

Register  
9.9.13

**NORTH TERRACE.**

**INTERESTING POSSIBILITIES.**

The buildings on the northern side of North terrace, from King William street to the Botanic Garden are stately edifices, which would be ornaments to any city. Although they have been erected haphazard there is a continuity of design, typical of the British race—stolid and enduring. Behind the front terrace, however, are structures of ancient date, whose days are numbered. They have served their day and generation, and the Government is determined to make a complete alteration in those buildings which are viewed from the present military parade ground. Mr. Denny has moved in the House of Assembly that the site of the Destitute Asylum and Government House should be turned into parks for the people. His ideas are not likely to be carried into effect. When in office Mr. Verran considered several schemes for alterations on North terrace, but all of them depended on the removal of Government House from its present position. It is, however, considered to be unlikely that any viceregal representative will live during the winter in any other locality than the corner of North terrace and King William road for many years to come. The present Government, at the suggestion of the Chief Secretary (Hon. J. G. Bice) and the Commissioner of Crown Lands (Hon. F. W. Young) is considering a well-thought-out plan for improvements, not only to what is known now as Education Block, but to the other end of North terrace, where the Consumptive Hospital is situated.

**—Destitute Asylum and Police Barracks.—**

The Destitute Asylum has been condemned by the Ministry. So soon as possible the inmates will be removed to Magill, where more comfortable quarters will be provided, and where the aged people will have a home in which to spend their last days in pleasant surroundings. Next to the Destitute Asylum are offices now used by the 19th Brigade as headquarters, and behind them are the Mounted Police Barracks. The military offices will be moved when the new headquarters at Keswick are ready, and it has long been realized that the accommodation for the mounted police is inadequate for the requirements of such an efficient force of men. It is generally recognised that better quarters must be found for them, and it is stated that probably when alterations are made at the western end of the city by the removal of the sheep and cattle markets, new barracks will be provided for the mounted men in that locality. The space left by the removal of those buildings will provide room for the extension of the University and the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery.

**—Botanic Garden.—**

It has been suggested that the old Exhibition Building and grounds should, when vacated by the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society, be handed over to the board of governors of the Botanic Garden. It is not likely that anything in that direction can be done for two years, as it is considered that it will take fully that period before the showgrounds can be removed to Keswick. When the first intimation was made last year, when the Verran Government was in office, that the Agricultural Society was likely to move from its present grounds, the board of governors wrote to the Government asking that the old Exhibition Grounds should be placed under its control. A reply was sent by the Verran Government, but no further correspondence has passed. The Commissioner of Crown Lands has looked carefully into the question of further extensions of the Botanic Garden. He has asked his officers to prepare plans of the land adjacent to the Botanic Garden, which might be handed to the board of governors, together with an estimate of the value and the cost of the alterations. When he has obtained those particulars he will be in a position to deal with the matter should any request be made to him by the board. The Old Exhibition Building is a substantial structure, which can serve purposes for generations to come, and it is understood that the Director of the Botanic Garden (Dr. Holtze) has intimated that with alterations to the roof and extra windows he could transform a dingy hall into a beautiful fern bower. Probably portion of the land now enclosed by the walls of the Consumptive Hospital will be added to the garden. Incidentally, it might be mentioned that it is understood that Dr. Holtze will remain the Director. His term of service has been and will be extended, and it is considered likely that when he retires his son (Mr. N. Holtze), the curator of the garden at Darwin, will succeed him. Before Mr. Holtze takes charge he will probably spend some months in Adelaide studying arrangements with the present Director.

**—Consumptive Hospital.—**

The Government has announced its intention to remove the hospital for consumptive patients from North terrace. This, as well as other tentative arrangements, is part of a large scheme for improvements in the treatment of the mentally afflicted. Scientists who have studied the diseases of the brain have recommended that before a patient should be incarcerated in an asylum, unless certified as hopeless, he should pass through stages, the first a receiving house, and the second a detention house. The building on North terrace was first used for a hospital for the mentally afflicted, and may be again used as an institution under the new system. Portion of the ground would be well adapted for the purpose of enlarging the Botanic Garden, and that point will not be missed when the Government makes its final decision.

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9.9.13

**TRAINING OF ENGINEERS.**

An interesting and important development has occurred in Edinburgh in the arrangements for the training of engineers for the degree of B.Sc. in engineering. That city has two schools of engineering within a few hundred yards of each other; one in the university, in charge of Professor T. Hudson Beare, a South Australian, and the other the Engineering Department, in the Heriot-Watt College. For many years there has been an understanding between the university authorities and the Governors of the Heriot-Watt College in regard to the lines of development to be followed by the two schools. Under that understanding new laboratories completed a few years ago in the university were designed principally for civil engineering and hydraulics, and new laboratories in the Heriot-Watt College are devoted to mechanical engineering and electrical engineering. The same differentiation was followed in connection with the growth of the staff necessary for teaching purposes in the two institutions, so that between the two there are complete equipment and staff for the teaching of these three departments of engineering in Edinburgh. There still remained, however, one step to be taken in order that students attending the university should fully benefit by the facilities provided. The university degree in its original form was a civil engineering degree, and allowed little time to the students to specialise in the departments of mechanical or electrical engineering. During the last two years the University Court and the Governors of the Heriot-Watt College have been remodelling the scheme for the degree so as to enable students entering the university to specialise as civil, mechanical, or electrical engineers. That has been made possible by a full utilisation of the university of the staff and equipment of the Heriot-Watt College, and from this time forward any student entering the engineering school of the university will be able to obtain as complete a training as exists anywhere in these three departments of modern engineering, finally taking the B.Sc. in engineering, but specialising in the particular department which he wishes to study.

Advertiser  
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11.9.13

**THE PRIMARY EXAMS.**

To the Editor.

Sir—In his recent letter "Not a Teacher" concluded by asking whether the University will do anything to remedy the unfairness of the French paper. They cannot. The exam. is held in so many centres over South and Western Australia that a fresh examination would be well-nigh impossible. The candidates will take their chances. Hence "Not a Teacher's" suggestion that a stringent scrutiny of papers should take place before the exam. is well-timed, since the yearly Christmas exams are within measurable distance. In the syllabus of this year, under junior geometry remarks, the examiner says, "In question 2 the word 'square' was printed for 'rhombus,' but particular care was taken that no candidate should suffer on this account." But no consideration can be had for the candidate who loses time while endeavoring to prove that which was impossible to be proved. The examiner makes no further remarks, evidently being too nettled on account of his own "bloomer" to call attention to the faults of the examinees. Adelaide University enjoys the distinction of having the highest standard in the Commonwealth, but a careful gradation in primary, junior, and senior should be observed. "Not a Teacher" deserves thanks for calling attention to these matters at the psychological moment.—I am, &c.,  
FAIRPLAY.

**THE PRIMARY EXAMS.**

To the Editor.

Sir—I am pleased to find "Fairplay" in agreement with my strictures on the French paper. I know, by personal examination and comparison that it was more difficult than the junior paper set last year. I did not examine the Latin paper carefully, but I understand that it is generally regarded as "stiff." My suggestion that if the University council failed to revise or check such papers, Parliament (or the Government as representing Parliament) should do so, was not, of course, meant to advocate that either Ministers or members of Parliament (who may be quite unqualified persons) should undertake the duty. I presumed, of course, that some competent person would be appointed. I would prefer that the University authorities themselves should see to the matter. May I ask if they are going to do anything to remedy the unfairness shown in these papers?—I am, &c.,  
NOT A TEACHER.

Last year a mathematical work on "Differential Equations" was published by Mr. T. A. Le Messurier, M.A., B.Sc., mathematical master at Queen's School, and a graduate of the Adelaide University. Mr. Le Messurier thus has the distinction of being the first graduate of our University to write a book on pure mathematics. It deals with the solutions of a large number of problems proposed in a standard book on the same subject by Professor Johnson, who has expressed himself as highly pleased with the work, and has recently written a highly complimentary letter to the author. The book has been favorably received.