

much new light upon the subjects with which he deals. "Particularly," he says, "is it to be regretted that I had so few opportunities for extended and specific observation, and in consequence the geological work is for the most part a reconnaissance while in the saddle, and more frequently than otherwise under the most trying circumstances, to which you yourself can testify from your experience." In his general remarks Professor Tate has drawn largely upon the information supplied by former explorers, and his report is chiefly valuable as furnishing hints as to the

directions in which further investigation should be made. That parts of the Territory are rich in gold and other minerals, that a large amount of capital was disgracefully squandered during the mining mania some years ago, that the appliances for extracting the gold at present in use in the Northern Territory are very imperfect, and that as necessary result a great deal of gold is wasted, that the cost of raising and extracting the gold is so heavy as to destroy the profit of what would under more favourable circumstances be well-paying mines are all facts about which we were pretty well informed before the Professor gave his report. The conclusions at which Professor Tate has arrived with regard to the agricultural and pastoral resources of the settlement will be disappointing to many; but it is only fair to say that he gives what appear to be good grounds for the opinions he advances. Considering the short time at his disposal and the circumstances of disadvantage under which the trip was performed, the report contains as much information as could be expected, and possibly even more than could be fairly looked for. But the question arises, what further action do the Government intend to take? To leave the matter as it is will be satisfactory to no one. If it is not intended to prosecute the researches any further we fail to see any sufficient reason why they should have been begun. The only point that can be said to be definitely settled by what has already been done is the expediency of constructing a railway to Pine Creek. It may be, too, that now when an official protest has been raised against the wasteful outlay of money in starting sham Companies there will be a legitimate expenditure of capital in honest attempts to develop the resources of the Territory. Beyond this the report is not likely to do much good, because it is necessarily too general and vague. It has at least the merit of not raising undue expectations; and that it does not convey more information is not the fault of the compiler, but of the unfavourable conditions under which his observations were made.

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UNIVERSITY EXTRA CLASSES. — The hitherto very limited sphere of usefulness of the Adelaide University is being gradually extended, and it is extremely gratifying to find that the most recent addition to the classes has resulted in an unqualified success. Dr. Stirling, the newly appointed Lecturer in Physiology, reports that his class was attended last term by no less than 57 students, of whom 36 were ladies; that the attendance throughout the term was very good; and that an increase in the number of the class may be looked for in the ensuing term. The fact that 38 of these students submitted to an examination at the close of the term, and acquitted themselves creditably, suggests that they are in earnest in their studies, and indicates, moreover, that the subject is being presented to them in an attractive manner. The three extra classes which are now being conducted at the University are, strange to say, its strongest points both as regards the numbers of those who attend them and of those who pass the examinations. Last year there were 44 in the chemistry class besides those who were studying for a degree, 18 in the natural philosophy class, and 10 in that for English literature. These three subjects form an excellent curriculum for those who have received a fair general education at school and desire to acquire some insight into those studies which are of the greatest practical value in everyday life, whether it be for work or for enjoyment. For ladies especially these classes may be made exceedingly valuable in the way of enabling them profitably to employ their leisure hours after leaving school—a period at which they, too often find time hang heavily on their hands. It is to be regretted, however, that in the arrangements made at the beginning of the year the time-table of lectures is so fixed that it is impossible for a student to attend both the physiology class and that for English literature. The latter commences on Tuesday afternoons at 3 o'clock and lasts till 4, while the physiology class is held between half-past 3 and half-past 4. The result of such an inconvenient arrangement must be very materially to reduce the numbers of those attending the two classes mentioned, and it would be well if a change could be made without delay. It has, we understand, been found difficult to effect the alteration this year, as the professors and students having made arrangements based on the existing time-table they would be inconvenienced were it changed. Yet we notice that the Council has appended to the time-table a note expressly stating that it is subject to modification as occasion may require, so that there is no absolute necessity binding them to adhere to the present form. If it be found that any of the students are prevented from attending lectures which they wish to attend, owing to the overlapping of the hours of classes, an effort should be made to remedy this state of things, even during the ensuing term.