Adv. 5.4.26

RECOGNITION OF AUSTRALIAN HISTORY.

The University of Melbourne has approved of two alternatives to University courses. The first is the substitution of Australian history for sociology in the school of history and political science. The Melbourne University is thus the first University in the Commonwealth to make Australian history a subject for separate examination. Professor Scott, who recently returned from research work abroad, will be in charge of the new subject, and will begin lectures in 1927. The Faculty's decision is all the more interesting in view of the fact that the history of Australia is to form a section of a new volume of the standard Cambridge modern history, devoted to a history of the British Empire. The second change made is in the school of Germanic languages. This change comes into operation in the third examination of March, 1928. Students in this school must take honors in German, part 1, 2, and 3; honors in English, part 1, 2; and honors in Old and Middle High German and Germanic philology. They must also pass in some additional subject.

JUDGE MITCHELL.

Adv. 3.4.26

A high tribute is paid to Mr. John Bishop, the Adelaide pianist, who is studying abroad, in press notices of his first public concert held in Derby, England. One critic writes:—"His performance was all very sound musically; technically correct but full of individuality; vigorous where demanded, but avoiding the mere making of noise; his quieter passages were well conceived, but the extreme tendency toward sentimentality was always avoided." Equally complimentary is a writer in another journal, who says:—"Australia has given us musicians in the past, some of whom have attained to the highest pinnacle of fame, and unless appearances very much belie themselves, the latest recruit from the antipodes should have little difficulty in adding his name to the roll of those who have shed lustre on the land of their birth. Mr. John Bishop, who gave a pianoforte recital at the Central Hall, Derby, is referred to, and he is at present completing his studies at the Royal Academy of Music. His programme covered a wide range, taking in Bach, Liszt, Chopin, Schumann, Debussy, and Ravel, and he certainly showed technique of a very high order. His whole performance carried the hallmark of merit, and we shall look forward with pleasure to another

Adv. 5.4.26.

WAS HORACE A GREEK?

Mr. G. G. Newman, Kingswood, writes:—

No professor has done more to popularise university studies than Professor Darnley Naylor. Without fee or reward he has given his leisure time up to lecturing on literary and other kindred subjects in library centres. His cultured diction, his easy, flowing delivery, and a somewhat dry, delicately sly humor—so dear to the average Australian—have made him a popular lecturer among all classes. Recently before the Workers' Educational Association class he delivered a lecture on "Why I Read Horace"; and to the great entertainment of hundreds of readers unable to attend that lecture your columns supplied a most readable account of what must have been quite his masterpiece up to date. While remembering the professor's long years of study among classical authors, and recognising his profound erudition in Latin and Greek, I must respectfully join issue with him over two of his statements. In the course of his lecture he is reported to have said:—"Dr. Gow said Horace might have been a Greek. Speaking personally, he was not a Greek. Nor was Virgil. This remarkable statement calls for comment. Has the professor made a discovery? Or is it that because he wishes that Horace had been a Greek he is so positive in his statement? Let me do the professor the courtesy to point that he was not a Greek. Let us first consult Horace himself. In that remarkable tribute which he paid to his father's care and attention to his education, the sixth Satire in the First Book, he says, "Nunc ad me redeo libertino patre natum, Quem rodunt omnes libertino patre natum," and by the repetition of the three words "born of a father, freedman," and the bitterness of the words "libertino patre natum," he clearly conveys the taunts and gibes he had received about the lowness of his birth. Had he been Greek either on his father's side or his mother's, surely this would have been an opportunity to say so. He was speaking freely to his patron, and to his unflinching independence of character and his outspoken manner he owed his success in life.

At that period the Romans were completely under the spell of the Greeks, and it would have been an additional recommendation if he could have added, "Although my father was a slave yet he was a Greek." As neither on this or any other occasion, as far as our reading goes, did he mention that fact, he could not have been a Greek. One or other of his parents would have enlightened him if such had been the case. What, in effect, did he say was "Your princely lineage, Maecenas, does not lead you to do what many do, despise such humbly born people as me 'the freedman's son.' You think that if a man is himself free it matters little where his parents were, and your reasoning is sound. People carped at me as 'a freeman's son.' When I was introduced to you I was too much abashed to say much, but at least I made no pretensions. I said what was true about my birth and status. You answered little, but nine months after you sent for me and gave me a place in your friendship. I value this because I take it as a compliment not to my birth but to myself. At the same time any merits of character that I possess, I am eager to acknowledge I owe to my father. Poor man he was he insisted on giving me the best education. He did not mind it it ended in my coming down to his trade after all—I have not done so, and I owe him all the more credit and gratitude. Never in many centuries could I be ashamed of such a father. I have no inclination to apologise for him. I would not change him if I could."

From this alone we might conclude that Horace was a Greek, but not at all likely he would have written in that strain had his father been a Greek. Southern Italy was called Magna Graecia; but many of the settlements which attained to great power used the native population of the south, and they were not at all sympathetic to Greek notions. In his Outline of History, H. G. Wells says:—"The precedent established in attempting a discussion between Professor Gilbert Murray and the writer." He then goes on to quote from Professor Murray's pleas:—"All nations had slaves; some treated them very cruelly. The Greeks alone argued whether it was right to treat men as slaves." Such testimony, indignant testimony that the Athenians were too soft in their treatment of slaves, is hardly seems more than likely that the father of Horace was a native of Venusa. Recent writers have discovered that Venusa was the birth-place of Horatian tribe at Rome, and Horace's father may therefore have been a freedman of the town Venusa. Quote from the article on Horace in Chambers's Cyclopaedia says:—"His father belonged to the same caste of Italian freeholders as the parents of Virgil."

When a schoolboy at Rome for 2 years he devoted himself to Homer chiefly, and at Athens, where his education was completed, he went through the school of Greek philosophy, with Greek historians, and the comic writers. When he returned to Rome, that city, swarmed with Greeks, and the minds of the Romans were excited with the greatest zeal and ambition to emulate the Greeks in every, learning, art, and science to perfection. Greek was "right in the boom." Virgil, except in pastoral, Greek everywhere, and his dialogues are feeble echoes of the Doric grace of Theocritus. His Georgics are constructed mainly from Greek, and in almost every comparison and description is borrowed from Homer and other Greek poets. As well as with a Latin dictionary the professor can throw some new light, we cannot accept his dictum that he was certain that Horace was a Greek. The second point was the mention of the Battle of Philippi and Horace's escape. Your reader, quoted, "The poet became staff officer and (to the great gain of literature) ran away in the battle of Philippi." It would have conveyed a different impression had the professor added, "We can scarcely blame the young tribune, three short twenty years old, for flying from a hopeless near, when we remember that Brutus and Cassius, at the first tidings of defeat died by suicide and made no attempt to rally their broken soldiers. Horace's chief, Brutus, every one else fled, and abandoned the cause of his leader only when that leader had abandoned it himself. Messala—third in command—had refused to assume the generalship, and went over to the other side. Horace said he was "a coward" when he spoke playfully, as he knew his readers knew that everyone ran away. Years later, when Maecenas led an expedition against Antony and Cleopatra, Horace volunteered to go, but his patron refused his offer. He gauged rightly the poet's affection, but he did not forget the offer."

With these two exceptions all classical scholars must acknowledge the immense debt they owe to the professor for his learned and scholarly address.

Adv. 9.4.26

LAND FOR GRADUATES.

Regulations have been gazetted under the Agricultural Graduates Land Settlement Act, 1922, as amended by the State Bank Act, 1925. Any person shall be eligible for the benefits of the Act who has been awarded the diploma of the Roseworthy College and is over the age of 21 years and under 30. An applicant must satisfy the Principal of the college that he has had sufficient experience in the particular pursuit to which his application is made to enable him to engage therein with a reasonable likelihood of success. Such experience may be had either before or after the college diploma was awarded. All applications must be addressed to the Secretary for Lands, Adelaide.

News. 5.4.26

PRESS AND UNIVERSITY

The munificent gift of £20,000 by Sir Langdon Bonython to the University of Adelaide is worthy of more than fleeting notice. This further generous act of generosity reinforces the relationship of his name with that institution as memorable as has been his long and laudable association with the work of the School of Mines.

The present donation is for an endowment the interest of which shall cover the cost of a Chair in Law. It will thus be seen that the cause of higher education in this State is under a debt of obligation to a distinguished leader of the Press.

It is, of course, the business of men of every calling to foster the highest traditions of education, and Adelaide has been fortunate, indeed, in that respect. The foundation of the University was laid in the first place by the offer of a liberal donation to the work of Union College, a theological faculty which the friends of the college in the church persuaded the donor to divert to the more important civic call for University facilities.

Men of means in the commercial and pastoral industries have been generous in the provision of various foundations at the University, which, while not wealthy in the sense that some American Universities are, is yet able to maintain a high degree of education on the level of the best British University standards.

The Council of the University has been alive to its responsibility to the community in that it has been willing to venture to meet the needs of the people in providing instruction hitherto lacking, as, for example, in the initiation of commercial examinations and courses in commerce.

The suggestion, first voiced in public at the instance of Mr. Muirden and others, was readily developed by the University, so that its life and work have reacted in this and many other ways to pay back to the State in men, in education, and in traditions a bountiful harvest for favors received.

A graceful suggestion at the present moment is that the University might help to advance the status of the Press by a course and degree in journalism, just as it has a course and diploma in commerce, education, and economics. Naturally, the most practical training for the Press is in the hard school of experience, or in what might be termed the University of the World. Nevertheless, the prestige of the journalist can be raised by providing a degree which would embody proficiency in English history and literature and business methods, as well as in kindred subjects necessary to the practice of the profession.

This is the period of the specialist and of high-class work. The University can minister to that demand, and through the fountain of the Press supply the community with the best thought and the finest ethical and intellectual traditions of the age.

Adv. 10.4.26

CIVIL ENGINEERS.

Referring to the registration of engineers the report of the Adelaide division of the Institute of Engineers, presented at the annual meeting last night, stated that the committee had not lost sight of the matter, but feeling that there was little likelihood of obtaining at present an Act of Parliament embracing the full wishes of the institution, they considered it desirable to attempt first to secure legislation on the lines of Acts now in force in other States, which provide for the competence of men appointed as engineers to the larger municipalities and district councils of South Australia. To this end, the November meeting of the division was devoted to the discussion of a motion submitted by Professor Chapman. "It is desirable that legislation be introduced making it compulsory that municipal and district councils having incomes over a stipulated amount, should employ only qualified engineers." Invitations to attend the meeting were sent out to the district councils in the metropolitan area, and the result was a unanimous vote in favor of the motion. The next step would be the arranging of a deputation to wait on the Chief Secretary to urge the inclusion of provisions on the lines indicated in the next Bill brought before Parliament dealing with local government matters. The committee regretted that the deputation had not yet been arranged for, but in view of the extra strain imposed upon Ministers by the special autumn session of Parliament, it seemed advisable to postpone it until the session had ended.

Reg. 9.4.26

WORKERS EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting.

The ninth annual conference of the Workers' Educational Association was held at the Institute Building, North terrace, on Thursday night, when Mr. E. Cleary presided.

Professor Darnley Naylor moved "That this, the ninth annual conference of the W.E.A. in South Australia, respectfully urges the Prime Minister (Mr. S. M. Bruce) to head the Australian delegation to the League of Nations Assembly in September next, in view of the critical situation which has arisen, and that the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. J. M. Charlton) accompany him." Professor Naylor said it seemed a reasonable request to ask the Prime Minister should, if possible, lead the delegation at Geneva to show the whole world that Australia took these matters seriously. Mr. A. G. Roberts was responsible for the action of the portion of the motion which included Mr. Charlton in the delegation. He commented that the association was non-political, and he considered that the representatives of both sides should therefore be asked to attend Geneva.

The remainder of the evening was devoted to discussion by the delegates of matters connected with the association.

The following officers were elected:—President, Mr. A. G. Roberts; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. W. Wheeldon and C. H. Dicker; Treasurer, Mr. J. Burgess; Council, Mrs. C. R. Morris, Miss A. L. Tonkin, Messrs. J. Cleary, J. Cockburn, F. McCabe, R. A. Gibbons, C. Reid, A. H. Atkinson, E. Cheary, and H. F. Penny; Delegates, Messrs. C. J. Page and W. Barrow.