

In a recent lecture on "Central Australian Aborigines," delivered in the Melbourne Town Hall, Professor Spencer showed how the children had by no means a miserable time, and stated that the people in many modern city slums fared much worse than these savages. Places were found that were sacred to the men—where no women or children might come near—providing the earliest indication of the clubhouse of modern times. (Laughter.) Curiously enough, in many camps the women were much more silent than the men—(laughter)—because there were rules which imposed a strict ban on the speech of women. When a woman's husband died she might not speak for a year, but they had a good substitute for the tongue in a gesture language. There was no necessity for old-age pensions, for every old man or woman was certain of a fair supply of food. In hairdressing, the usual order of things was reversed, the boys putting up their hair, and not the women. As a rule, the girls did not improve in looks as they grew up, and photographs thrown on the screen quite convinced the audience of the truth of this statement. One matron of 32 was shown whose hair had been cut off to compose the only garment of her son-in-law—a hair girdle. A description of tribal dances and corroborees was illustrated by cinematograph views and phonograph records of the weird sounds produced by the "musicians." The secret side of the natives' life was much more important to him than the other, and all matters appertaining to it were kept from the women and the uninitiated men. The sacred bull-roarer, or churinga, which no woman or child might see under penalty of death, was an important adjunct to the rites, and its awesome sound was produced for the benefit of the audience. Tribes were divided into groups of individuals, and every native had a sacred name, according to the material object from which the group to which he belonged was supposed to have descended, the object being called the totem of that group. Almost all the sacred ceremonies were concerned with these totemic ancestors (kangaroo, emu, &c.), the idea being that the living natives were the reincarnation of these animals and objects. Professor Spencer described the different tribes, showing that if, for instance, a native were born on the spot where the witchetty grub left the witchetty grub spirit he was the reincarnation of the witchetty grub, and one of the witchetty grub spirits. The music of the witchetty grub ceremony was, by the way, the most tuneful of that produced during the evening. Death and mourning ceremonies, the organizations of death, avenging parties, and final burial ceremonies, which often extend over a year, were also fully described and illustrated.

Expert accountants appear to be a diverse in their opinions in what constitutes

UNIVERSITY CONGRESS.
COLONIAL SCHOLARSHIPS.
OXFORD TAKES THE LEAD.
 London, July 11.
 At the instance of the authorities of the University of Oxford a conference was held at the Colonial Office on Thursday between representatives of its executive and of colonial universities on matters of mutual interest.
 Among those present were Sir Edmund Barton (who is a Master of Arts of Sydney), Mr. J. H. Knibbs, and Mr. J. W. Turner (representing Sydney University), Mr. W. Pemberton Reeves, Agent-General (on behalf of New Zealand University), and Mr. Neil Smith, from Tasmania. The Universities of Adelaide and Melbourne were not represented.
 It is the desire of Oxford to establish closer connection between that centre of learning and the colonial universities, and as far as possible to devote special attention to the requirements of students sent thither from abroad. More particularly is it the wish of Oxford to arrange its curriculum to suit students who are destined to enter the learned profession, or to take positions in the higher ranks of the Civil Service, and to give the exact training which is likely to carry into effect, in regard to the holders, the aspirations of the late Mr. Cecil Rhodes when he arranged for the establishment of scholarships from colonial universities, tenable at Oxford.
 After speeches had been delivered by the Earl of Onslow (Under-Secretary for the Colonies) and the Rev. D. B. Monro, D.D. (Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University), it was agreed, on the suggestion of Sir Edmund Barton, that the University authorities should embody their views on the subject in a memorandum, which will subsequently be submitted by the Colonial Office to the councils of the various colonial universities, with the object of obtaining an expression of their views concerning the scheme proposed.

this particular way be perpetuated; for it was owing to a special endowment by Sir Thomas Elder—his gifts to the University from first to last amounted to nearly £100,000—that the Medical School of Adelaide was in 1883 inaugurated. Its history, though not long, is sufficiently honourable. When an unfortunate dispute outside the University temporarily scattered the medical students of Adelaide abroad to complete their course, both Melbourne and Sydney bore ungrudging witness to the excellence of the training they had here received; and any budding physician who can successfully face the examinations of Adelaide can usually at least hold his own in the older Universities of Europe.
 There was a time when the Medical School was the largest among those of which the University consists, and the change now witnessed in that respect is not due to any noteworthy falling off in its own strength, but to the liberalizing of conditions attaching to degrees in Art or Science, and the consequent increase in the number of the students of each of these branches. The new building to be formally started to-day will not add to the architectural glories of North terrace. The exigencies of position compel it to be placed away down the slopes of the University enclosure. Its objects, however, are not those of display, but of strict utility. In its retired recesses will be practised the art of anatomy, which is unpleasant and even gruesome to the novice, but enables the skilled surgeon to work apparent miracles on the living human body in time of disease. The building will contain a museum of specimens illustrating those departures from the normal which serve at once as a lesson and as a warning. "Next to God in all our extremities," says old Burton in his essays, "we must seek to rely upon the physician;" and it is only right and conducive to the best interests of the community that the intending practitioners of the healing art should have, under the most favourable conditions, the highest training which modern science can give.

THE NEW MEDICAL SCHOOL.
 With the progress of medical science and the increase in the number of medical students, the authorities of the Adelaide University have to keep constantly adding to the accommodation of our leading seat of learning. For some considerable time the anatomical and pathological school has been cramped for room, and the work has had to be distributed in various parts of the building. For instance, the pathological museum was in a downstairs compartment, which is now allotted to electrical work, while the dissecting room was a long distance from the lecture-rooms. For years that apartment was too small, while the provision for the professor in charge of the medical school generally was very limited. Now Professor Watson will have his own private quarters, and better accommodation for the lady and gentlemen students will be furnished. The new building which is to be erected will be situated at the northern end of the present site. It will be of a plain character, built of cut stone, with brick dressings. It will include a dissecting room 80 ft. x 32 ft. x 17 ft. high having an open timbered roof, and lantern lights, surrounded by a 6-ft. dado and opalite tiles, a mortuary 31 x 23 ft., and a pathological museum 96 x 32 x 17 ft. high, with glass cupboards running the whole length of one side, while provision is made for additional apartments if required. There is also an articulating room 21 x 14.6 ft. The school will cost £5,200. The foundation-stone will be laid by his Excellency the Governor on Monday at 3 p.m. The National Anthem will be sung on the arrival of Lord Tennyson, who will be received at the entrance by the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, warden of the senate, the dean, and members of the faculty of medicine, and the registrar. The Chancellor will request his Excellency to lay the foundation-stone, and Professor Watson will present a trowel and mallet to the Governor for the purpose. After the stone has been laid the first verse of the National Anthem will be sung.

NEWS OF THE DAY.
EXTENDING THE UNIVERSITY.
 This afternoon His Excellency the Governor will lay the foundation stone of the Elder Anatomical and Pathological School on North terrace, a building destined to meet a pressing want of the Adelaide University. At the present time much of the usefulness of the Medical School is curtailed owing to the absence of a proper laboratory and other rooms, and the new structure will contain all that is necessary in that direction. It will be paid for out of the Elder bequest. Lord Tennyson will arrive at the University at 3 o'clock, and, attended by the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Warden of the Senate, the dean, and members of the Faculty of Medicine, and the registrar, will proceed to the site.

AN AMERICAN PROFESSOR.
TOURING THE WORLD.
TEACHING OF MODERN LANGUAGES.
 Dr. A. Gerber, professor of German at Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana, United States of America, has arrived in Adelaide on a visit to some relatives in this city. The professor is on a tour around the world, and has already passed through the eastern States of Australia. He will continue his journey on Thursday, and will visit Colombo, and places in Egypt and Palestine. He is the contributing editor of the "Americana Germanica," which is published in Philadelphia. He is also a member of the Modern Languages Association of America, and a regular contributor to its organ, which is published at Baltimore.
 The professor is a clever and interesting conversationalist, and in a brief chat with a representative of "The Advertiser" gave a lucid account of the system of teaching modern languages pursued in American colleges. While desiring that he should not be thought fault-finding he remarked that he had been struck with the fact that little inducement was offered in the Australian universities to students to engage in the study of modern languages.
 "Through the courtesy of the Adelaide University authorities," said the professor, "I have had the opportunity of witnessing the work performed in that institution. At my own college we have between 150 and 200 students. We have the Bachelor of Arts and science degrees, and also that of Master of Arts, but we have no medical faculty. The system pursued in your university is entirely different to ours. Here you rely chiefly on lectures, but we go in more for personal instruction."
 "You have been asked to report on the study of modern languages in different countries?"
 "Yes. I shall present a report on that subject when I return to America. In the United States the modern languages, such as French and German, are taught to a large degree; in fact, Americans consider that if a student cannot read German textbooks he is lame. Our best colleges do not graduate anyone who has not a reading knowledge of German and French. That is in the case of the arts and science courses, and does not apply to the medical schools. I was surprised to see how few students at the Adelaide University took either German or French, but the explanation lies in the fact that they cannot take modern languages for the honors degree. I think more inducement should be offered to students to study French and German. Before leaving Adelaide I shall try to gain some information respecting the tuition of modern languages in your State schools."

STUDENTS OF MEDICINE.
 Twenty-three years have passed since the foundation stone of the main building of the University of Adelaide was laid by Sir William Jervois. It is significant of the progress latterly made by the institution that within the last four years occasion has arisen for similar ceremonies in connection with three large and important additions to the original structure. It is hardly necessary to add that the munificent bequest of Sir Thomas Elder in 1897 made possible these extensions of usefulness. Sir Powell Buxton, in the year after the death of the benefactor, laid the foundation stone of the Conservatorium, which since its completion in 1900 has proved such a valuable addition to the attractions of the University, and of the city as a whole. Then, just a year ago, the present Prince of Wales performed a similar ceremony in connection with the new wing of the main structure, which has now been in use for some time, and is called the Prince of Wales's Buildings. This part of the University contains extensive chemical and engineering laboratories, with a large lecture theatre, Music and science having thus been in turn provided for, Lord Tennyson will to-day lay the foundation stone of yet another pile of buildings, to be known as the Elder Anatomical and Pathological School. It is particularly fitting that an honoured name should again in