ENGLISH SATIRE.

PROFESSOR STRONG'S LECTURE.

At the University on Tuesday evening ir Archibald Strong, Professor of Engish, gave the first of a series of three extension lectures on "Satire and some great English satirists."

drawing attention to the decay or partial disuse of satire in modern times, and proceeded to examine the causes of this. One of these appeared to be, he said, the increasingly rigorous administration of the law of libel, but more important was the increase of the humanitarian instinct. The modern world had obviously more result which obviously thwarted the satirist's main purpose of making his opponent odious to his fellow man through ridicule. A further important cause of end, he had to employ more simple and tions, are quite true. So far as the disstraightforward means. If he resorted was an annual mean and an annual mean an annual mean ann to satire he did so at his peril. The lecturer then related the story told by Mr. Justice Bowen, in summing up in the case of a burglar caught upon a roof with a full burglar's kit, and who said that if the jury thought he (the burglar) was there for the sake of fresh air and exercise they would acquit him. That suugestion was, of course, meant satirically, but was taken seriously by the jury, with the result that the accused was acquitted. Satire was clearly a dangerous instrument if one were not sure of one's audience. Satire existed in modern times, but it was doubtful if the world would ever see again satirists of the type of Aristophanes, Rabelais, or Voltaire, who worked almost exclusively through satire, and left their mark on the thought and progress of the world. He then dealt briefly with each of those writers, giving an account of their general characteristics, and illustrating his point, contrasted the benevolent definition of irony offered by the master ironist of last century, Anatole France, with the savage form of satire evident in Swiit's ironically named "Modest Proposal," and in Fielding's

was the following, "That the heart was the proper seat of hatred and the countenance of affection and friendship." The professor then proceeded from the historical survey to discuss the nature of satire itself, and the temper and temperament shown by its chief practitioners. He showed that satirists varied as much lyric poets. Some men, especially young men, wrote satire because they discovered they could do that sort of thing rather well, and then continued to do it for the sheer love of the thing, and with much conviction. Some of them became parodists. The lecturer then digressed in order to examine the connection between parody and satire, and instanced in this connection Mr. J. C. Squire's brilliant parody of Mr. John Masefield. Certain to some ostensible end, to moral or social reform, often without bringing much inspiration or conviction to the task. He considered that Addison was a came in point, differing thereby from Steele, who was a true moral satirist. Addison's sincere. To those two distinct classes consideration," concluded Mr. Robinson, belonged respectively our greatest English verse satirist Dryden, and our greatest English prose satirist, Swift. The lecturer gave examples taken from Dryden, contrast between his ideal and the world of reality, and, through that contrast, was driven into a noble fury, which found its utterance in impassioned scorn. Whatever was the manifestation of Swift's scorn it was utterly different from the cold and acrid synicsm under which some writers disguised their lack of heart. It was winged with passion and was the outcome of a great idealism warped and foiled.

REG. 9.6.26

Principal's Absence Criticised

Following on the criticisms last week by Professor Strong began his lecture by Mr. H. J. Yelland, M.L.C., of Perth, with respect to the lines on which the Roseworthy Agricultural College was being conducted, and complaining of the prolonged absence of the Principal (Mr. W J. Colebatch), further adverse comments were made on Tuesday.

Mr. A. W. Robinson, of Werocata, Balacompassion for sufferers than did the older klava, stated that, as another old colleworld, and it felt pity instead of scorn for gian, he had been much concerned over the uninterrupted discharge of his imhim whom the satirist had flayed alive-a the matter. At the break-up ceremony of the college in April he had voiced his opinion. One of his sons had been a student at the college, and another was still there. "I sent my boys there," he added, the decay of satire was the inability of "to receive the influence and guidance of the masses in our modern democratic Mr. Colebatch. The college, as an agriest English prose satirist, did not write cultural institution, is second to none in for the masses, and when he took up Australia, and to build it up it has taken or of European peace, or of the English Professors Custance, Towar, Lowrie, and colony in Ireland, he could afford to pour Perkins. Hitherto some of the most briionly comprehensible to trained intelli- Australia, and I think the statements of gences. To-day, if a man did as Swift Mr. Yelland, made after his investiga-



MR. W. J. COLEBATCH, Principal of Roseworthy Agricultural College.

in their outlook and character as did cipline is concerned. I am not in a position to say much, except that I believe it is as good as ever it was. The practice of "fagging" has existed for many years, and will probably continue, I am fearful, however, as to the prestige of the college owing to the continued absence of Mr. Colebatch."

Mr. Robinson went on to say that he had intended preparing a petition in the hope of having the present position rectypes of satirists devoted their talent tified, as many other parents also felt that the absence of Mr. Colebatch was militating against their sons receiving the best instruction at the college. He had gone to the trouble of ascertaining the names of the fathers of the students, with essays in "Pure fun and fancy," contained the idea of united action being taken; but, far finer work than his ostensibly reform- upon further reflection, he decided that, ing "Spectator." Other satirists, however, as the Minister of Agriculture (Hon. T. wrote their work through sheer intellec- Butterfield) was aware of the state of tual force, accompanied often by exultant affairs he might regard the proposed gesture and fling, while the genius of course of action as a political move. "I others was winged with noble rage, moral can assure Mr. Butterfield, however, that indignation even, as savage as it was the matter is quite removed from political

.Brief Visits to College.

Mr. Colebatch, who was a member of Pope, and Swift, and touched upon Byron, the South-Eastern Drainage Commission, instancing as perhaps his greatest triumph was also appointed Chairman of the in satire, "The vision of judg- Rural Settlement Commission early last ment," directed against Southey. Re-year, and in that capacity has found it turning to Swift, the lecturer made an incressary to be absent from his post at analysis of his genius with special referthe college for a considerable time. As ence to "Gulliver's Travels." He showed occasion has permitted during the course that Swift was above all things an ideal- of the commission's enquiries he has paid ist, who realized all too poignantly the brief visits to the institution with the object of keeping in touch with the work,

ROSEWORTHY COLLEGE. ONE MAN. SEVERAL JOBS.

The facility with which Labour, when in office, is able to abandon a principle to which it has clung with extraordinary tenacity while in Opposition is well illustrated by the case of Mr. Colebatch and the Roseworthy Agricultural College. If there were any supreme virtue in the trades union policy of "one man, one job," Mr. Colebatch might well have hoped to continue, under a Labour Government, in portant duties as principal of the institution which, with the State it serves very loyalty brought into collision with one owes so much to his special attainments as a scientific agriculturist. It is not suggested that the charge and direction of the Roseworthy College has ever permitted much leisure to any of its prinhis pen in the cause of orthodox religion years of work by such capable men as cipals; and it is obvious that, in recent years, consequent upon the growing out the passion of his heart in a form liant students have been from Western reputation of the college as an Austraproducers, the work performed by Mr. Colebatch has been laborious and exact-The fact that he was already fully engaged in an essential undertaking, however, did not prevent his appointment to the South-Eastern Drainage Commission, nor has it since made the Gunn Government the less ready to select him as Chairman of the Rural Settlement Commission. In this latter capacity, he has found it necessary to absent himself from Roseworthy for long periods, and it is feared that he will continue to be rather more a royal commissioner than a college principal "for another year or two." So far as has been possible in the circumstances, this one man, at the behest of a Labour Ministry, has been arduously flying in the face of the industrial tenets of the Labour Party, and has been doing, not one job, but two.

It is not surprising, therefore, that an eminent Western Australian, the father of a student now removed from Roseworthy, should have complained that Mr. Colebatch, failing to prove tion on the other. St. John Ervine's himself ubiquitous, has performed one of his two duties less satisfactorily than formerly. From the Labour point of view, of course, this is the least of the evils to be apprehended from the abandonment of the policy of one man one job, which has uniformly been upheld by the trades union agitator as effectively preventing "the exploitation of the worker," and similar malpractices, The Labour Government is exploiting the brains of the Civil Service without the least scruple. Nor is the evil con fined to the Roseworthy College. the Lands Department, the duplication of duties imposed upon specially capable officers is most marked; and it is notorious that in several cases highly placed civil servants are at present able to devote less than half their time to the discharge of the exacting duties for which they are chiefly paid, and for which they are clearly best suited. These arrangements, so singularly devised by a Labour Administration, are manifestly unfair to the men immediately concerned, and to the under-officers upon whom much added responsibility necessarily falls in the absence of departmental heads; but the public has even greater reason to complain when there are signs that important State activities are suffering from wait upon the Minister and urge the im-Labour's denial of the truth of its own mediate construction of the Infectious dectrine.

"THE TRAGIC DILEMMA."

Lecturing on Tuesday night before the Poetry Society on "The Tragic Dilemma," the Rev. G. H. Wright, M.A., dealt with the self-division and selfwaste found in the conflicts which tragedy portrayed. He said that an outright conflict between good and evil would not be tragic, as their sympathies would be all on the one side. Melodrama might show the villain. and tragedy showed the good interwoven with the evil. More poignant still was the conflict between opposing good. Starting from Hegel's theory of tragedy. the lecturer showed how it revealed a disruption of spirit, for those who were loyal to the phases of the ideal which they have apprehended, were by their another, as they claimed for their part truths a greater authority than others could allow. Hegel found those part truths in man's religious and ethical relationships, in his status and personal character, and, in the world of romance, in the ideals of love and honour. The lecturer gave instances from Greek tragedy, the "Oresteia" of Acachylus, the "Antigone" of Sophocles, and the "Hippolytus" of Euripides. Most tragic was the conflict of principles between which there was no via media. They were final. One or the other the individual must choose, and whatever his choice, the result was suffering and death. Classical tragedy showed this conflict between institutions, the claims of which were embodied in the protagonists, as in the "Antigone," Hegel's favourite illustration, in which the heroine stood for the family, and Creon for the State. Shakespearean drama showed rather the choice men had to make between conflicting good. Brutus had to choose between his friendship with Caesar and fidelity to his republican principles. "Coriolanus" revealed a struggle between the aristocracy and the people. It also revealed conflict within the hero himself. In "Antony and Cleopatra," the combatants were ambition and love, and here too the strunggle became inward. Hamlet knew the conflict between his father's command and the temperament which meant inactivity. Examples were also given from modern drama. After referring to Ibsen's "Brand," and to the conflict between good found in that dramatist's prose plays. Mr. Wright dealt with instances in the drama of to-day. Galsworthy's "Strife" clearly illustrated it. There the protagonists represented capital and labour. "Loyalties," by the same author, showed it on a lesser heale. Bernard Shaw's "Saint Joan" depicted the struggle between the forces representing the church and the feudal system on the one hand, and the individual's right of interpreta-"The Ship" was the struggle between age and youth-one immersed in its love of machinery, the other fighting for man as against machines. Flecker's "Hassan," in its subplot, was a contest between love and life. Not so much good and evil, rather opposing good, was responsible for the most tragic happenings of life. The evil came because of excess. One good being over-asserted, the inevitable reaction followed.

Mr. A. M. Bonython presided, and at the conclusion of the address a vote of thanks was accorded the lecturer, on the motion of the Hon, F. S. Wallis, seconded

by Mrs. Fairweather. the adult her

INFECTIOUS

NEW HOSPITAL WANTED BY DOCTORS.

The President of the South Australian branch of the British Medical Association (Dr. H. H. E. Russell), Dr. F. S. Hone (chief quarantine officer), and Dr. F. H. Beare (honorary medical officer at the Infectious Diseases Hospital, and a member of the council of the British Medical Association) waited upon the Chief Secretary (Hon. J. Jelley) on Tuesday with a request that the erection of the new Infectious Diseases Hospital at

Northfield be facilitated. Dr. Russell said the British Medical Association council had requested them to Diseases Hospital on the land already purchased for the purpose at Northfield. The present accommodation was insufficient and dark, as patiguts suffering from infect tious diseases had a long period of coning was most unsuitable. As health office? for Unley he had sent cases of scarle fever and so on to the hospital, and, aite recovering from this disease, the patient caught measles through no fault of the

> Dr. Hone offered the assistance of the association. Being a lecturer to the st dents at the hospital, he found it difficult to do the work properly, as the condition

nature of the building and its accommi