

"ENGLISH SATIRISTS."

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURE.

The second of a course of University extension lectures was delivered in the Prince of Wales lecture room by Professor Sir Archibald Strong on Tuesday night. Professor Darnley Naylor and several other members of the University staff were present. The lecture was entitled "Satire and some great English satirists."

The lecturer explained that some men used satire with kindly laughter, others because they had a gift, and others as a moral weapon, which they wielded with fierce and consuming scorn. Swift was the outstanding example of the last-named class, his satire being inverted idealism. Although his greatest satire was written in prose, when its quality was at its highest, it was actually lyrical. There was, indeed, a kinship between satire, the spirit of negation and destruction, and the type of poetry which had found expression in pure creation or pure beauty. The choruses of Aristophanes were a case in point. Shelley generally found an outlet for his pessimism in an ideal world of his own making, which impelled him to accept the sordidness of the actual world. But this failed to compensate for the real world, and that failure drove him strongly into satire. An instance of this was the satire directed by Shelley against Wordsworth, in "Peter Bell the Third." He quoted Swinburne to illustrate the kinship between pure poetry, having beauty and love for its chief themes, and the poetry of satire and scorn. It would not do, of course, to attribute all satire wholly to noble motives, reflecting passionate idealism. When Dryden wrote "MacFlecknoe" against Shadwell, and Pope smote Theobald, Bentley, and Cibber hip and thigh in his "Dunciad," the original motive for such fierce scorn was certainly personal resentment. Another factor was the ill-health and deformity of Pope. The lecturer described in detail Pope's many infirmities. It was small wonder if he displayed in many of his writings a spite and bitterness beyond the ordinary. He quoted several examples of Pope's satire from "The Dunciad." After quoting from Austin Dobson's work in praise of Pope, he passed on to Dryden, quoting, among others, a passage in which he shows MacFlecknoe as the Prince of Dulness, and appoints Shadwell, Dryden's enemy and rival, as his successor. He contended that Dryden had a larger satire, more Olympian, than Pope's, and wielded the more skilful couplet. On the whole, Dryden ranked as the greater satirist of the two. Yet he had not more wit, more neatness, or more fidelity than Pope. From Pope the lecturer passed to his contemporaries in satire, Steele and Addison. Both of these had, or affected, in their "Spectators," a direct moral and social purpose. Such purpose was made possible by the growth of the English middle class, which had inherited a good deal of the moral conviction of the earlier Puritans, without the fanaticism which made so much of the Puritans' effort unlovely and even odious. The middle class of Steele's period possessed a good deal of culture, which was advanced through the use of the London coffee houses. These places of resort offered valuable opportunities for interchange of ideas. This new development gave Steele and Addison their chance, and resulted in the social satire which was found in the "Tatler" and "Spectator." Steele had in him a certain moral fervour, which made some of his more serious and reforming "Spectators" much more sincere and readable than Addison's efforts of the same kind. Addison, besides showing himself to be a considerable literary critic, had much more humor than Steele. It was, perhaps, through the lighter and more playful "Spectators" that he was chiefly readable at the present. Professor Strong quoted from several of these, and compared Addison's social satire with that so superbly depicted in Pope's "Rape of the Lock."

mineral can be obtained without much expenditure for plant and machinery, the enterprise gives possibilities of being a profitable industry. Credit for creating the present interest in mica and having opened up export markets for the mineral is due almost entirely to the Northern Australian Development Limited (subsequently registered as the Northern Prospecting Syndicate), which was formed by Mr. C. F. Adams in December, 1924, to send a prospector to the Northern Territory.

Mr. Adams stated this morning that the syndicate formed by him was the first to use a motor car for prospecting in the Northern Territory. Mr. Charles Hall, who was the prospector for the syndicate, covered thousands of miles, but had no serious mishaps, the only trouble being through floods at the Finks River.

SEVEN CLAIMS SECURED

Within three months Mr. Hall secured seven claims between Alice Springs and the Queensland border, and as far north as Tennant Creek. Among these was one known as Stone's Mica Claim, situated about 110 miles east of Alice Springs, which was then held by a party of three mica "gougers." Mr. Hall strongly recommended the syndicate to acquire the claim. That was done, and subsequently an option was taken over the whole of the properties.

In September, 1925, added Mr. Adams, the Northern Territory Mica and Metal Mines No Liability was floated with a nominal capital of £32,000 in 160,000 shares of 4/ each. The issued capital now comprised 65,000 shares fully paid to 4/ each, and 95,000 contributing shares paid to 2/ each. Although the company was floated in Sydney a large portion of the capital was subscribed in Adelaide. The company opened up the mica mines and had obtained better results as the work proceeded.

Reports received from the mine disclosed an abundance of mica in the shaft and open cuts. The mineral had been tested by Professor Kerr Grant, of the Adelaide University, and he stated that it had the highest dielectric strength of any known mica. Rough samples were sent to Mr. Louis Burkard of Burkard and Co., Sydney, who was one of the best known ore buyers in Australia, and he was so satisfied with it that he requested the company to place the output of the mines in his hands to be marketed in Germany.

SHIPMENT FOR GERMANY

Burkard & Co. advanced £500 against the first ton of mica which was despatched early this year to Germany to be handled and marketed there. On the result of that shipment a firm trading contract would be made.

According to advices received from the mine a few days ago Mr. Adams said that the lodes were permanent and were improving in quality at depth. The expenses of production were small, as the mica was taken out by hand tools, and so far there was no indication that any machinery would be required. Eight men were employed on the mine, but the number would probably be increased when a regular market was found for the output.

In consequence of the activities of the Northern Territory Mica and Metal Mines a number of other mica claims have been taken up in the Hart Range. Reports indicate that there is a large supply of good mica, and if trading agreements can be made to secure large and continuous markets in Australia and overseas it will go a long way toward the opening up of the Northern Territory. The principal overseas markets for mica are America, Germany, Britain, and Japan.

"THE PUGNACIOUS INSTINCT."

Address to League of Nations Union.

The weekly luncheon of the South Australian branch of the League of Nations Union was held at the Regal Cafe, Grenfell street, on Tuesday. Mr. J. H. Vaughan (Chairman of the executive) occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance.

Dr. A. C. Garnett, M.A., in an instructive address on "The pugnacious instinct and war," said that reason exercised great influence over action, but only in a secondary way, in bringing to bear some additional stimulus to instincts, enabling them to be aroused at one time, making the total instinct very complex. Instinct tended to revert itself in certain habitual actions. At times of international crises when war threatened, strong emotions were aroused, and the barriers and links set up by habit and reason seemed to be overflowed. Crude native emotion was the great enemy of clear thinking, consequently if pugnacity was aroused in a community there would be a tendency to allow it pursue a line of action which calmer thought might prevent. The League of Nations endeavoured to postpone actual hostilities until the people had time to bring reason to bear upon the situation, and allow arbitration to take place before they resorted to fight. Dealing with what was described as the "steam-boiler" view of human in-

stincts, the speaker said that represented mechanism which gathered up a dynamic energy—and must discharge it. That was manifest in the sex and herd instinct, and frequently some happy means of expression was discovered to prevent people being "carried away." Sport was one avenue by which the desired result was obtained. The pursuit of certain instinctive ends was sometimes prevented by outside interference, which tended to stimulate pugnacity. There was also the desire for security, as exemplified by the efforts of France to restore itself financially. Self-expression manifested itself in individuals and peoples. When a group of people felt itself one and wished to come together interference with that tendency toward herd instinct stimulated pugnacity. Before that attitude could be expressed, however, certain conditions were necessary. The people must be one, an ideal themselves one; there must exist another community which was regarded and felt themselves one; there must exist means. For instance, because Americans and Australians were alike in so many respects, war between the two countries was made difficult; on the other hand, war between either country and Japan might be much more conceivable because of the feeling of those differences. They could hardly alter the first condition, but they could do much to break down the barriers of the second. The League, the churches, sporting associations, and other bodies had done a great deal toward that end. The more they could achieve in the direction of breaking down the barriers which divided communities the sooner would the peoples tend to become one great whole. (Applause.)

GREAT ENGLISH SATIRISTS.

Lecture by Sir Archibald Strong.

There was a good attendance at the Adelaide University on Tuesday evening, when Sir Archibald Strong, Professor of English Literature, delivered the second of a course of extension lectures on "Satire and some great English satirists."

Sir Archibald Strong said some men used satire with kindly laughter, others mainly because they had a gift amounting to genius; while others used it as a moral weapon wielded with fierce and consuming scorn. Swift was an outstanding instance of the last-named class, satire with him being really a form of inverted idealism. Swift, however, would be held over for the third lecture. It might be said that although his greatest satire was written in prose, its quality at its highest was actually lyrical. There was indeed a kinship between satire—the spirit of negation or destruction—and the type of poetry which often expressed itself in pure creation or pure beauty. The choruses of Aristophanes were a case in point. Shelley generally found an outlet for such pessimism as was in him in an ideal world of his own imagining, which enabled him to escape from the sordidness of the actual world, but occasionally in him the ideal failed to compensate for the real, and that failure drove him headlong into satire. The lecturer instanced in that respect the "Mask of Anarchy," and the satire directed by Shelley against Wordsworth in "Peter Bell the Third." He quoted a sonnet by Swinburne illustrating the kinship between pure poetry—having beauty and love for its chief themes—and the poetry of satire and scorn. He pointed out that it would not do to attribute all the satire of poets to a rage which was noble and the reflex of a passionate idealism. When Dryden wrote his "MacFlecknoe" against Shadwell and Pope, and smote Theobald, Bentley, and Cibber hip and thigh in the Dunciad, the original motive force of such scorn was certainly personal resentment. There was also the factor of ill health and deformity in Pope's case, and that must certainly be regarded as having influenced his psychology.

A Physical Weakling.

The professor then gave a pen portrait of Pope, based on biographies of him, who was so weak as to be unable to dress himself without help, and so sensitive to heat that he had to wear a fur doublet in coarse linen shirt. One of his sides contracted, and he could scarcely get upright until he was laced into a pair of stiff canvas. His legs were so slender that he had to wear three pairs of stockings, which he was unable to draw on or off without help. His seat had to be raised to bring him to a level with common tables. Small wonder if he displayed in many of his writings spite and bitterness beyond the ordinary. He quoted several examples of Pope's verse satire, taken from the "Dunciad," and his later "Epistles and Satires." He then quoted the very spirited passage in which Pope spoke of the provocation which he had received, and of the necessity for dealing unlovely with his enemies. After quoting the fine poem of Austin Dobson in praise of Pope, he passed back to Dryden, and quoted several passages from his verse satire, including the one in which he showed MacFlecknoe, the "Prince of Dulness," appointing Shadwell, the playwright, Dryden's enemy and rival, as his successor. He contended that Dryden had a larger sweep, a more Olympian power than

Pope, that he wielded a more powerful couplet, that, on the whole, he must rank as the greater satirist of the two. Yet he had not more wit than Pope, not more neatness, and possibly not more vitality.

Steele and Addison.

From Pope, Sir Archibald passed to his contemporaries in satire, Steele and Addison. Both of them had, or at least affected in copies of The Spectator, a direct moral and social purpose. Such a purpose was made possible by the growth of a good deal of the moral conviction of the earlier Puritans, without the fanaticism which made so much of the Puritans' effort unlovely and even odious. The middle classes of Steele's period possessed a good deal of culture, which was advanced through their use of the London coffee houses—places of resort which afforded valuable opportunities for the interchange of ideas. That new development gave Steele and Addison their chance, and resulted in the social satire which they found in The Tatler and The Spectator. Steele had in him a certain moral fervour which made his more serious and reforming readable than Addison's efforts in the same kind, but Addison, in addition to showing himself to be a very considerable literary critic, had much more humour than Steele, and it was perhaps through his lighter and more playful "Spectators" that he was chiefly readable to-day. The lecturer gave quotations from some of them, and compared Addison's social satire with that which was displayed in Pope's "Rape of the Lock."

BIRD-CATCHING TREE

Keen interest in the unique botanical collection of Dr. Robert Pulleine was created by a reference in an article published on May 29 to the bird-catching tree.

Dr. Pulleine has written for "The Mail" the following short description of this tree.

The Pisonia Brunoniana or bird-catching tree is a native of the tropical and sub-tropical islands.

It belongs to the same order as the bouganvillea and Marvel of Peru.

The trees in my garden are of great age, and evidently date back to the occupation of Sir William Morgan, who probably obtained them from New Caledonia where he had mining interests. As far as I know they are the only large Pisonia trees in the State.

This tree does catch birds, although they are not allowed to do so in my garden, which is a bird sanctuary, for as soon as the flower bunches obtain the viscid stage they are clipped off.

The flowering spikes are insignificant and green, and soon the long cylindrical seed vessel makes its appearance. As it matures its four ribs secrete a sticky material. There may be hundreds of these vessels in a bunch. The sweet honey-like gum attracts small flies and moths, and the unsuspecting birds come after them. Soon a feather becomes gummed to a seed and then another and another, until a little bird like a silver eye is soon hopelessly trapped. Larger birds can break away, but often at the cost of feathers which may make him flightless for weeks or months.

Apart from the flower the tree has very large green leaves, like a laurel, and its timber value is nil, as the dry wood is just like a roll of brown paper.

On the islands of the Great Barrier Reef this tree forms the bulk of the vegetation of the centre of the islands and comes down close to the sea. Here it is used as the nesting place of thousands of noddies, who each lay a solitary egg in the fork of the Pisonia tree, and the nest is made of only a Pisonia leaf or two. Of course, they occasionally suffer at the time the tree is flowering and fruiting, but there is nowhere else to nest.

Now this tree is about the best instance of plant dispersal by birds. It has in one form or another spread nearly all round the tropical and sub-tropical world. It cannot float, so ocean currents are powerless to disperse it. It has been spread mostly by the noddy and other seabirds. The plant has no intention of injuring the bird, it is not carnivorous, but it must be spread.

The Hawaiians used the seeds for catching birds, but apart from this the plant has no recorded economic value.

MICA MINING IN NORTH

Promising Deposits Found

One of the most interesting and important developments in the last year or two has been the increased activity in prospecting and mining for mica in Central and Northern Australia.

This valuable mineral is largely used in connection with electrical equipment. It is the best known insulator in the world, and the demand for it is likely to increase with every development in the electrical field of industry.

Until this year Australia has imported practically the whole of its requirements from India. Although the Commonwealth has extensive resources of mica, in the past no regular supplies have been available for the local or export markets.

The Northern Territory Mica and Metals Mines No Liability claims to be the first company to produce and export mica from Australia. Its good quality mica is worth about £200 a ton and the