

UNIVERSITY LIFE.

Not All "High Brow."

"The University in Relation to Community Life" was the theme of an address on Wednesday by the Acting Vice-Chancellor of the Adelaide University (Professor R. W. Chapman) to the members of the Constitutional Club. The president of the club (Mr. B. S. Leahy), in introducing the speaker, referred to the eminent position occupied by him, and to students who had passed through his hands afterwards to become well-known engineers in different parts of the world.

Professor Chapman said he took it for granted that his auditors, being interested in constitutional Government, would take an interest in the way money was being spent on education. In 1912 South Australia expended £330,000 on education, and in 1927 the sum had grown to £1,000,000. The expenditure at the University had also increased at a very rapid rate, and the sum paid out last year was nearly £100,000. About half that amount had been contributed by the Government, and the remainder from bequests and the fees of students. The University of Adelaide had reason to be extremely gratified at the generous support it had received from the public of South Australia. Benefactions had enabled the staff to further extend its work.

"Heads in the Clouds."

The speaker went on to ask whether a University education was a vital necessity for the people. Was it a luxury that could be done without? He said judging from the opinions of some people, young women were turned into "blue stockings," while the young men became high brows and unpractical—people with their heads in the clouds. Then, too, the professors were regarded as "musty" individuals. It was against that tradition the University had to fight. There were other people who thought that the University was a very pleasant place for the sons of well-to-do fathers. However, when the facts were viewed, a different story was told. For many years in Adelaide the object of the University had been to turn out young professional men—lawyers, engineers, medical men, and teachers generally. Taking them as a whole, they were anything but people with their heads in the clouds.

No Bolshevistic Danger.

Professor Chapman went on to speak of the fine assurance of the Australian people. "It is worth all the money that the whole of the Australian States is spending on education," he said. "This assurance tells us that Australia will never be threatened by a Bolshevik upheaval. Bolshevism is a weed which thrives luxuriantly on the decaying soil of ignorance, and Russia is paying the penalty for pursuing that deliberate policy. Bolshevism has only been successful in countries where the people are kept in ignorance. It is making slower progress in the better educated countries of Europe." The speaker went on to say that there was less fear of it raising its head in Australia while we had the present splendid system of primary education. It was easy to delude people who could not read or write.

At the Adelaide University last year, continued Professor Chapman, there were 70 undergraduates, 850 non-graduating students, and 96 graduated students continuing their studies. He went on to give details concerning those courses, and said that the Adelaide University differed from others in that it catered for the student who wished to learn and study in his spare time, intending to complete a degree over a period of years. He pointed out the necessity for a University to provide facilities for professional men to keep abreast of developments in their profession by providing suitable instructors and literature. They recognised that the advances being made today were due to scientific research. The Adelaide University had to do its share, but in that regard Adelaide had not been able to do very much, because most of the professors in this city had had to be teachers. A young man should not go through a university with the idea of learning something, and then to think that the study was complete. Methods in these days changed considerably in five years. He stressed the important work being done at Urrbrae, and considered that in time it would become a wonderful experimental station, which would mean untold wealth to South Australia. Work at such an institution had to be done by the chemist and the scientific man.

The speaker concluded his address by expressing the opinion that the University was the place where the best qualities in young men and women were developed, qualities which made for the perpetuation of the British Empire.

Music Examinations.

Sir—On July 31 you published a letter of mine relative to music examinations conducted in Australia by certain "colleges." It has since been said that they have authority to examine, being "incorporated by Act of Parliament of Great Britain." Now, I have in my possession a letter written by the secretary of the Teachers' Registration Council of Great Britain, dated January 26, 1928, in which it is stated that the council accepts as evidence of fitness for registration the diplomas A.R.C.M., L.R.A.M., F.R.C.O., and A.R.M.C.M., these four colleges being chartered institutions. In addition the secretary states that the council recognises the diplomas of the following non-chartered institutions:—Trinity College of Music, Incorporated, the Incorporated London Academy of Music, and the Guildhall School of Music; only, however, provided that the applicant for registration has attended a course of three years at the institution concerned. In respect of examining bodies which are operating neither under a charter, nor with any ascertainable measure of public responsibility, the council refuses to recognise the diplomas which they give. Failing other evidence of musical attainment diplomates of irresponsible "colleges" are not admissible to the register. Their diplomas carry no weight whatever, and are completely ignored; further, this practice corresponds with that of the British Board of Education.

Of the "colleges" which trade in parchment and millinery in Australia, one was registered as an unlimited company on August 31, 1898, under the Companies' Acts of 1862-1898; the other is a limited company, registered on November 5, 1891. These companies are in the diploma business for financial reasons, and owe direct responsibility only to their shareholders; it is probable, therefore, that the easier the pass, the greater the following. The line of least resistance is usually taken by those whose desire is cheap distinction. In The Daily Mail, London, on May 9, 1927, there appeared a well-informed editorial on the subject of "Trade in Valueless Degrees and Diplomas." It was remarked how ready people are to be impressed by a string of letters after a music teacher's name. Knowledge of what those letters represent may be of the vaguest, but their mere presence seems to inspire confidence. So teachers find it necessary to acquire some letters, and, maybe, at times to disport themselves in robes, hoods, caps, and tassels. As the demand naturally stimulates the supply, inevitably there are obliging people, who, for a consideration, are ready to provide fancy letterings, with or without fancy dress. The alphabet is always accessible, so the letters cost the vendors nothing, while the millinery yields a handsome profit.

Proprietary institutions, indeed, doing business for what can be got out of it, have every inducement, first to attract all the candidates they can for the sake of the fees, and then to pass as many as possible for the good of the trade. However, the prime test of a musical degree or diploma is—Does it emanate from a public institution, with a public responsibility, or from a proprietary concern, run for personal profit? Which? There is a movement in England towards the establishment of a Joint Examining Board for Teachers of Music, to consist of representatives of all reputable teaching and examining bodies, and when such a board is constituted it is hoped that the activities of privately conducted and profit-seeking enterprises will be considerably curtailed, if not altogether abolished.

I have sheaves of evidence concerning the matters under consideration, available if the need should arise, but in conclusion it will suffice to say that it surely behoves all self-respecting teachers of music whose aim is true education in their art to support solely those examinations which are above reproach.—I am, Sir, &c.,

ERNEST E. MITCHELL.

Adelaide, August 14.

REG. 16.8.28

CLASSICAL LECTURES.

The Graduates' Association of the University of Adelaide has arranged for lectures by Professor R. S. Conway, Litt.D. (Cantab), Hulme, Professor of Latin in the Victoria University of Manchester, and Lecturer in Classics, 1927, Harvard University, on two topics relating to the classics, but of general public interest. Professor Conway is touring the world, and has come to Australia by arrangement with the Australian Universities. Professor Darnley Naylor (formerly of Adelaide) recommends him as one of the best classical scholars of the day, and as an extremely interesting lecturer. Professor Conway will speak on September 12 and September 14 at the University on "Rome's Master Mind" and "The Place of Classical Study in the Modern World." His Excellency the Governor (Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven, V.C.) has signified his intention of attending the first lecture at which the Chancellor of the University (Sir George Murray) will preside.

ADV. 16.8.28

SOILS INVESTIGATIONS.

In view of the recent visit to Australia of Sir John Russell, who is one of the leading soil experts of the world, it is of interest to note that some progress is being made by Australian investigators in the study of Australian soils. As a result of the information already obtained it appears that soils in this country are unique in character, and that therefore the agricultural experience of other lands cannot be applied without reservation to Australian conditions. The Australian work is mainly centred at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute, and it is directed by Professor J. A. Prescott. Naturally the greatest attention is being given at present to the more densely settled agricultural areas, namely, the irrigated settlements. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has been co-operating in the investigations for the last couple of years. As a result of the combined efforts, the study of an area at Renmark has been completed and a soil survey of another irrigation area near Swan Hill, Victoria, should be completed at an early date. The work is regarded as of such importance that applications are now being called for the appointment of another chemist to assist in the necessary analyses.

ADV. 16.8.28

RESEARCH IN ANIMAL DISEASES.

Sir Arnold Thielier, Director of the Imperial Bureau of Animal Health, who is visiting Australia at the invitation of the Commonwealth Institute of Science and Industry, to make enquiries into research on animal diseases, will arrive in Adelaide this morning from Melbourne. He was previously Director of Veterinary Research in South Africa. This morning Sir Arnold will make a call upon the Minister of Agriculture (Hon. J. Cowan). He will remain in the State for a fortnight, and will then proceed to Perth. During next week Sir Arnold will visit the South-East, where he will enquire into red water in cattle. The following week will be spent in the Burra and neighboring districts, where Merino flocks will be inspected. He will also confer with officers of the various State departments directly interested in his visit. While in Adelaide Sir Arnold will inspect the research work being carried on at the Waite Institute. It is probable that he will address a public meeting, under the auspices of the Stock-owners' Association.

ADV. 16.8.28

THE FORESTRY CONFERENCE.

This morning the Inspector-General of Forests of the Commonwealth (Mr. C. E. Lane-Poole) will arrive in Adelaide on the way to Perth, accompanied by the Australian secretary of the Empire Forestry Conference (Mr. A. Rule), and the following delegates from Canada:—The Director of Forestry of Ottawa (Mr. E. H. Finlayson), the Associate Director (Mr. D. R. Cameron), the Associate Dominion Entomologist (Dr. J. M. Swaine), the Deputy Director of Forests, Ontario (Mr. E. J. Zavit), and the Chief Forester of British Columbia (Mr. P. Z. Coverhill). The delegates will meet the other overseas delegates in Perth, where the first stages of the conference will be conducted. The delegates will arrive at Port Augusta on August 28, and after inspecting the northern forests of the State, will reach Adelaide the same evening. On August 29 the forest at Kuitpo will be visited, and a session of the conference will be held in Adelaide on August 30. The remainder of the week will be occupied in inspecting the forests in the South-East, and the visitors will leave for Melbourne on Saturday, September 1.

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ADV. 17.8.28

VISIT OF BRITISH STUDENTS.

The Secretary of State for the Dominions (Mr. Amery), during his visit to Australia some months ago, was impressed with the idea of encouraging groups of youths from the British public schools and universities to visit the Dominions and secure information regarding the prospects of settlement. Four boys, accompanied by the father of one of them, are in South Australia, having come from Western Australia this week. The boys spent Wednesday morning in the city, and in the afternoon were taken a trip through the Torrens Gorge, at the invitation of the Director of the Tourist Bureau (Mr. Victor H. Ryan). On Thursday they visited the Roseworthy Agricultural College, and to-day will visit Urrbrae and the Waite Research Institute. They will leave this evening by the express for Melbourne.

ADV. 18.7.28

Sir Arnold Thielier (director of the Imperial Bureau of Animal Health), who arrived in Adelaide by the express from Melbourne on Friday, accompanied by his wife, was met by Professor T. Brailsford Robertson, the director of the pathological laboratory at the Adelaide Hospital (Dr. L. B. Bull), the Chief Inspector of Stock (Mr. C. A. Loxton), the secretary of the State committee of the Commonwealth Institute of Science and Industry (Mr. C. V. Clark), and Mrs. A. E. V. Richardson. Sir Arnold, accompanied by Dr. A. E. V. Richardson, attended the midday lunch of the Rotary Club and visited the Stock and Brands Office, and the pathological laboratory at the Adelaide Hospital. Sir Arnold was born in Switzerland in 1867, and was educated in Aarau, Berne, and Zurich. He qualified as a veterinary surgeon in Zurich, and obtained the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in Berne. In 1896 he was appointed Government veterinary surgeon to the South African Republic, which post he held until 1900, when he was transferred to the office of Government veterinary bacteriologist in the Transvaal.

REG. 18.7.28

Sir William Sowden, Professor McKellar Stewart, and Messrs. S. Talbot Smith, F. E. Meleng, H. R. Purnell, B. H. Gillman, and F. W. Bampfield, delegates to the Australian Library Conference, will leave Adelaide on Sunday afternoon for Melbourne. Professor R. W. Chapman, who, with Professor McKellar Stewart, will represent the University Library at the conference, will leave Adelaide this afternoon.

REG. 18.7.28

TOURING ENGLISH STUDENTS.

Four English University students, who have come to Australia to study our conditions, visited the Waite Agricultural Research Institute on Friday morning, under the guidance of the Minister of Agriculture (Hon. J. Cowan). Members of the party were met by the director (Professor A. E. V. Richardson), who piloted them through the buildings and grounds, and explained the activities being carried on there. At the conclusion of the inspection Professor and Mrs. Richardson entertained the visitors at morning tea.

NEWS 16.8.28

Mr. Herbert I. Coombs, M.A., B.Sc. (1920 Rhodes Scholar, and son of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Coombs, 17 Lily street, Goodwood Park), has taken the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at Cambridge. He has been working at Harvard Medical School during the past year.

In Executive Council on Wednesday, Dr. M. Schneider, of Adelaide, was given an honorary commission to enquire into and report on the effect of industrial occupations on eyesight in Great Britain, the Continent of Europe, and the United States of America.