

MR. R. J. M. CLUCAS, B.A.

It is with deep regret that we record the death, which occurred at the beginning of the term, of Mr. R. J. M. Clucas, who for the last thirty years has so ably filled the position of University librarian. It would have been difficult to find a man of more varied activity or more extensive knowledge and experience.

Born in the Isle of Man fifty-eight years ago, Mr. Clucas came to Australia with his parents at the age of ten. As a young man he joined the Education Department and, until he became librarian of the University in 1900, gained experience in teaching at various public schools. In 1908 he took the degree of Bachelor of Arts at this University.

For thirty years he carried out his duties as a librarian in a most efficient and thorough manner. He it was who introduced the card-index system (to replace the old-fashioned and cumbersome book catalogue) and the Dewey decimal system of classification, thus bringing our library into line with similar institutions all over the world. He was the ideal librarian, combining wide and varied learning with unflinching tact and courtesy. Mr. Clucas was most enthusiastic over the plans for the new Barr Smith library, and spared neither time nor thought in his desire to obtain the best possible result from the point of view of modern library planning and equipment. The new building will be a fitting culmination of his life's work, and we sincerely regret that he did not live to see his dream come true.

Of his other activities apart from his work in the library it will be possible to make only the briefest mention. He was a member of the Royal Society of South Australia, and for three or four years was secretary of

the Malacological section, besides being an active member of the South Australian Branch of the Royal Geographical Society. In 1901 he took over the secretaryship of the Public Examinations, and those were the days when candidates sat from West Australia as well as from this State. When Economic Geography was introduced as a subject in the Commerce course, Mr. Clucas was appointed lecturer, and held the position until 1928—a period of twenty-five years. Most keenly interested in this work, he belonged to the modern school of "human" geographers, with whose aims he was wholly in sympathy.

His hobbies were numerous. Besides possessing a fine collection of shells, he was an enthusiastic amateur photographer, and an ardent lover of the best in music, especially of Beethoven; while his keen appreciation of good literature may be seen from a perusal of his translation of the "Fifteenth Idyll of Theocritus," which he had published.

But his chief hobby was surveying. For some years he was engaged in making a contour map of the Adelaide Hills, and the maps and records he completed should be of great value to the State. He made an annual trip to Kuitpo with the Engineering students, and while initiating them into the mysteries of the theodolite, availed himself of their help to make a map of that district.

It is not strange that to some who knew him well, Mr. Clucas seemed one of the most able men on the University staff. But it was above all his delightfully keen sense of humour, his kindly, sympathetic, whimsical disposition that caused him to be regarded with such deep affection, not only by his library staff but by all who came into contact with him.