

Reg. 4th June 1906

Ad. 13th June 1906

Reg. 18th June

Dr. Jethro Brown, the newly appointed Professor of Laws at the University of Adelaide, arrived from London by the mail steamer Mongolia on Saturday. Dr. Brown is a native of South Australia, and has had a wonderfully brilliant academic career. Among those who met Dr. Brown on his arrival was the Chief Inspector of Schools (Mr. M. M. Maughan) representing the Director of Education, who was unable to be present.

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THE PROFESSORSHIP OF LAW.

ARRIVAL OF DR. JETHRO BROWN.

Dr. Jethro Brown, who was recently appointed Professor of Laws at the University of Adelaide, arrived from London by the mail steamer Mongolia on Saturday. Dr. Brown is a native of South Australia. He is a son of the late Mr. James Brown, of Mintaro, and his academic career has been a most distinguished one. He began his education at the Stanley Grammar School, Watervale, the principal of which is Mr. J. S. St. Carlyon Cole, and later was associated with his uncle, Dr. Torr, at Moonta Mines. Subsequently he entered the Education Department as a pupil teacher, and accompanied Dr. Torr to England in 1880. Dr. Brown matriculated at St. John's College, Cambridge, in 1887. He took first class in the law tripos, part i., in 1889, and also in part ii. in 1890. In 1889 he won an Inns of Court studentship in Roman law, jurisprudence and international law (public and private), and in 1890 the scholarship in common law at the Middle Temple. In the same year he was placed at the head of the list in the examination for the degree of doctor of laws at the University of Dublin. He was called to the English Bar in June, 1891. In 1892 St. John's College, Cambridge, awarded him a Macmahon law studentship of £150 a year for four years, and in the same year he was appointed to the chair of modern history and law in the University of Tasmania. Resigning that appointment in 1897 he held the professorship of law at the University of Sydney for one year during the absence on leave of Professor Pitt Cobbett. In the meantime he took the degree of LL.D. at Cambridge, and in recognition of his literary work as the author of a book entitled "The New Democracy" the University of Dublin conferred upon him the degree of D.Litt. Dr. Brown was appointed in 1900 professor of constitutional law and history at University College, London, and in the same year won the Chancellor's medal for the encouragement of the study of English law at the University of Cambridge. In 1901 he accepted the position he has just relinquished of Professor of Law at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. Professor Brown has been a frequent contributor to the leading law periodicals, and, in prosecution of his enquiries in the question of legal education, has travelled extensively in the United States and the Continent of Europe. Last year he was one of the examiners in law at both the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

Ad. 11th June 1906

ENCOURAGING SCIENTIFIC TRAINING.

The Faculty of Science at the Adelaide University, as well as the educational committee of that institution, have approved the changes suggested in the schedule of marks awarded for science subjects at the public examinations in connection with the University, and a fortnight hence the matter will be considered by the council. The alterations contemplated will have the effect of putting science students in a better position than they occupy at present, as the marks awarded for chemistry and physics are to be raised. Other adjustments will be authorised which will enable a candidate, for instance, who is taking the five compulsory subjects in respect to the Angus science studentship examination to obtain almost as many marks as the candidate who has chosen the classical and modern languages, English literature, or English history. The University council recently arranged that the board which considers the text-books, schedule of subjects, and other matters connected with the primary, junior, senior, and higher public examinations at the University should be assisted in their work by the teachers of the schools preparing boys and girls for the examinations. At the last meeting of the examiners' board held for the purpose mentioned the headmasters of Prince Alfred and St. Peter's colleges were present, together with representatives nominated by other secondary schools, girls' high schools, and State schools. By this means it is considered the wishes of everyone interested will be obtained. The next meeting of the board will be held in about a fortnight, and by it the resolutions for next year's University examinations will be finalised. The alterations in the science subject markings will not take effect until next year, but the recognition of the principle we have contended for will tend to encourage the teaching and study of subjects of practical value.

UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL.

A STEP TOWARDS REFORM.

Remarks full of interest both to the students and to the general public were made on Tuesday morning by Professor W. Jethro Brown on the occasion of the opening of the second term of the University. Professor Brown drew a strong contrast between the system of learning law pursued by universities in England and those in America. In the former place, he said, the traditional method was to study particular manuals or text-books, and with these exemplify the notes taken from the professor's lectures. In America, however, a totally different system was pursued. There the students spent practically the whole of their time in reading the law reports, and, so to speak, formed their own text-books, calling the main principles from the individual cases met with. The so-called "lecturer" at the American universities merely occupied the place of a senior student, directing the lines of research to be pursued by the class, and helping them to formulate rules for their future guidance. For all practical purposes the summaries thus made were quite as valuable to the students as the well-established text-books of some eminent authority. The professor drew a fine distinction between "knowing" a rule, and merely "knowing it by memory." In the latter case a man might be able to quote the rules laid down in the manuals line by line and word by word, but when he came to apply these rules he would be totally at sea, and would be unable, without reference, to instance cases in illustration of his views. He had had the great pleasure last year, the professor continued, of seeing the American system in practice. At Harvard for instance, there was a class of no fewer than 250 students, and the "lecturer," who had previously set a number of cases for the students' study, spent the major portion of his time in asking questions—which he had carefully prepared beforehand—and in drawing out the opinions of the class, and the grounds on which they thought the judgment was based. The remarks made by the lecturer would probably, if given all at once, not occupy more than about ten minutes, and perhaps not more than six or eight students would have a chance of speaking. Nevertheless, he was much struck with the rapt attention which all the students accorded to the lecturer's remarks. It was a well-known rule that persons were more interested in occurrences in which they took part than in others of which they had merely heard or read, and this was exemplified in this instance, where there was a tacit agreement between lecturer and student of "you listen to my remarks, and I'll listen to yours." Professor Brown concluded by stating that he was pleased to say that the old system was falling into disrepute in England, and before very

many years had passed he thought it would be quite out of date. In South Australia students were rather unfortunate in that they were articleed at the same time as they pursued their course at the University, and this left them much less time for the prosecution of their studies. He thought it would be preferable for a man to be articleed—and for a shorter period than at present—after obtaining his diploma, or at least after finishing his course at the University. The American system could not be adopted in full in South Australia, owing to these conditions, but he would strive to introduce it as much as possible, as he was confident it was the better method.

Reg 14th June 1906

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

The winter series of lectures in connection with the University extension scheme will be opened on Monday night, when Professor Bragg will give the first of a course on radio-activity. This series possesses special interest owing to the finding of carnotite in the north. Professor Bragg will refer particularly to these and other recent discoveries. The next set will be a course of three lectures by Professor Henderson on "Poets of the nineteenth century (Wordsworth, Tennyson, and Browning)." Upon the completion of these, Acting Professor Dettmann will inaugurate a course on "Classical and Shakspearean drama: a development and a contrast."

Ad. 18th June 1906

THE PROPERTIES OF RADIUM.

The first of this year's series of University extension lectures will be given to-night by Professor Bragg, who has again taken up the subject of radio-activity. In his lectures on this subject last year Professor Bragg announced his discovery of a number of new properties of radium. A full description of these is given in the lately-issued annual report of the Chemical Society of London, which also record their verification by several observers in other parts of the world. During the past year much additional knowledge has been gained with respect to the theory of radio-active change, the occurrence and nature of radio-active minerals, and the properties of the "alpha" particles, which constitute the main portion of the radiation from radium. It is these properties that form the special subject of investigation at our own University. Professor Bragg will be able to illustrate his lecture by means of lantern slides of original photographs taken by Professor Rutherford and M. Becquerel.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

The series of University extension lectures will begin this evening with Professor Bragg's course on "Radio-activity." Last year the Prince of Wales Theatre was crowded by those who wished to learn something about a recent discovery which had caused much excitement in the scientific world. During the past twelve months interesting advances have been made by those who are engaged in original research upon the subjects, and the contributions from the Adelaide University are entitled to rank among the most important. In the second volume of the annual report of the Chemical Society for 1905 Mr. Frederick Soddy says:—"The line of work originated by Bragg and Kleeman has been extended and completed, and their methods have been developed into a most powerful engine of research." This is high and well-deserved praise.

In his extension lectures last year Professor Bragg announced that he had been able to show that the alpha particle—an atom of helium ejected by the radium atom—passed through all other atoms which it might happen to meet, and was not turned aside from its course; and, that when evidence of its motion ceased, it was because the particle had been gradually checked through the expenditure of its energy in breaking off fragments from the atoms which it traversed. Professor Rutherford, of McGill University, Montreal, has confirmed these discoveries, and added new and interesting facts. In particular, he has shown that the velocity at which the effects of the particle cease to be observable was far higher than could have been expected—something like half its initial speed, or 9,000 miles a second. Professor Bragg was able to show in his turn that, if this were so, it could be demonstrated from his experiment that the critical speed was the same for all gases. This adds another strong reason for believing that we shall recognise in the chemical elements structures more or less complicated of quantities still more elementary. Professor Rutherford also announced that when the particle ceased to break up the atoms which it encountered it lost all its power to excite phosphorescence, and to act on a photographic plate. Coupled with other recent discoveries regarding the photographic image this new fact seems to forecast the inclusion of photography as a chapter in the theory of radio-activity.

In the Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge Mr. F. N. Campbell has been making researches concerning the existence of radio-activity in ordinary substances; and he has been guided by the well-known general law that, if one or more of the elements should show some specific property to a high degree, all other elements usually exhibit the same property, though perhaps in a much smaller degree. Expressing himself in terms of the experimental work first done in Adelaide, he demonstrates that various substances—for example, the common metals—emit a radiation which he identifies as a stream of alpha particles. He measures the range of the particle in each case—or, as he terms it, Bragg's constant—and shows that the constant for every metal has its own particular value. It is highly gratifying to know that the work performed in the laboratories of our University is making so powerful an impression on scientific thought. In The Philosophical Magazine for February, 1906, one happens upon such expressions as "Bragg's constant" and "Bragg's law;" and some of the most eminent scientific men in England, Germany, and America freely acknowledge the permanent value of the local Professor's contributions. By his painstaking and untiring efforts Professor Bragg has not only won honour for himself among men who are engaged in original investigation, but he has also done much to enhance the credit of the University which he serves so worthily.