

"Advertiser" 13/4/97

FIELD NATURALISTS' DREDGING
EXCURSION.

The Field Naturalists' Section of the Royal Society held a successful dredging excursion on Saturday afternoon, when the Port River was the scene of operations. Dredging when one can maintain a steady footing and dredging when the steamer rocks to and fro like a cradle which is constantly trying to get beyond the balance and upset the occupant are two very different conditions, and the field naturalists have recently had experience of both. The former—except to those few people who are so curiously constituted as to be indifferent to the sea's motion—is much the preferable. For one thing the valuable time of the collector is not lost in paying frequent visits to the steamer's side when he might be overhauling the contents of the dredge. The conditions on Saturday were altogether favorable, and not one of the thirty or so ladies and gentlemen were rendered uncomfortable. It has been the custom in previous years to dredge only in the North Arm of the Port River, but this time Lipson's Reach beyond the quarantine-station was tried. Here there is plenty of room beyond the main channel and the island, and quite a host of specimens, rare, curious, and interesting, was brought up. A few fishes, some crabs (hermit and sponge), starfish, some very fine sea eggs, a sea cucumber, sponges and corals, seaweed, and other things all came to deck. The shell collectors (of whom there were several on board) look to dredging to secure not only specimens which are not usually found on the seashore, but the perfect shell with its living occupant, which to the scientist is so much more valuable. A considerable variety of shells was secured, ranging from minute specimens which required a magnifying glass to see properly, to the substantial razor fish. For the microscopist there were polyzoa and hydrozoa, and those not scientifically inclined could at any rate appreciate the curious movement of the living mutton fish, the action of a bivalve in literally gazing with open-mouthed astonishment at finding itself in such unusual surroundings and then shutting it suddenly—for all the world like a weary person's yawn. No one either could fail to admire the delicate coloring and tracery of the doris or to be struck with the needle-like attachments of the sea urchin if they happened not to see it amidst the surrounding weed. The party returned with improved health and additions to their collections, and reached the wharf in time to catch the 5.45 train to the city.

"Register" 13/4/97

A FOOLHARDY PRACTICE.

Register TO THE EDITOR. 13/4/97

Sir—On Saturday last a party of us were fishing at the Torpedo Station at the North Arm of the Port River. A boat ran in at the opposite side of the river, and some one aboard commenced to amuse himself by firing a rifle. Two of us who were on the port side of our boat were startled to hear the whistle of a bullet as it passed within a few feet of us and struck the water a short distance further on. I have frequently seen youths with rifles down the river, and consider that the police should put a stop to a practice that is foolhardy and dangerous in such a busy waterway as the Port River is. Trusting that this may have the effect of calling the attention of the police to a matter needing their attention,

I am, Sir, &c.,

NOT A COCKNEY SPORTSMAN.

Adelaide, April 12.

Advertiser 16/4/97

FEDERATED UNIVERSITIES.

Advertiser TO THE EDITOR. 16/4/97

Sir—The Hon. J. H. Gordon in a new clause, 78a, proposes to the effect that every legal practitioner legally qualified to practise in any State shall be at liberty to practise in the High Court or any Federal Court. I would suggest that he should go further and propose that there shall be one standard examination giving license to practise in any part of the Commonwealth. Further, let this be applied to all university degrees. There can be no doubt that the various degrees conferred by the different universities of the various colonies are not all looked upon with equal favor. Establish one examining body, whose examinations every one must pass to obtain a degree in arts (including music), law, medicine, or science, and this inequality is done away with. Let the present universities remain and continue their excellent tuition. The salaries paid by each university to its examiners could be contributed pro rata to pay the salaries of those of the Federal or Australian University. Where no viva voce is essential the candidates could sit on the same day in the various centres, the papers being forwarded under seal. Where viva voce examination is essential it would not be difficult to evolve a scheme to suit the convenience of both examiners and candidates. The Federal degree would confer a much higher status the world over than a colonial one can give. Even if the greater scheme of federation should not come off just now there should be no great difficulty in the various universities federating.—I am, &c.,

LEONARD W. BICKLE.

North-terrace, April 15, 1897.

Register 16/4/97

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Reg TO THE EDITOR. 16/4/97

Sir—The Hon. J. H. Gordon in a new clause, 78A, proposes to the effect that every legal practitioner legally qualified to practise in any State shall be at liberty to practise in the High Court or any Federal Court. I would suggest that he should go further, and propose that there shall be one standard examination, giving licence to practise in any part of the Commonwealth. Further, let this be applied to all University degrees. There can be no doubt that the various degrees conferred by the different Universities of the various colonies are not all looked upon with equal favour. Establish one examining body, whose examinations every one must pass to obtain a degree in arts, including music, law, medicine, or science, and this inequality is done away with. Let the present Universities remain, and continue their excellent tuition. The salaries paid by each University to its examiners could be contributed pro rata to pay the salaries of those of the Federal or Australian University. Where no viva voce is essential the candidates would sit on the same day in the various centres, the papers being forwarded under seal. Where viva voce examination is essential it would not be difficult to evolve a scheme to suit the convenience of both examiners and candidates. The Federal degree would confer a much higher status the world over than a colonial one can give. Even if the greater scheme of federation should not come off just now there should be no great difficulty in the various Universities federating.

I am, Sir, &c.,

LEONARD W. BICKLE.

North-terrace, April 15.