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WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

For some time Sir Charles Todd and Professor Bragg have been making experiments in wireless telegraphy with a view to its utilization for communication with the Albatross and other outlying stations. During the past few weeks many messages have gone to and fro between the Observatory on West-terrace and the temporary station at Henley Beach. The sending and receiving instruments, including the coherers, made after Marconi's pattern, have been gradually improved, until now long sentences can be sent through with very few mistakes. One of the first successful messages was sent nearly a month ago, from the Observatory to Henley Beach, telling Professor Bragg, who was at the station there, that Sir Charles Todd was just leaving the Observatory for the Beach. On Sir Charles's arrival he was greatly pleased to find that he was expected. It is intended shortly to carry out experiments in the Gulf, and good results are hoped for, as it is said that it is easier to transmit messages by sea than by land. A curious and interesting effect was observed on Thursday. Messages from Henley Beach were being received at the Observatory. In the instrument-litter's room at the Post-office Mr. Unbehau was making some improvements to his receiving set, and as an experiment he connected it to the Henley Beach telephone wire. He was surprised to find that he could get some of the signals. Apparently the telephone wire had picked them up and guided them into the Post-office. The telephone wire was at the time being used for ordinary business. We have seen several specimens of the messages transmitted from Henley Beach to Professor Bragg on the wireless system, and recorded at the Observatory in ink in the Morse signals. They are as mechanically perfect as those transmitted by the ordinary system of telegraphy. The coherers were made by Mr. Rogers at the University of Adelaide.

Humé Hené him to a man stripped not only of his clothes but even of his skin, were made very clear to the audience, and several extracts were read from the "Confessions," the work by which he is probably best known to-day. The speaker did justice to the interest which the glowing and picturesque descriptions and minute self-analysis of that book excite, although it may not often be a sympathetic interest. A much more admirable character was found in the hard-working Diderot, the hero of the "Encyclopedie," for which he endured imprisonment at Vincennes, and to which he gave the twenty best years of his life. His dramatic writings were touched upon, and his love of exact science was described as a strong contrast to the sentimental aimlessness of Rousseau. The next lecture will deal with Mme. de Staël and the founders of the romantic school.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

Mr. E. G. Blackmore gave his third historical lecture on Friday evening at the University. It was the first of the three devoted to the Victorian era. The purely historical part was confined to the period 1837-1856, and the lecturer gave an interesting summary of the leading incidents and the trend of policy in the Melbourne, Peel, Russell, Derby, and Palmerston administrations. This was prefaced by a comprehensive survey of the whole epoch, one in which a revolution, rather than reform, has taken place in the political, social, religious, commercial, economic, and material life of England. Mr. Blackmore showed how the Monarchy had become stronger and more firmly rooted, and even more influential, than in the days when monarchs actively interfered in politics, and sided with Ministers and parties. The lecture was, perhaps, one better suited to real students of history than young candidates for examination; but even in the latter case it may tend to give an interest to what they may be inclined to regard as a mere collection of names and dates.

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THE SCHOOL OF ANATOMY.

In Executive Council on Wednesday morning, Dr. William Ramsay Smith was appointed Inspector of Schools of Anatomy and to superintend the School of Anatomy established in connection with the University of Adelaide. Dr. Alfred Austin London, who is Lecturer on Forensic Medicine and Clinical Surgery at the University of Adelaide, has been licensed by the Governor in Executive Council to practice anatomy at the School of Anatomy in connection with the University during such time as he holds the appointment of lecturer.

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UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

The third lecture of the historical course was given by Mr. E. G. Blackmore on Friday evening at the University. The lecturer explained that it was impossible to set forth in detail the events of a period of over sixty years, during which there had been a steadily progressing revolution, which had completely transformed the country in manners and customs, in thoughts, ideas, and standards, and, in fact, in every sphere of life. Before dealing with the actual historical events from 1837 to 1856 Mr. Blackmore gave a general survey of what the Victorian era had done for the nation, and analysed the constitutional position of the Crown in relation to the Cabinet, as compared with what it had been in practice before the accession of the Queen. A survey was taken of the Administrations of Lord Melbourne, Sir Robert Peel, and Lord John Russell, and of that of Lord Aberdeen, which "drifted," to use Lord Clarendon's phrase, into the Crimean War. The general observations made on the Victorian era should serve to illustrate and explain the political history and make it more intelligible and interesting.

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THE INSPECTOR OF ANATOMY.

By appointing Dr. Ramsay Smith to the position of Inspector of Anatomy the Government has not created a new office, but merely filled a vacancy caused through the resignation of the late City Coroner, Dr. H. T. Whittell. The Anatomy Act of 1834, which gave the Government power to establish Schools of Anatomy in connection with any University or School of Medicine, also provided for the appointment of Inspectors, whose duty it should be to exercise a general supervision over such schools, and make specified returns each quarter to the Registrar of Births and Deaths. For several years past this office has been filled by Dr. Whittell. Owing to illness, however, the doctor found it necessary a few weeks ago to resign all his Government appointments, including that of Inspector of Anatomy. In addition to being available for students, schools established under the Act are open for the practice of anatomy by any medical practitioner, provided that he secures a licence for that purpose.

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Mdlle. Dussan gave her first lecture in connection with the University Extension Lectures on Monday last. The subject was Precursors of the Nineteenth Century—Rousseau, Diderot—given in French. Mdlle. spoke for an hour, and by the frequent applause I gathered that it was immensely interesting. The mere hearing of it was charming. Her musical voice and pretty, expressive face, accompanied by attractive little gestures of the hands—beautiful hands, not too small, but perfect in shape—almost made the whole lecture understandable to an Australian girl, whose French conversation is limited to the usual schoolroom enquiry, "Avay—voo ma plume? Wee, wee, jér l'ay, madumossell."

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We understand that Dr. J. A. R. Smith, formerly of the Adelaide University, who passed first of all the students in the Fifth Year medical examinations at the Melbourne University last year, and who was appointed Senior House Surgeon of the Melbourne Hospital, has for some time past been acting as Medical Superintendent of that institution. He has been offered the permanent appointment to the position, but has declined to accept it.

About fifty ladies and six men were present. Observation told me that only a handful of the audience knew what it was all about. Which was quite all right. It's mystery that takes. If you can only get people wondering what you mean when you say things or write things now-a-days that means success. It was quite too funny when little touches of humor came up during the lecture. Those who understood laughed. Those who didn't stared round with a blank expression to see who the cultured folks were. Four or five damsels in the front row presented a line of unintelligent backs, and only betrayed themselves once—a yarn did it.

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UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

On Friday evening Mr. E. G. Blackmore gave the second lecture of his historical course, the subject being the reigns of George IV. and William IV. Of the interest to the constitutional student, or to one who desires to trace the growth, development, and working of the system of party government of England, there can be no question. But to the ordinary reader of history—as the lecturer explained—these two reigns are probably the duller in the chronicles of England. Still, if any one had the means and opportunity to peruse the papers, journals, memoranda, correspondence, and biographies of the leading men of the epoch he would find much to interest, instruct, and even amuse. The period was very rich in literature of this class, which served as nothing else could to reproduce the past till it became a living present. The long and disgraceful proceedings in connection with the Queen, the repeal of the Corporation and Test Acts, and the great measure of Catholic emancipation, were fully treated, with all the incidents connected therewith. The famous Reform Bill of 1832, and the abolition of slavery, were, as every one knew, the two great incidents of the reign of William IV. The stormy scenes which were enacted before "the Bill, the whole, Bill, and nothing but the Bill," became law were described in full. The lecturer evidently had drawn from co-temporary records, which, after all, convey a better idea of political history than any general work of the historian.

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LECTURES ON FRENCH LITERATURE.

The first of a series of lectures on French literature was delivered at the Adelaide University on Monday afternoon by Mdlle. Dussan, formerly lecturer on French literature and history at King's College, London, and lecturer on French literature at the University of Heidelberg. There was a good attendance, principally of ladies, and the delivery of the lecturer was so clear, as well as fluent and graceful, that the audience had little difficulty in following her words. The remaining addresses will deal solely with writers of the nineteenth century, but the influence of Rousseau and Diderot has been so great that the first lecture was devoted to a description of these two precursors of the present epoch. A careful analysis was made of Rousseau's life and work, and very little that was flattering to the Genevan philosopher was discovered. After an ill-regulated youth, and an early manhood wasted in futile dreamings, Rousseau came to Paris and achieved celebrity by his novels, now forgotten, and by his "Social Contract," in which he laid down the principle that it is a very good thing for a citizen to obey authority, but that it is much better when he rebels against it. The ideas advanced in Rousseau's great work became those of the Jacobin party a little later on, and were thus largely instrumental in bringing about the great revolution. Rousseau's inability to carry on any sustained work, his discontent with everything, including himself, and his extraordinary instability and weakness, which made David

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The next meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science will be held at the University of Melbourne under the presidency of Mr. R. L. J. Ellery, C.M.G. The session will begin on Tuesday, January 9, 1900, and be continued for a week. An important programme, divided into ten sections, has been arranged, and in addition there will be evening lectures, entertainments, and excursions to places of interest. Further information may be obtained from the local Secretaries, Professors W. H. Bragg and E. H. Rennie, of the Adelaide University, by those who purpose attending the meeting, and an advertisement on the subject appears in this issue.

"Reg" 18th Aug. 1899.

We have received from Professor Beard, of the University of Adelaide, the Hon. Local Secretary and Supervisor to the examinations in connection with the Institute of Actuaries, London, the pass-list for the Colonial Examinations, held in April last at Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Wellington, Montreal, and Toronto. Under Part I. thirty-six candidates sent in their names, of whom thirty-two presented themselves, and nineteen passed. Under Part II. twenty candidates sent in their names, of whom ten presented themselves, and two passed. Amongst the successful candidates were two Adelaide students. Under Part I. R. R. Stucky passed in Class II., and under Part II. C. H. L. Catchlove passed in Class III.