

BACK IN ADELAIDE

DR. MAWSON BUSY

WILL RETURN TO UNIVERSITY

POPULAR LECTURES TO BE DELIVERED.

Dr. Mawson is an exceedingly busy man nowadays. Naturally there is a pile of work to be tackled, and the doctor is delving into that pile with his sleeves rolled up, so to speak. At 10 o'clock yesterday morning he returned to Adelaide after a three weeks' busy time in the eastern States. Several hours later he was caught hard at it in his room at the Adelaide University, surrounded by piles of documents and maps. He willingly conversed for a few minutes as to his future plans.

"I came to Adelaide to make final arrangements about my work at the local university," he explained, "and in connection with expedition matters generally. I shall be leaving for Melbourne again on Saturday. Next Monday afternoon the citizens of Melbourne will tender the members of the expedition and myself a reception at the Town Hall, the mayor presiding, and at night we will be given a dinner over which the State Governor will preside. On Tuesday, of course, as you know, I am to be married. The ceremony will take place at Holy Trinity Church, the officiating minister being the Rev. Mr. Masters, who is well known in Adelaide. My best man will be Captain Davis. On Wednesday next I will leave for England by the Orama, Captain Davis being a passenger by the same boat."

The object of your visit to England, doctor?

"It is chiefly in connection with the publication of a popular account of the expedition, which will be the forerunner of a more detailed account of the scientific results. The popular version will be published in book form. Of course, the scientific work will take some time to arrange, and final arrangements regarding its publication are not yet completed. It will take a long time to elaborate the material, but reports will be published from time to time, particularly those bearing on the more important branches of the work. These, of course, cannot be delayed.

How long will you remain in England?

"It is my present intention to be back in Australia by next August for the big science gatherings. As far as is known at present the preliminary statements regarding the scientific achievements of the expedition will be made at those meetings.

Will you lecture in England?

"As soon as arrangements are completed for the publication of the book I will begin a series of popular lectures in Australia, the object of which will be the raising of funds to meet the remaining portion of the expenses of the expedition. Between £4000 and £5000 is needed, not including the cost of printing the scientific results. The money is mostly needed for the payment of salaries due to members of the expedition. The amount, I hope, will be raised by my lectures and the proceeds derived from the sale of the book."

You state you will lecture in Australia. Do you mean Australia only?

"I will probably deliver one lecture in England before coming back to Australia, and will return there later. I will commence my lectures in this country in August, delivering them in the various States. The Royal Geographical Society has cabled asking for one lecture, which is due to it, as the leading geographical society of the world."

The future of the ship Aurora is decided, I believe?

"Yes. It is practically settled that Sir Ernest Shackleton will use her in connection with his forthcoming expedition to the Antarctic. He will have two vessels and will utilise the Aurora for work in the Ross Sea. Captain Davis arrived in Melbourne to-day from Hobart, where he has been tying up the ship and paying off the men. He is, as I have said, proceeding to England, where he has a good deal of arranging to do in connection with the work done from the ship, the settling of various plans, &c."

What about the men who accompanied you?

"They are scattering over the world. Some of them are engaged in elaborating the scientific work accomplished in the south. The data collected during the two years has been handed over to specialists, who are now engaged upon it. A committee of the Australasian Society for the Advancement of Science is arranging for the distribution of the material among the various experts. Mr. Waite, curator of the Adelaide Museum, is classifying the fishes, as he is a recognised authority. That is the only portion of the work being done in Adelaide. A large quantity of material was brought up from the Antarctic, there being four tons of rocks alone, these, of course, being broken up to permit of easier transit.

A last question, doctor. How about the future?

"Oh, I am coming back to the Adelaide University to assume my old post of lecturer in petrology and mineralogy. I feel that is due to the university," the doctor concluded.

MUSICAL NOTES.

[By Veloce.]

A coveted honour is the Brookman Scholarship, tenable for three years at the Conservatorium. It is open to young students in any branch of the musical art, and there is therefore invariably keen competition among a large number of candidates, particularly singers and players of the violin and piano. This year the numerical rivalry was no less marked than usual, and the decision of the adjudicators in favour of Miss Hilda Beatrice Gill in itself confers a distinction. The new Brookman scholar is a daughter of Mr. Walter Gill, F.L.S., F.R.H.S., State Conservator of Forests. She is 19 years of age, and possesses a magnetic and powerful contralto voice. In the small amount of work which she has done before the public she has revealed that most important of all phases of an artist's equipment, namely, soul, or temperament, or personality (an illusive quality variedly labelled, but all meaning the same gift). She began her musical education as a student at the Methodist Ladies' College, and entered the Conservatorium last year, under Mr. Frederick Bevan, making her debut in the Elder Hall, at the final concert of the season. The opinion on that occasion, formed by a contemporary critic, was as follows:—"Among the young vocalists who made their first appearance Miss Hilda Gill undoubtedly carried off premier honours. She has a beautiful and rich contralto voice, with a fine dramatic tendency, and her delightful rendering of 'St. Agnes Eve' brought forth enthusiastic applause."



MISS HILDA GILL.