

## THIS WINTER'S EXTENSION LECTURES.

It has become the annual custom at the Adelaide University to give certain groups of lectures during the winter months. The discourses are called extension lectures, and yet they differ considerably from such courses in the more usual form. They were inaugurated with the object of extending the influence of the University. The idea in England was to send lecturers from the universities to various centres where classes were formed under the guidance of local committees, and some subject was studied with presumably the same thoroughness as it would be in the University. Extension lectures as such have never been very successful in Australia, principally because there is great difficulty in making the necessary arrangements for members of the University staff to leave the institution for sufficiently long periods or at sufficiently regular intervals to properly carry out the scheme. The present programme promoted by the Adelaide University has a somewhat different purpose. The idea is that members of the staff shall endeavour to present the most recent movements of the world's thought in a way that can be understood by those whose time cannot be given to the exclusive study of science and literature. The University is glad to recognise that it owes a certain duty to the public in this way, being an institution which stands for the advancement of learning, and in this respect it is but following the example of, say, the lectures given under the auspices of the Royal Institution, London. It endeavours to interpret to the people of South Australia what is being done in the way of original research. The scheme for this winter presents some points of special attraction. Professor Bragg will explain his interesting and important studies of radium, which is a subject that can best be understood by a personal audience with a scientist who is able to employ apparatus and charts not available for the writer of newspaper or magazine articles. Professor Henderson will contribute a series of lectures on the accomplishments of that great statesman, Sir George Grey, a former Governor of South Australia and New Zealand. He has made a special study of the subject and has spent his long vacations in visiting New Zealand and South Africa in search of material. Professor Howchin will lecture on the geology of the Mount Lofty Ranges. He has developed a very consistent scheme of the geology of our ranges, and this is a question which is of interest to any mind, and it is certain that Professor Howchin's work will be found to have many points of novelty, and will enable him to explain hitherto obscure matters. Purely nominal fees are charged for the various courses—just sufficient to cover incidental expenses. The revenue derived does not go into the general fund of the University, but is set apart for the purposes of the extension lectures scheme.