

MODERN ENGLISH POETRY.

The third of a series of lectures on some aspects of modern English poetry was delivered by Sir Archibald Strong at the University on Tuesday night. He dealt first with James Elroy Flecker, whose poetry was tinged by his personal emotion. His imagery was often exquisitely sensuous, but never blurred into vagueness. As an example of Flecker's work, Sir Archibald read "The Road to Samarkand." Passing to Rupert Brooke, the lecturer outlined his life, showing the influence of his travels on his work. In his war sonnets, Brooke echoed the idealism with which the majority of young men entered the war. Personally, he regarded the early death of Brooke as an irreparable loss to English poetry. In some respect he was in the direct line of descent from Keats and Tennyson. He was not, nor would he ever have been, so great as Keats, but he was doing better work than Tennyson, and it was gaining in strength every year. Of the modern poets, he was perhaps most closely allied to Heine, particularly through his fusion of mockery with music and romance. He read Brooke's poem, "Heaven" and one of the sonnets. John Masefield, who lived a vagabond life for many years, and decided at the age of 28 to become a poet, was influenced in the first instance by Chaucer. As a poet he was important, first through his lyrics and tales of the sea. The second particular in which he was important was his use of the sonnet, in which he practised the Shakespearian form. His most distinctive work was in the form of a long narrative poem. He was often a realist in his choice of theme and a romanticist in his treatment of it. His great weakness showed itself in lamentable lapses of form. The lecturer read portions of "Reynard the Fox," drawing attention to the number of portraits of living people which Masefield worked into the description of a meet. Wilfred Gibson had left some terrible pictures of the part he took in the war. His work was characterised by his love of nature and of the English countryside. This made him something akin to Wordsworth, except that he did not attempt to see in the workings of Nature the work of some supreme spirit. The poem "The Rock Light" was typical in that it had no melodramatic ending. Dealing with Humbert Wolfe, the lecturer discussed his poem "Requiem," in which the "winners" and "losers" in respect to the spiritual values of life are portrayed.

routine, was to steep himself in the literature of his subject. The University was willing to co-operate with the institute in establishing a diploma, or a degree, of public administration, but no definite action could be taken at present because the resources of the University were already strained in meeting the demands of the different faculties. In the Faculty of Arts, and the tutorial classes, many subjects, useful and essential to a course in public administration, could be studied. The Public Service Commissioner was requiring that promotion should in some measure depend upon studies which could be supplied by the University, and by departmental training within the service. Their system was the subject of scrutiny in every country in the world, and, for that reason, pride in what was their own should spur them on to do their best. The traditions of the British Civil Service, the greatest in the world, were those of scholarship manners, disinterestedness, and freedom. It was the research of the service, which educated public opinion. It was the service which had evolved the huge mass of social legislation of which Great Britain boasted; it was the service which trained and fostered the capacities of young Ministers; men who became civil servants wrote the "Canterbury Tales," "Paradise Lost," and "The Wealth of the Nations." That was a tradition which they in South Australia had chosen to follow in forming a regional group of the British Institute. There should, however, be no slavish imitation of the older tradition, but they should develop a reasonable tradition of their own.

Australia's Future Position.

They should realize, added the speaker, that Australia was an important outpost of the great British Commonwealth, and great responsibility would fall upon them in the future. Half of the world's population lined the Pacific seaboard, and if there was any doubt of the future importance of the Pacific they had only to ask why its gateways were so carefully guarded by the naval bases at Singapore, Panama Canal, and the Falkland Islands. They must realize that the functional organization of that area could fall during the next 100 years to only one race of people—the Anglo-Saxon—however unobtrusive might be its influence. In that picture, where stood Australia? If they assumed that the peoples of south-eastern Asia would adopt a wheat and meat diet and wear woollen garments, much of which would be supplied by Australia, they might envisage some of the problems of the functional organization which would be required. The section who would have to teach the Pacific peoples the art of functional organization were the permanent officials. They would have to look down the vista of the future and study Pacific problems as they would be, rather than as they had been.

That meeting might be termed "an hour of insight," but their immediate task was to dig and heap, lay stone on stone; and it would be for the generations who came after to "discern all we have built." All they could hope was that they should build thoroughly. (Applause.)

An excellent programme was presented by Messrs. M. Wallace, Gordon Hele, Hugh Mullins, S. Morrell, L. Crisp, A. R. Oliver, and J. Neal.

REG. 28-6-28 PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

First Social of Institute.

The inaugural smoke social of the Institute of Public Administration was held at the Grosvenor, North terrace, on Wednesday evening. The chairman (Brig.-Gen. R. L. Leane, Commissioner of Police), presided. The idea of the institute was suggested in London in 1920, and the constitution was adopted in February, 1922.

The chairman, in his address, said the South Australian group should be proud of the fact that it was the first regional group to function in the dominions. That was largely due to the energies of their secretary (Mr. A. W. Pettit). South Australians, as a rule, were not far behind in promoting efficiency. If they promoted more efficiency in the public service, it would naturally be of more value to the State. (Applause.)

Civil Service as a Profession. Mr. A. L. G. Mackay said the civil servant was outwardly urbane, unemotional, and impersonal. The most important thing to a civil servant was efficiency, and upon his efficiency depended the spirit, education, and the traditions of the service of which he was a member. It would be necessary for the institute to develop a "spirit." Spirit was produced by devotion to an ideal. England, more than any other country, had been the transmitter of Aryan ideas and ideals, and foremost among them was functional organization—the capacity for developing a social environment in which each individual might promote to his highest level his inborn capacities. The seed of that genius had been disseminated by the Anglo-Saxon administrative services, upon other peoples, and those services had been trained at Oxford and Cambridge.

Fresh Ideas and Ideals.

No body of men, said Mr. Mackay, could claim itself a profession unless it were in a position to control the entrance of new members to its ranks, and to entrust the education of its members to an independent body, if possible, a university. It was essential that the type of men entering the service should be of an unusual type, with fresh ideas and ideals which it was the function of the University to maintain, and it was equally vital that the academic education of the service should be non-departmental. The University's function was to make new knowledge, and to foster culture. The only way for a young civil servant to get away from the deadening influence of

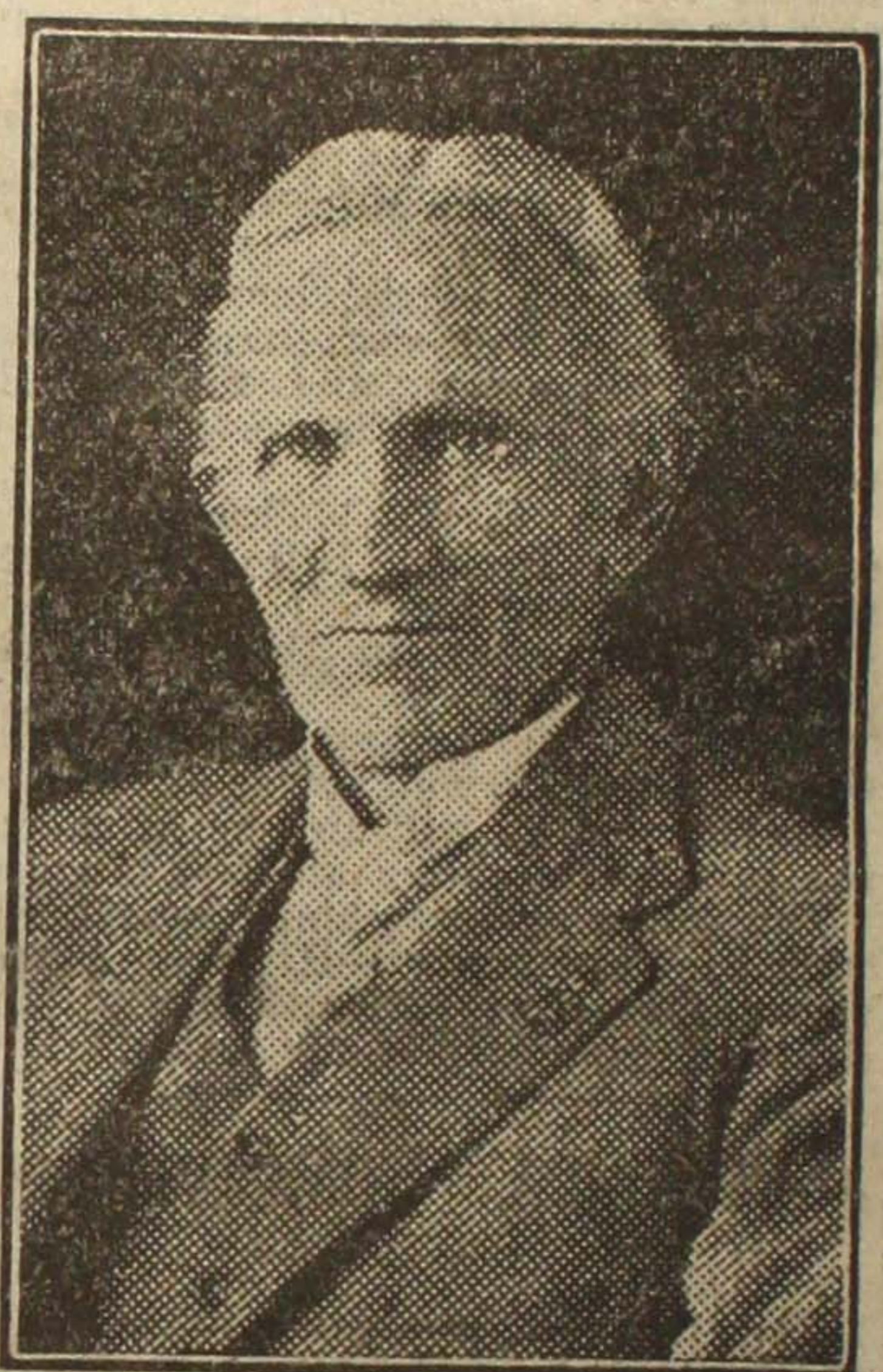
SIR EDGEWORTH DAVID.

Discoveries of Fossils.

600,000,000 Years Old.

Sir Edgeworth David, the well-known Australian geologist, who has been spending a week in Adelaide with Professor Howchin, searching for fossils in the neighbourhood of the city, returned to Sydney by Friday night's express. Before leaving he gave an interesting account of his researches.

Sir Edgeworth said that during his stay with Professor Howchin they had visited together, and further surveyed those areas where types of fossils were to be found, in the hills around Adelaide, Montacute, Sixth Creek, and the extensive bed of limestone at the lower end of the Torrens Gorge. The specimens from this last area were being "sliced" by Mr. Brock, lapidary and scientific assistant to Mr. C. T. Madigan, lecturer on geology at the University. By "slicing" he meant that the specimens were being rubbed down to one-thousandth of an inch, after which they were put under the microscope to



SIR EDGEWORTH DAVID.

see of what structure the rock was, and what fossils, if any, were contained in it. A further examination had been made of the limestone, known as "blue metal limestone," at the Devil's elbow. This rock was evidently comparatively rich in remains of what were considered pre-Cambrian fauna, the date of which had been approximately fixed by physicists, who, basing their calculations on radio-active methods, estimated its age, at about 600,000,000 years. While the fossil remains of this last period were somewhat fragmental, still portions of the specimens were sufficiently well preserved to show the presence of antennae, or small tentacles at the animal's head. There were also imperfectly preserved remains of what was evidently some much larger animal than a mere sand worm. Apparently the specimen must have been five or six inches in length. It would probably require considerable time and patient calculation in order to unearth more perfect specimens of this extremely ancient creature, which was probably some variety of crustacean.

The area of Onetree Hill was also visited by Professor Howchin and himself, and last Wednesday they were conducted over the principal outcrop of limestone by Mr. H. H. Blackham. Specimens taken from there also showed traces of this ancient fossil fauna, but until microscopic sections had been completed it was not possible to state whether they were in a sufficiently good state of preservation to be available for descriptive purposes. The area of the Field River Gorge, near Hallett's Cove, had also been examined, and quite a large collection of specimens had been obtained.

Pleased With Results.

Sir Edgeworth David stated that on the whole he was quite pleased with the results of his visit, as specimens of a somewhat more complete nature had been obtained than those which were gathered on previous occasions. At the same time it was premature to estimate the value of the results until the work of the microscopic section had been completed. It was hoped that some of the best results would be obtained from the hard flinty kind of rock of the nature of chert. It was pointed out to Sir Edgeworth David by Professor Howchin that the point of outcrop of the Upper Torrens limestone, near

the lower end of the Torrens Gorge, was rock that was composed almost entirely of silica. It would be treated in the laboratories connected with the Adelaide and Sydney universities with hydrofluoric acid. This acid dissolved away the silica, and left behind most of the remains of the animal material. One of the chief features of interest in connection with this recent find of pre-Cambrian fossil fauna was that the hard crests of the skeleton of the animals were not formed of whitish lime like the material of which shells or corals were composed, but were formed of a material identical with, or allied to, chitin—a horny substance such as that of which hard parts of insects and the shells of prawns and shrimps were composed. This decayed away very readily, and in the Adelaide rocks frequently left behind it either hollow cast, or in some cases a replacement in black carbon, like the blacklead in pencils. It would probably be a considerable time, as the result of research by a number of geologists, before really perfect specimens were obtained. Professor David thinks that there is very little doubt that such will be discovered, in view of the great perfection in many cases in which minute limbs and swimming appendages of the organisms are preserved. At the same time many a year of research would be needed on this Adelaide fossil fauna before any considerable contribution to our knowledge of the evolution of animal life on the earth was obtained.

It might be added, continued Sid Edgeworth, that the Deputy Government Geologist, Mr. R. L. Jack, had placed at his disposal all the collection in the Museum of the Geological Survey, and particularly those from west of a line extending northward from Port Augusta towards Lake Eyre. Professor David said he considered that the limestone at Permatty Lagoon, between Port Augusta and Ooldea contained abundant remains of the much altered bodies of annelids, so that that too probably was to be classed as belonging to the rocks of the Adelaide series. In concluding, Sir Edgeworth David paid a high tribute to the work being performed by Professor Howchin.

HIGHER EDUCATION

REQUEST BY UNIVERSITY

Exhibition Grounds Wanted

A request was made to the Hon. R. L. Butler (Premier) today by representatives of the Council of the University of Adelaide that the Exhibition Grounds should be dedicated to it for University purposes.

The Premier stated subsequently that the deputation had pointed out that at present the University was not in a position to decide upon the disposition of proposed new buildings in the way it would like to in the best interests of higher education in the future. The University authorities were anxious to begin the erection of the Bonython Hall and a library at an early date, and if the Government would dedicate the lands to the council the sites for those buildings could be definitely decided upon. The council was prepared for a certain portion of the land to be allocated for School of Mines purposes, and for the ground upon which the Exhibition Building stood, to be under the control of the Government for a period of years.

The deputation also asked that monetary bequests to the University should be free of succession duty. It was pointed out that that practice prevailed in practically all the other States. The council believed that the concession would encourage gifts which would relieve the Government of some of its present financial responsibility in connection with the University.

In reply to the deputation the Premier said that realising that the land should be utilised for the purposes of higher education, he, personally, was favorable to the request that it should be dedicated to the University. He would submit the whole matter to Cabinet for decision.

Arboretum at Urrbrae

Work has begun on the planting of trees for an arboretum which is to be established at Urrbrae Estate. Under the will of the late Mr. Peter Waite portion of the grounds of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute was reserved for establishing a park.

About 60 trees have been planted to date, but the project will not be completed for a number of years. It is intended to plant in the region of 500 trees of representative variety.