke an experience and practice greater than that of the Adelaide team—by the smooth flow of their arguments, and by a choice of words and a freshness of humour which commanded unflinching attention. These were factors which counted, for, as Mr. Justice Angas Parsons, who presided, remarked at the conclusion of the discussion, the adjudicators would bring in their verdict, not upon the respective merits of the cases, but upon the methods of their presentation.

Woman—Always the Ruler.

Mr. J. F. Davis, the extremely youthful leader for Bates, admitted at the outset that an abundance of knowledge upon the subject in question was not his strong point; but for that he blamed the Adelaide students, who had prevented him and his colleagues from meeting the charming young women of Adelaide. That was something the visitors would remember when an Adelaide team visited America. However, there was consolation in the fact that the visiting team were leaving Adelaide early next morning, and would thus escape that fury which might be expected to result from their remarks if it were true that "Heil hath no fury like a woman scorned." Mr. Davis then gazed upon his audience, composed largely of women, took a deep breath, and settled to his theme, which was that woman could but be the loser by garnishing her flock of virtues with masculine vices. Further, there was no sense in it, from his point of view. He began as far back in history as Adam and Eve, since which time, he contended, everybody had been slaving for a living except in Australia, where Labour Governments laid it down that no one was to slave for a living. He advanced to the present age by way of Helen of Troy, Sophocles who obeyed implicitly his wife, and Plato, "who took the hemlock very calmly indeed, perhaps because he was a philosopher." Cleopatra, Theodora, Joan of Arc, and Shakespeare's Lady Macbeth and Portia were all instanced examples of the fact that woman had always led man by the nose, even though man had ostensibly been the ruler of woman. Woman had swayed man far more effectively before she got the vote than since that privilege had been conferred upon her. To-day her emancipation consisted of little else than that of endeavouring to make herself as similar to man as was physically possible for her to be. What would be thought of man if he emulated such a practice—if he wore his clothes cut so low that they destroyed one of the chief attributes of the human race, which was imagination? Woman possessed certain fundamental differences from man which ill fitted her for departing from those spheres for which Nature had so obviously intended her. She possessed a maternal instinct, a love of beauty, a finer sense of the aesthetic, but she was less analytical than was man. Her job was to secure a mate and then to keep that mate, and a woman tainted by the smell of tobacco, or with yellowed fingers for example, was at a disadvantage. It was not a case of begrudging women her raised status in civilization. Emancipation was not that. Emancipation was woman's development above the ordinary normal trend of progress, and that did not include smoking tobacco, driving automobiles, or wearing pants.

Then They Laughed.

It was, however, left to Mr. S. Pick, the Adelaide leader, to claim the biggest laugh of the evening, although it was against himself, and after joining heartily in the merriment of his listeners, recovered gracefully from his little faux pas.

Introduced by the chairman as one "who would rehabilitate the fair sex," he began by asserting that the so-called emancipation of women was simply her attempts to break down the barriers imposed by man. Woman had once been imposed not to possess a mind. She had proved that

she had. She had shown further that she was not necessary dependant upon man. Some women had been forced to fend for themselves, and that was called emancipation. The number of women in the world had grown to be greater than the number of men—they could not all find husbands, and presented a type which had never before been known. They had to find work, and this had led to an intellectual as well as an economic emancipation. These women had not refused to marry or to bear children. They had merely shown themselves capable of exercising a will of their own.

"And now" smiled Mr. Pick, warming to his subject "there are quite a number of women in the audience to-night, and I do not think they look much different from their grandmothers—but whatever else he was going to say was interrupted by a burst of laughter, which continued for some time.

"I meant" laughed Mr. Pick, a little later "when their grandmothers were the same age as themselves, except, of course, that they wear more sensible clothing to-day."

Mr. Pick concluded with the contentions that women would not be in business unless they had proved themselves equal in ability to men, and that if they proved themselves better than men, would it not be only fair and right that men should be relegated to doing only the labouring and menial tasks of life?

"Canned Whole Meals."

Mr. M. L. Ames, the second American speaker, said that business had failed to intrigue woman, and she had become tired of the dreadful business competition with man, because she had lost something in the struggle. However, she had discovered also that the "tired business man" was not a figment of the imagination, and perhaps that would be a benefit from her emancipation. It was not a true emancipation at all for it had not brought her happiness, but mostly because her job was to secure admiration from the male, and she was untutored in the art of getting a decent wage from her employer. Her political and money making urge had resulted in America, not only in canned pork and beans for meals, but in canned whole meals, and that most detestable American institution—the delicatessen shop. The children were the ones who would suffer. They were being sent to kindergartens at an age when they could learn best at their mother's knees. A mental picture of the Statue of Liberty blushing for the American team when it returned to New York Harbour, was presented by Mr. S. H. Mayes, who pointed out that for all the subtle power of women, they had remained the slaves of men until the last century. That was why some of the first women writers had adopted masculine nom-de-plumes or pen-names.

Having heard his colleagues bring weight of evidence and logic upon the subject, Mr. C. H. Guptill, the third American, set out to finish off the opposition by heaping ridicule upon the logical result of their contentions. Women, he said, were capable of doing almost anything, except a few, and they were capable of finding husbands. What would happen if man had to stay home while woman went out to work? Would not any one present that night sooner leave her baby with any other woman, than leave it with Mr. Pick, for example? Between taking care of infants and drunken husbands, women had quite enough to do in this world. Men would become ridiculous if they attempted to usurp women's estate, and women had lost a measure of that admiration which she had attracted when she confined herself to her own occult and mysterious realm. He would lend a woman his pipe; he would lend her even his razor; but he rose in indignation when she asked for his pants.

Called upon by the chairman "to reconstruct society," Mr. R. C. Harry, of Adelaide University, in the course of a president of the club, is no unfamiliar figure to the microphone, and is working hard to make this unique evening a success. The Kretschmann Club now boasts over 200 members, and Mr. Sverjensky has the cream of the talent of Sydney from which to draw for the entertainment he is arranging on August 1.

Professor A. D. Ross, of the University of Western Australia, who is going to Canberra to attend the Conference of Physicists and Astronomers as hon. secretary for Australia of the Institute of Physics, will arrive in Adelaide on Tuesday next, and will remain till the following Friday. Professor Ross will also attend the Inter-Universities' Conference in Melbourne and the annual meetings of the Australian National Research Council in Sydney.

ADV. 1. 8. 28

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The Sydney University has accepted the resignation of Professor Griffith Taylor, professor of geography, who has accepted a position at the Chicago University at a salary of £1,300 a year. He now receives £900.

VISITING LECTURERS.

Lord Clinton and Prof. Conway.

The success attending the recent lectures given by Sir John Russell, of the Rothamstead Agricultural Research Station, England, under the auspices of the authorities of the University of Adelaide, has led to further arrangements for lectures by overseas visitors.

During September the delegates to the third Empire Forestry Conference will arrive in Adelaide, and will spend a few days here prior to assembling in Canberra for the business sessions of the conference. While it is desired that delegates shall spend as much time as possible in viewing the forestry operations of this State, the wish has also been expressed that the people of this State shall hear something about forestry from one of these eminent visitors. While nothing definite has yet been accomplished in this direction, there is every possibility that the chairman of the British Forestry Commission (Lord Clinton) will give an address in Adelaide. Lord Clinton is an acknowledged authority on forestry, and, withal, is an excellent public speaker. State Government forestry officials are greatly interested in the proposal, and are endeavouring to make the address a possibility.

During September Professor R. S. Conway, Litt.D., of the chair of Latin of Victoria University, Manchester, will give two lectures under the aegis of the University, with the possibility of a further lecture to students, to be arranged by the Graduates' Association. Probably one of his addresses will touch on "The Place of Classical Study in the British Empire." Professor Conway, who is a Fellow of Caius College, Cambridge, is a distinguished scholar and one of the world's leading authorities on the humanities. A voluminous writer, he possesses in a high degree the ability to put his thoughts into clear and interesting form, and his lecture should make a wide appeal even to those whose business seems to be completely separated from classical studies.

Canadian Professor Coming.

Information has been received by the University authorities that Professor W. A. Osborne, of the University of Manitoba, Canada, will shortly visit Adelaide, probably next week. His primary object is to arrange for delegations to represent Australia at the Canadian National Association of Education Conference, to be held at Vancouver in the spring of 1929. Professor Osborne is organizer of the council, and it is hoped to make arrangements for him to address public meetings during his stay in Adelaide, on such subjects as "The Relation of the Races in Canada," "The Canadian View Towards American Penetration," and "A Canadian View of Our Imperial Relations." As far as can be gathered the Education Department of this State is not likely to take any part in the proposed conference.

ADV. 1. 8. 28

CHILD PSYCHOLOGY.

LECTURE BY DR. E. A. ALLEN.

The first of a series of five lectures on "Child psychology," by Dr. Eleanor A. Allen and Miss Lois W. Allen was delivered by Dr. Allen at Dr. Violet Plummer's rooms, North-terrace, Adelaide, on Tuesday afternoon, when she dealt with "The instinctive life of the child."

The lecturer pointed out that the instinctive life of a child was spontaneous, and she gave a number of examples in support of that contention. Dealing with stimulus and reaction, she said when a stimulus arrived which touched instinctive forces there was bound to be some reaction. If the natural reaction was checked and prevented it tended to be hidden, and become the basis of what was known as a "repression." Instinctive reactions tended to go in pairs, known as positive and negative groups, such as fear and pugnacity. Dealing with what was known as the "all or none" principle, the lecturer said the same amount of emotion was sometimes aroused by a very small thing as by a large thing. For instance, a baby would very often be thrown into a paroxysm of rage over some trivial matter, and its mother would wonder why it had been affected in that way. Dr. Allen then dealt with some of the phases of the development of a child, and showed how the instinctive reactions of young children were developed round objects of affection, namely, its parents.

The second lecture of the series, which will deal with "Stages of development," will be given by Miss Lois W. Allen on Thursday afternoon.

The acceptance by Professor T. Griffith Taylor, D.Sc., B.E., B.A., F.G.S., of an important position in Chicago University means the loss of a gentleman of outstanding ability from the teaching staff of the University of Sydney, of which he was a distinguished scholar, and with which he has been connected for many years. Soon after his return from Emmanuel College, Cambridge, Dr. Griffith Taylor was appointed in 1910 Physiographer in the Commonwealth Weather Service. The same year he went as Senior Geologist to the Antarctic with Captain Scott's expedition, and was away for about two years. On his return Dr. Griffith Taylor was made Acting Commonwealth Geologist at Canberra. Two years later he was appointed Lecturer in Meteorology at the Commonwealth Flying School, a position he held until 1918. Eight years ago he became Associate Professor of Geography in Sydney University. For some time he was a member of the Federal Research Council. His work in science, exploration, and authorship has given him a world-wide reputation, and he has received many honors, including the Royal Geographical Society's Medal (1913) for exploration, the King's Polar medal, the prize medal of Sydney University for his D.Sc. thesis in 1915, the Deas Thomson gold medal, and the Syme Prize and medal. In 1923 the American Geographical Society awarded him the Livingstone gold medal. The professor is a prolific author.

ADV. 4. 8. 28

MUSICAL CAPS AND GOWNS.

From "CERDDOR," Kensington.—I read Mr. Mitchell's letter on "Caps and Gowns" and "Colleges" with much interest. So, doubtless, it will be of interest if further facts are made known with regard to musical examinations, and the state of the teaching of music in Australia prior to their advent. It was in a deplorable state, for young ladies, after learning for several years, could not play a scale or arpeggio, and the height of their ambition was to be able to play "The Maiden's Prayer," "The March on Delhi," &c., with the loud pedal on all through! Some, therefore, who were interested in musical education sought for means of improving it. The first step taken was to form a Chair of Music, but this, apparently, did not fulfil expectations, and conservatoriums were started. This was an improvement, but only those living in the metropolis could benefit. The country districts were no better off, unless they could afford to live or travel to town. To obviate this difficulty the authorities were asked to give lectures and conduct local examinations in country centres. This they refused to do. It was then decided to invite one of the British colleges. To make this arrangement a complete success it was found necessary to qualify the teachers, so this college was asked to hold special examinations for teachers, but it was short-sighted enough to decline. Had it done so the other colleges would not have been heard of. The committee then decided to write to London for advice, and two colleges were strongly recommended. Mr. Mitchell is in error in stating that these colleges have no authority to examine. They are incorporated pursuant to an Act of Parliament of Great Britain, which can be easily verified by anyone seeking truth. Therefore, they are on precisely the same footing as Trinity College, for which he holds a brief. Most of us object to "caps and gowns." What then, so long as they are an incentive to study? Hundreds would not go so far but for them. As for these examinations being worthless, I beg to differ. At the examinations for the diplomas many fail several times. I know of no "mere children" obtaining them, yet all the world knows some children are very clever and precocious. To obtain 100 per cent. marks is very rare. I know of no more than six or seven who have done so in upwards of 20 years, especially for diplomas. All knowledge is not deposited with the conservatoriums, neither will it die with them. All institutions require money, and money is at the root of all the trouble, but I am at a loss to know that it is possible for £42,000 to be sent home in a year, when more than half the fees is spent in Australia. Many wrong statements are being made concerning these colleges. I was in Britain some time ago and heard them well spoken of. It will be a bad day for music in Australia if any one institution gets the monopoly of musical instruction.