

THE SCHOOL OF MINES.

CLOSING CEREMONY.

One of the witnesses examined by the Education Commission told that body that the South Australian School of Mines was the finest institution of its kind in the Commonwealth, and that its work commands the appreciation and admiration of the public was demonstrated by the interest taken in the annual closing ceremony, which took place last evening. For over an hour before the speeches began, the corridors and rooms were thronged with observant and keenly appreciative people, who found the hours grace scarcely long enough to enable them to see all there was to be seen. The variety of important subjects handled at the institution is hardly realised by the general public, and the vast range of matters covered by the demonstrations in the various rooms was an eye-opener to many present. Unless one comes into contact with such a school it is hard to credit that under the one roof so much can be efficiently and thoroughly dealt with; but the past record of the School of Mines leaves no room for doubt as to the thoroughness of the instruction given. The wonderful influence such an institution has on the industries of a State could hardly be realised if the evidence were not before one in the results of the Adelaide school's tuition. The instruction in wool-classing has alone added sufficient to the value of the State's output of wool to justify the expenditure entailed in the whole school, while the positions students have been qualified to fill in all walks of life, through the technical education received there, testify to its value to the community as a whole. South Australians, with the opportunities afforded by the School of Mines, have qualified for and now fill positions in all countries in the world, and only recently it was announced that a student of the institution was receiving a salary of £3,000 a year. With such evidence of the value of the institution's work it was scarcely surprising that the liveliest interest should be taken in the displays arranged for the break-up on Thursday night.

Particular interest was taken in the new department, which has been established for instruction in printing, and there a number of young men, who are qualifying to take up positions in that trade, were working at "case" and engaged in setting up bills and posters. In the Noyes electrical laboratory, Mr. P. Motteram, assisted by Mr. A. C. Mears and a number of students, was carrying out experiments on the excellent equipment, which includes a complete generating plant. He showed the action of the tramway controller, and conducted experiments in the photometer department, where arc and other lamps were being tested. The new experimental steam engine, which was in charge of Messrs. J. P. Woode and C. Chittleborough, attracted attention, and the demonstrations in physics, particularly in the electrical branch of it, which were in the hands of Messrs. J. Dalby and Garden, were also watched by a keenly interested crowd. Mr. M. Middleton had a fine display of drawings by the students of his evening mechanical drawing classes on view that would have done credit to any drawing office, and the architectural designs of Mr. Laybourne Smith's students were also very creditable, both to students and master. Other displays were also held in the metallurgy and assaying departments, under Messrs. F. W. Reid and R. A. Laughton; the blacksmithing department, under Mr. R. Todd; and in the carpentry, under Mr. S. Tilley and Mr. J. Elsdon. The wool-classing department is one of the most important connected with the school, and the demonstration there attracted a lot of attention. The instructor (Mr. Henshaw Jackson), this year's diploma man (Mr. E. C. Weller), and a number of students gave a display of throwing fleeces and classing wool, and in scouring on the school's experimental scouring plant. The ladies found many departments to interest them. It was almost impossible to get near the cookery room, so great was the crowd; but persistence rewarded one with a vision of a display of tempting viands that established the unarguable fact that Miss J. Barron, with her two assistants (Misses Roy and Batchelor), could teach cooking. The laundry work of the students was also to be admired. Unfortunately, the chief instructress of the dressmaking department (Miss C. M. Laffer) was absent through illness, but her chief assistant (Miss E. M. Roy), with Misses Price and Harris, had a fine display of costumes, and the

ladies could hardly drag themselves away from the tasteful millinery confections under Mrs. Ballantyne. Altogether the demonstrations in the various departments were interesting and instructive in the extreme, and to those who had little knowledge previously of the work of the institution they indicated a scope, efficiency, and thoroughness hardly credible.

After a tour of the various class and work rooms and laboratories the visitors assembled in Brookman Hall to witness the distribution of the diplomas. Every portion of the hall was filled. The President of the Council (Sir Langdon Bonython) presided. He was supported on the platform by the Premier (Hon. A. H. Peake), the ex-Minister of Education (Mr. F. W. Conybeer, M.P.), the chairman of the Education Commission (Mr. T. Ryan), Messrs. W. Miller, M.P., I. MacGillivray, M.P., J. T. Scherk, H. Adams, and W. H. Matthews (members of the council), and the Registrar (Mr. L. Laybourne Smith).

The President, who was received with cheers, said they were under great obligations to the Premier, who had attended that evening at much personal inconvenience, to do them the honor of presenting the diplomas and prizes. As the House of Assembly was sitting, he had given Mr. Peake his promise that he would not be detained longer than was absolutely necessary. They were extremely glad to have Mr. Peake there, because he was Minister of Education as well as Treasurer. They were also pleased that Mr. Conybeer was with them, as they did not forget that he was Mr. Peake's immediate predecessor as Minister of Education, and that he had been with them in that capacity at their demonstration 12 months ago. In the special circumstances it became necessary for him to curtail the retrospect of the year's work. In that retrospect he said, *inter alia*—

The past year, the 24th in the history of the school, has been marked by several important events and by the establishment of some records. In the enrolment of students a decided increase has to be reported, no fewer than 2,456 individual students having been instructed. That number includes 263 public school children who attended for domestic economy at the school, and 268 others who were instructed by the domestic economy staff at suburban public schools. Last year the total was 2,212.

Forty-seven distinct subjects were taught in 117 classes. A new class connected with the printing trade has been opened. The late Government placed £500 on the Estimates for the equipment of a printing department. A large portion of the plant has been installed, and Mr. J. Plunkett appointed instructor.

In connection with the various departments of the school it is of interest to note what the instructors and examiners have to say. Mr. J. P. Wood reports that the results in the engineering department have been entirely satisfactory and that good progress has been made in all subjects. Mr. Wood had for co-examiner this year Professor Payne, of the Melbourne University. Of the students who passed the tests of the examiners, Mr. C. G. H. McDonald, secured a first-class in the final year of mechanical engineering, and Messrs. T. L. Barson, R. V. Garden, W. A. Potts, and H. H. Swift, obtained similar distinction in machine design. The eleventh of July was a red-letter day in the history of the engineering department. On that day his Excellency the Governor-General, Lord Denman, paid his first official visit to the school and started the new experimental steam engine on its career of instructive usefulness. Good work has already been done on it, and in a month or two extensive additions will be made to the plant, an order having been placed for an independent condensing apparatus, which will bring the engineering steam laboratory into line with the best teaching laboratories in Australia. A distinction has been conferred on the school as the result of the high standard of its engineering department. The Commonwealth Government has decided to recognise the associate diploma in mechanical engineering in connection with the navy. The regulations provide that Australian Universities having four-year engineering courses may nominate graduates for positions of probationary engineer sub-lieutenants, and that provision has been extended to the school's associates. It is a very proper recognition of the equality of our training with that of the best universities of the Commonwealth.

Results equally satisfactory to those obtained in engineering have been secured in the metallurgical department. Mr. F. W. Reid speaks of the assiduous work of

students in assaying, which reflected itself in the examination results. The examiners were Dr. Cooke and Mr. Reid, and they have awarded Mr. W. L. Tucker a first class in assaying III, after what they state to be a most difficult and searching examination occupying a whole week in metallurgy II. Mr. A. J. Higgin, of the Melbourne University, was co-examiner, and the report states that Messrs. W. R. Snow and R. V. Berriman's papers were excellent. Mr. Reid presses his department's claims for an extension of the metallurgical plant to enable students to gain more practical knowledge of up-to-date processes, and it is hoped that it will soon be possible to grant this very reasonable request. The examinations in mining have been most gratifying, and Mr. Gartrell is to be congratulated on the record secured by his students. Particularly good was the work of Messrs. F. F. Esple and J. R. Hylton, who in mining I (B) each secured over 90 per cent. The co-examiner was Mr. W. E. Wainwright, of the South Mine, Broken Hill.

Associate diplomas have been granted to Messrs. A. H. Craigie, F. H. Hooper, and F. N. Thomas in the department of mining, and to Messrs. F. M. Maughan, A. C. Mears, and K. A. Stephen in the department of mechanical and electrical engineering. Before diplomas are issued it is necessary for students to submit evidence of practical work.

Messrs. C. A. Abbott, R. V. Berriman, W. R. Poole, and W. L. Tucker have completed the associate course in the department of metallurgy. They have now to obtain practical experience. Fellowship diplomas have been granted to Messrs. W. W. E. Gray and R. M. Scott, electrical engineering; Mr. R. H. Chapman, mining; and Mr. F. J. Basedow, metallurgy. Each of these students has done twelve months' practical work. Mr. W. A. Potts has completed his course in electrical engineering, but has yet to supply evidence of the requisite practical experience.

The architectural course, although the youngest of the associate courses, is not the least important and each year sees a distinct increase in the interest taken in the work. It is most gratifying to the council to know that the Institute of Architects have adopted subjects of the course as the entrance test for associates desiring to join that body, and that all artied pupils will be required to attend at the school for three years during apprenticeship. This year the work of Mr. E. L. P. Goddard has commended itself to the examiners, Messrs. W. H. Bagot and L. Laybourne Smith, and he will receive an evening scholarship. He will also be awarded the Institute of Architects' prize as the artied pupil making the best progress during the year.

In electrical engineering Mr. W. G. T. Goodman has assisted the instructor, Mr. P. Motteram, in the work of examining the students. The results are again quite up to the high standard of this department. Mr. A. C. Wells secured a first-class in the final year.

The year has seen important developments in the relation of the school to technical schools in the country. Early in the year the council of the Port Pirie school renewed their request for affiliation. That request, which was most encouraging to the council, stated that it was felt that the Adelaide diploma was a passport in all the States of the Commonwealth, and an "open sesame" in all technical works. At the suggestion of the Minister of Education the letter of the Port Pirie School of Mines council was forwarded to the Royal Commission on Education. The school at Moonta has this year availed itself of the facilities by which the Adelaide examinations may be held at country centres.

The country studentship has been awarded to Evan Jenkins, who was educated at the public and high schools, Solomontown. The studentship provides four years free instruction, and, in addition, a subsistence grant of £30 per annum.

There has been a great improvement in the work of the railway apprentices who attend the school in accordance with the provisions of the Railway Commissioner's scheme. This year students in both first and second year qualify for prizes. No apprentice has qualified for a scholarship, but Mr. E. A. Leahy, who won the 1912-13 scholarship, completed an excellent year's work.