UNIVERSITIES ABROAD

Adelaide as Progressive

The University of Adelaide is as Procressive as those of Britain and the Car ment, repecially in agricultural rescars work done by Waite Institute and the caboratory of Animal Nutrition," sal Mr. F. W. Enrolley, B.A. (registrar Adelaide Entreretty).

With Mrs. Euroley he returned by th mer Bondiso today after an absence of none mentles en a veat to Europe.

"While abroad I made coquieus of mirrecolly management, and ascertains that the problems there were much ur same as those contracting our own staff. sand Mr. Eardley. "In England I visites many of the groymeial universities, fl cluding those of Bristol, Manchester, an-Eaver pool

thoroughly agree with the old plat tude that everything unfavorable abox Anatralia seems to be cabled to Britaic consequently the people there are astonical ingly agnorant of Australian affairs,

"A glorious apportunity is being misse in neglect properly to place Australia canned Carts on the British market, Gree difficulty or experienced in getting it that shops, which stock much of the California

Mr. and Mrs. Eardley also visited Pato the Rhine Northern Italy, and Switzer

ADV. 13 - 12 - 30

ENGLISH UNIVERSITIES

IMPRESSIONS OF ADELAIDE REGISTRAR

During a holiday trip abroad, Mr. F. W. Eardley, the registrar of the University of Adelaide, who returned yesterday by the Bendigo, visited several universities in London and in the Pro-

Although it was vacation time, Mr. Eardley saw a good deal of the administrative side of the work. dents in London, he said, seemed more inclined than formerly to remain close by their schools, in order to be in touch with their activities. Much better provision was made for the men, and as they were so absorbed in their particular subjects, he did not think professors would be likely to leave their chairs to come to Australia. He met a number of Adelaide graduates who were doing well. One young man had done research work which had proved most remunerative to his employersan electrical firm, and he was shortly to publish a book on his researches.

Mr. Eardley was surprised to notice the wide publicity given by certain English papers to extremist cables concerning Australia's financial position. As a result, many people had no desire to do business with Australia.

REG. 15. 12. 30

Sir Charles Martin, successor to the late the Animal Nutrition Division of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in Adelaide, is expected to arrive here in the ties for practical affairs. Employers now Ceramic in February, after having visited South Africa,

The Register NEWS - PICTORIAL

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1930.

EXAMINATION OR **EDUCATION?**

THERE will be many parents to echo I the lament of Mr. Stokes, the head master of Queen's College, that "the examination incubus" is threatening the cause of true education. For nearly a century there have been intermittent appeals for the release of schools from the system of external examinations, and nowadays there is seldom a speech day which contains no reference to its obvious and the need to develop training on disadvantages. These who conduct schools E. Stokes, headmaster of Queen's Colfind themselves compelled to look upon lege, stressed several of the disadvan-education from two points of view. No-tem at the college speech day yester-

College) presided. upon pass lists, but the schoolmaster has also to consider future vocations. At present competitive examination is the only one of the most experienced educagateway to most professions, and it is his contention regarding the examinarapidly coming to be the open sesame to posts were not awarded on an examinabusiness life. While this is so, the ex-known to have been the case elsewhere. ternal examination, like other evils of modern life, will be always with us were watching the proposals to revise Parents have to consider whether they will insist on a broad and humane education, or whether they will acquiesce, for its practical advantages, in the system of scholastic mass production. The effect oftion system? In India a great mistake more and more emphasis on testing results with the baneful test of its worth by lowing day the headmistress of Crethe inevitable decision has been to lay western system of education, together and less on the training of mind and personality. "In actual practice," wrote a prominent educationist recently, "what the teacher has to keep in the foreground is the external examination. It is pitiful this selfsame examination test of the The chairman of the Public Examithat it should be necessary to state in plain words the platitude that schools exist for the purpose of education."

GIRLS' schools have a relatively greater

freedom from the pressure towards examinations, since they are not required people educated for positions in lifegestion had been made that the Unito equip all their pupils for earning a liveli- likely the uneconomic tendency in this intermediate, leaving, and leaving hood. The principal of Riverside School, in her prize-giving address, makes a coura- any rate, it would not have been fos-wished to attend lectures at that instigeous stand against the system of sacrificing broader aims to the cult of the pass list. Other schools have begun to discriminate, at the intermediate stage, between pupils who wish to continue their education at the University and those who would gain more benefit from a thorough study of a few subjects. These are admirable as beginnings, but will scarcely offer a solution of the general problem, since an increasing number of parents feel, in these days of stress, that girls, as well as boyshould be equipped for earning a livelihood, and more and more callings are being closed to girls without the leaving certificate.

found for examinations as a gateway tem could be modified with advantage. One of the chief difficulties is that in order to keep up the University standard, the leaving examination has been made too Professor Bralisford Robertson as Chief of difficult for the child without a student's makes so great a contribution to chartemperament though with excellent abilichildren are crammed like so many Strasthe leaving examination for those who wish to enter upon courses at the University, and to hold another examination, midway between the intermediate and the leaving, as a test of reasonable proficiency for all other purposes.

Adu. 16-12-30

QUEEN'S COLLEGE

Examination System Condemned

VALUE OF LANGUAGES

Pointing to the crippling effect of the

body would scriously complain that cul- Mr. and Mrs. Stokes received parents hardy to roffer from less emphasis Grenfell Price (master of St. Mark's Continued

In distributing the prizes Mr. Price congratulated Mr. Stokes on his report, which was, he said, the frank views of tionists in the State. He supported tion system, saying that, although all tion in the dead languages, as was there was great need of improvement. He hoped school masters and mistresses the examinations.

Examination System a Curse

accomplished in our public examinawas made in 1851, when an unsuitable population which was and will always should be abolished, as it imposed too be essentially rural. The examination great a strain on children at the age system has been the curse of true edu-(between 15 and 16 years) at which they cation to the people of India. My con-hormally sat for it. tention is, it may be disputed, that worth of education, which in 80 yearsnations Board of the University (Prohas now developed into something vastfessor McKellar Stewart) said yesterday and domineering, lies near the root, lithat the whole system of public examinot at the very root, of our ownnations was under review. Sir Wiltroubles. Education freed from an ex-ham Mitchell (Vice-Chancellor of the amination incubus, as it exists to-day, University), at the request of the uniwould in all probability have evolved versities of Australia, was drawing up a along lines of true value and necessity scheme for a common standard of matto meet the growing requirements of rigulation throughout the Commonthe people. There would have been nowealth. At the same time the sugfor which they were not wanted. Quiteversity should discontinue the present country, for people to crowd into citieshonors examinations, and hold a matriwould not have taken place, or, atgulation examination for those who tered and would have evolved normally, andleave the way open for the schools to suited to the growing methods and as-hold their own leaving examinations pirations of the people receiving it in and issue their own cartificates, as was

Evils of Cramming

in education, and has foisted uponsions. millions of human beings an artificial "Measure of Efficiency for Schools" stereotyped system of education. This The master of St. Mark's College (Mr. amination system, as now organised tance of these tests. acter building and culture as is claimed

In England matters were different, for Importance of Languages . the great public schools worked upon their own syllabuses without external demand this certificate in many branches "Recently in England, a committeeexaminations, and most of their stuappointed by the Government to con-dents took the University matriculaof work, and as a consequence unfortunate sider markets and salesmanship, a spe-tions (which were often comparatively cially vital subject in these times ofeasy) in their stride. Great attention commercial depression, made its report was given, however, to the best stubourg geese. The remedy is to keep Let me quote:- In almost all markets dents, and these were especially preit is a damaging and often a fatal han-pared for University scholarships. The dicap, if representatives, whether prin-new proposals for a uniform matriculacipals or subordinates, cannot conversation throughout the Australian univerfreely with the customer in his ownsities seemed to approach the English language, as well as read his own news-plan, as the schools would prepare canpapers and trade journals; and perhapsdidates for the University matriculaan equal handicap if correspondencetion and the University scholarship exfrom headquarters is not conducted inamination, but would otherwise be free that language. Many years ago Japanto issue their own certificates or to realised this need, and set her schoolcontinue the existing system as they children to learn foreign languages willed. If, however, the three present and to do so effectively so that theyexaminations were retained, beside the might be able to write and talk totwo University examinations now proforeigners in their own languages. Inposed, he hoped that every loophole India one realised that English, andwould be closed against the grave danparticularly Australian, commercialger that the schools would prepare transactions suffered seriously because clever students for all five. of the lack of knowledge of the language of the consumers. University Examinations Sales to dealers may be negotiated through the Mr. Price declined to comment upon

medium of English, but sales in the the examinations within the Unitermarkets cannot be made effective with-sity, except to say that, as the scope out knowledge of the wants of the pur-of knowledge was increasing with chasers expressed in their own lan-rapidly in some subjects, it appeared guage. May I urge parents to foster important for the health of underthe study of languages, including Latin graduates that increasing weight and not to support requests that the should be placed upon practical work study of a language may be discon- and tests throughout the year, in order tinued. In addition to the material to prevent augmenting the great strain value of languages, there is the great of the final test. Also, in courses mental training to be gained by the where many fallures occurred in the effort to master their structural details, later years, he felt that the standard a training which differs greatly from of matriculation and of the first the that gained by the study of mathema-should be raised substantially to area unfortunate cases where students had

Adv. 18-12-30

UNDER REVIEW

UNIVERSITY MAY DIS-CONTINUE THEM

Each year at speech-day gatherings of secondary schools strong protests against the present system of public examinations are voiced, and this year has been no exception.

"What have the past three decades The headmaster of Queen's College (Mr. Stokes) on Monday roundly condemned the whole system, and the folthat the intermediate examination

System May Be Changed

encouraged. Education tution. If that were done it would

the localities in which they lived. the case at present in Melbourne. The whole question would be discussed fully "The fetish of examinations—to be Examinations Committee, which comseen in the impelling desire to cramprised the professors and lecturers of the students through intensive competitive University and representatives of the tests, and in some cases primarily toEducation Department and secondary secure the highest places in these tests, schools. What system would be fol-

regardless of true educational worth-lowed in the future would depend very has of necessity crowded out real valueslargely on the outcome of those discus-

overburdening system has, of course, A. Grenfell Price) stated that the comincreased facility among students munity owed a great deal to the Unioften to the lasting detriment of their versity public examinations, a system physical and mental health, in passing which as a whole provided a fine curricomplicated examinations. It has in-culum, an incentive to work, and a creased the unseemly scramble among measure of efficiency for all schools. At teachers and schools to secure thethe same time he agreed with those highest places in examination lists. Opprincipals of schools who felt that so the other hand, it does not always fol-many tests and so many subjects placed low that the more industrious students a strain upon certain pupils, and he pass, and that those who do best in wished a system could be devised un-SO far no acceptable substitute has been these examinations have the finestder which certificates could be awarded characters and the best equipped brains partly upon the examinations and partly to become foremost citizens, leaders imupon evidence of good, steady work to certain callings, but at least the sys- the State, leaders in commerce, and inthroughout the year. Educationists other walks of life. Of all those who were not altogether to blame for the enter for public examinations in anumber of examinations, as it had been number of countries-at any rate, ap-found that many South Australian stuproximately one-third or more fall dents worked better under this stimu-Looked at from this point of view, itius, while parents, business houses, etc., is pertinent to doubt whether the ex-were apt to over-emphasise the impor-

English Public School System

to be advised to go elsewhere, or abandon their proposed professo-

after they had spent several years th ir lives and some hundreds