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DR. MAWSON.

Extended Leave of Absence.

At a meeting of the council of the University of Adelaide on Friday Dr. Mawson was granted extended leave of absence, and a substitute was appointed for this year. The decision will be communicated to the leader of the antarctic expedition in Adelie Land by wireless. The following letter from Professor Henderson to the Chancellor was read at the meeting:—"Adelaide Club, March 27. Dear Sir Samuel—I cannot recall the date on which the details of Dr. Mawson's journey were published in the papers, but I can answer your questions by reference to reports given by Professor David, and of which I have made notes. In company with Lieut. Ninnis and Dr. Mertz, Mawson set out from the main base to explore the coastline stretching to the south-east. He particularly wanted to examine the shores of the bay discovered 18 months ago by Lieut. Pemell, of the late Capt. Scott's antarctic expedition. He was 300 miles away to the south-east of the main base when, on December 14, Lieut. Ninnis, with one dog team and nearly all the food, disappeared into an unfathomable crevasse. For the next 34 days Dr. Mawson and Dr. Mertz struggled with inadequate provisions—subsisting chiefly on dog flesh. On January 17 Dr. Mertz, an athlete of fine physique, died from failure to assimilate such food as they had. From January 17 to February 7, a period of 21 days, Mawson battled along by himself through blizzard and fog over a heavily-crevassed country with two dead companions behind him till he reached headquarters—just a few hours after Capt. Davis had left to pick up Wild's party. In response to Mawson's call by wireless Capt. Davis returned, but was unable to get a boat to the shore because of the hurricane velocity of the wind. The rate of travel on that homeward journey is a matter of easy calculation. Mawson and Mertz were 300 miles from the main base on December 14, when Lieut. Ninnis disappeared into the crevasse. From December 14 to February 7 (the date of Mawson's arrival at the camp) is a period of 55 days. The rate of travel was therefore about five and a half miles a day. The significance of these figures is brought out by the further fact that the average rate of travelling in Antarctica is about 15 miles a day, and Mawson was fighting for his life at every step. These are the facts so far as I know them. They are based upon statements made by Professor David, who has been to the antarctic with Sir Ernest Shackleton, and who has the greatest responsibility on the committee of management. You may therefore regard them as authoritative. There is enough evidence of a reliable character here to make me feel proud that I have done something—be it ever so little—to help Mawson. I am inclined to believe that Mawson's journey of 300 miles after the death of Lieut. Ninnis, and especially that part of it which he traversed alone after the death of Dr. Mertz in the face of innumerable hardships and perils, was one of the most remarkable feats of endurance ever accomplished by a man of indomitable spirit and heroic fibre.—I am, dear Sir Samuel, yours truly, Geo. C. Henderson."

EXTENDED LEAVE TO DR. MAWSON.

At a meeting of the University council on Friday Dr. Mawson, who is still in the Antarctic regions, was granted extended leave of absence, and the council made arrangements for the services of a substitute until he returns. A wireless message will be sent to Dr. Mawson on the subject. When the matter was under the consideration of the council a letter which Professor Henderson had written to the chancellor was read, in which reference was made to the heroic work of Dr. Mawson against great odds. In conclusion, Professor Henderson remarked:—"There is enough evidence of a reliable character here to make me feel proud that I have done something—be it ever so little—to help Mawson. I am inclined to believe that Mawson's journey of 300 miles after the death of Lieutenant Ninnis, and especially that part of it which he traversed alone after the death of Dr. Mertz, in the face of innumerable hardships and perils, was one of the most remarkable feats of endurance ever accomplished by a man of indomitable spirit and heroic fibre."

Register, April 4/13

Executive Council on Thursday endorsed the regulations made by the council of the University, and approved by the Senate, which repeal regulations 2, 3, 4, 5, 12, and 13 of the degree of B.Sc., and substitute others.

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FROM ANTARCTICA.

The registrar of the University (Mr. C. R. Hodge) received the following wireless message from Dr. Mawson on Friday morning:—"Kindest regards to yourself and the staff from self and Madigan, Adelie Land. Our endeavors send you cool change resulted in terrific blizzards, now endeavoring blow hut away. Shall not miss returning next summer." The following reply was sent by the Chancellor (Sir S. J. Way):—"Message to Hodge received. Council granted leave. Watson, Sydney, appointed substitute. Will give effect your requests. Council, self, Henderson, all staff send kindest regards you and Madigan. Have asked Rhodes trustees cable extension Madigan's scholarship." The requests referred to were of a private nature.

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—Miss Bruggemann's Return.—

Miss Martha Bruggeman will be back in Adelaide by the end of this month. She left Bremen for South Australia on March 12, on the liner Zeiten, which should reach its destination about April 26. Just a few weeks prior to her departure the Adelaide soprano gave a song recital in Bremen, which attracted cordial attention from the public and press. Her presentations made a formidable list, including Richard Strauss, Massenet, Meyerbeer, Hugo Wolf, Gounod, Brahms, Ethelbert Nevin, and Tosti. At the conclusion Miss Bruggemann said she felt so fresh and in such happy voice that she could almost have repeated all she had given.

—Miss O'Dea's Farewell.—

Miss Kathleen O'Dea, the young South Australian soprano, who won the English Elder scholarship (which entitles her to three years' study at the Royal College of Music, London) is to be tendered a rare well concert by the musical profession of Adelaide, at the Exhibition, to-night. At the age of six Miss O'Dea studied the piano at Mrs. Hubbe's school, Knightsbridge, and later at the Convent of Mercy, Angas street. During this period it was discovered that she had a voice of exceptional quality, and at a performance of "Princess Zara" she took the leading role.



MISS KATHLEEN O'DEA.

In 1910 she studied under Miss Guli Hack, and afterwards under Mr. H. Winsloe Hall at the Conservatorium. Miss O'Dea sang to Madame Kirkby Lunn and to Countess Eleonora de Cisneros; both these famous artists were enthusiastic in their praises. It has been arranged that Miss O'Dea shall study singing in London under Mr. Plunkett Green, and pianoforte under Mr. Franklin Taylor. She will depart on April 10 by the Mongolia. The popularity of this young soprano is not confined to the city; from a number of distant towns parties have arranged to make a trip to be present at her farewell concert.

—Mr. Frank Smith.—

On the same day that Miss Kathleen O'Dea will depart for England another Scholar from the Elder Conservatorium will take passage for the northern hemisphere. Mr. Frank Smith will leave by the Ballarat for England, thence to the United States. This young and gifted lyric tenor has relinquished the scholarship which he won in 1911, and will engage in business as an engineer at Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Smith is English born, but has been in Australia for 15 years. Prior to coming to this State in 1909 he resided for six years in Tasmania. There he took up earnest work as a vocalist and was principal tenor in productions of the Devonport Operatic Society. He won championship awards at



MR. FRANK SMITH.

the Burnie competitions (where Professor Ives was adjudicator), and at the Launceston competitions. Upon reaching Adelaide, as an engineer in the Tramways Trust service, he joined the Conservatorium, and placed himself under Miss Guli Hack; and later, under Mr. Winsloe Hall. At Conservatorium concerts his singing has been particularly pleasing as well as promising. Last night Mr. Smith sang at the Lyric Club, and this evening he will appear at the farewell to Miss O'Dea. He will be accompanied to England by another Conservatorium student, Mr. W. Gard, a baritone pupil of Mr. Winsloe Hall.

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ELDER SCHOLARSHIPS.

The University Council on Friday awarded Elder Scholarships, tenable at the Conservatorium, as follows:—For singing (two of which were available), Florence Muriel Day and Jack Fischer. Highly commended, Leslie R. Martin. For pianoforte (for which one scholarship was available), Lena McLeay. Highly commended, Annie V. Thrush. For violin (for which one scholarship was offered)—as the examiners were unable to decide between the merits of two candidates, the council awarded two scholarships—Paula M. Mewkill and Harry O. Killicost.