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FIFTY YEARS AGO

From "The Advertiser,"
June 28, 1884

AT the inaugural public meeting of the University Shakespeare Society, the attendance was large and distinguished, the Governor (Sir William Robinson) and the Duke of Manchester being present. The Chancellor of the University (Hon. S. J. Way) presided. Professor Boulger's lecture was a scholarly criticism of Shakespeare's works.

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Proposal For University At
Canberra Deferred

CANBERRA, June 28.

A national University in Canberra will not be considered again by the Federal Cabinet for a year at least. The Minister for the Interior (Mr. Perkins) said today that Cabinet had rejected a proposal that about £50,000 should be allocated for expenditure on the first building for the University. This means that the question cannot be considered again until the Estimates for the next financial period are being prepared.

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LACK OF UP-TO-
DATE BOOKS
Criticism Of Public
Library
RESEARCH STAFF
SUGGESTED

A lack of up-to-date books in all sections, particularly technical books, was the main criticism of the Adelaide Public Library voiced yesterday by Mr. Ralph Munn, a director of the Carnegie Institute Library, Pittsburg, U.S.A., who is making a survey of Australian libraries.

"This was explained to be due to shortage of funds," he said. "The committee has not bought many technical books during recent years. It is true, they are expensive and go out of date more quickly than other types of books, but other libraries which we have visited are purchasing them in spite of short funds. They realise that the high price alone is enough to keep individuals from buying them, and so-called book buying is an important public library principle. One publicly owned book is of service to a great many users. Many of the technical books in the library are hard worn, indicating that there is a real demand for them in Adelaide."

The library also appeared to be seriously lacking in staff, said Mr. Munn. There were scarcely enough librarians to supervise the rooms which must be kept open to the public, and no extensive reference or research aid could be given. The staff felt that it had done everything possible in helping enquirers to find their books and periodical articles. In New South Wales the research office had been found to be of the greatest possible assistance to industrial interests. A large and up-to-date technical division, with a research staff, would no doubt be of great assistance to manufacturers in South Australia.

The chief librarian was thoroughly competent, Mr. Munn said, and had made the best possible use of the small resources at his disposal.

Mr. Munn also visited the Barr Smith Library at the University, and said the building was by far the best University library he had seen in Australia, and compared favorably with those of Universities of the same size abroad. It was both attractive and well planned from a practical and administrative point of view, and the collection of books was adequate for the number of students and the scope of the curriculum.

Object Of Visit

Explaining the object of his visit, Mr. Munn said that at the request of the Australian Council for Education Research, which realised that Australian libraries were lagging far behind those of Great Britain and the United States, he had been appointed by the

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Carnegie Corporation of New York to make a survey of Australian libraries, and to recommend possible lines of improvement. He was making his survey in conjunction with Mr. E. R. Pitt, chief librarian of the Public Library of Victoria, and they had now only to examine the libraries of South Australia and Western Australia to complete their task.

The most noteworthy difference between the libraries of Australia and those of Britain and the United States, Mr. Munn considered, was that State Governments were virtually the only authorities which had established public libraries in the Commonwealth. Melbourne and Sydney possessed excellent reference libraries, but outside those two cities, with one or two exceptions, the people of New South Wales and Victoria had practically no library facilities other than those provided by subscription libraries and institutes.

"In the States we have visited so far," he added, "we have found that the subscription libraries are almost worthless from an educational point of view, and are dying from lack of interest and support. One of the principal objects of our visit to South Australia is to determine whether country institutes have been developed here to a greater extent than elsewhere in the Commonwealth."

Mr. Munn was welcomed on his arrival by the president of the Society of Friends of the Public Library (Sir David Gordon, M.L.C.), the president of the Public Library Board of Governors (Mr. B. S. Roach), the Parliamentary Librarian (Mr. W. C. Quilton), and the University Librarian (Mr. W. A. Cowan).

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Nazism And Higher Education

From "Eldos"—Mr. Bronner, in his lecture on the influence of Nationalism upon German education, spoke of the "Ideal of a new spirit of citizenship." One is tempted to ask the lecturer whether this new spirit is going to be borne out of the Nazi educational programme? Mr. Bronner is surely aware of the new "Gleichschaltung" policy, which has driven out of Germany the brilliant scientists, Einstein, Haber, and Frank; the philosophers, Husserl and Cassirer; the psychologists, Wertheimer and W. Stern; the great authority on international law, Professor Kelsen; the historian, Kantorowicz; the economists, Bonn and Lederer, and hundreds of others who made German learning famous all over the world. It is on behalf of these illustrious men that Professor A. V. Hill, the famous British physiologist in "Nature," of February 24 last, in answer to the platitudes of the Nazi-Professor Stark concerning the "freedom of scientific teaching and research," wrote—"With Professor Stark's political anti-Semitism I need not deal. To an unpretended Englishman (without any Hebrew ancestry or Marxist allegiance) it appears absurd." How can one speak of universities "inspired with the right ideal," where the students turn up in Nazi uniforms, and, as the case was in Berlin, the doyen of German philosophers, Professor Stammler, was compelled to resign because he dared to criticise the hooliganism of the University students? How can one speak of "ethical problems" when the Alma Mater of Jena introduced a Chair for "Rassenkund" (Race Theory) and appointed the pseudo-intellectual Günther to "prove" the superiority of the Nordic race?

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SURVEY OF
LIBRARIES

Book Service Is
Chief Need

EXPERT'S VIEW

THAT the chief need of Australian library work was book service to the small towns and country centres, is the view of Mr. Ralph Munn, director of the Carnegie Institute Library, Pittsburg (U.S.A.), who arrived in Adelaide today in the course of a nation-wide survey of Australian libraries.

"The Australian Council for Educational Research realised that Australian libraries were lagging far behind those of England and the United States," Mr. Munn said today, "and so it requested the Carnegie Corporation of New York to make a survey to determine the present conditions and

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to make recommendations as to the lines along which Australian libraries should develop.

"The Carnegie Corporation appointed Mr. Ernest R. Pitt, chief librarian of the Public Library of Victoria, Melbourne, to act with me. So far, we have completed our studies in all the States, except South Australia and Western Australia."

Australian libraries differed from those of England and America in that the State Governments were virtually the only authorities which had established public libraries, he said.

"Thus, in Melbourne and Sydney, we find splendid reference libraries operated by the State Governments, but almost nothing outside the capital cities. Sydney and Prahran (Victoria) and a few small suburban municipalities are the only ones who rate themselves for local library purposes."

SUBSCRIBERS ONLY

Most of the library service outside the Australian capital cities was given through subscription libraries, usually called Mechanics' Institutes, or Schools of Art, and open to subscribers only.

"In the other States," continued Mr. Munn, "we have found that the subscription libraries are almost worthless, from an educational viewpoint, and are dying from lack of interest and support."

South Australia's provision for central book buying and advisory service for these country centres through its Association of Institutes, has excited Mr. Munn's interest.

"Our chief interest in South Australia," he said, "is to determine whether this central association has succeeded in developing the country institutes to a greater extent than is so in the other States."

Mr. Munn, who has been associated with library work for most of his life, has long been in the forefront of the campaign for children's libraries. He has been very disappointed so far by the lack of such here.

Mr. Munn spent today in the Public Library, and during the remaining four days of his visit here will concentrate more particularly on the Institutes' Association, University, Parliamentary, and other libraries.

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SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AT
KOONAMORE

The newly appointed Professor of Botany at the University (Dr. J. G. Wood) submitted to the council of that institution at a meeting on Friday, a comprehensive report of a recent visit he paid to the University reserve at Koonamore in company with Messrs. P. J. Kennedy, who was recently appointed research officer by Australian Estates and Mortgage Co., on work being conducted by the company on the pastoral improvement problem on its western Queensland property, and R. G. Thomas, of the Animal Nutrition Division of the C.S.I.R. The report dealt fully with the latest work carried out at the reserve.

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At a meeting of the Council of the University on Friday, the resignation of Mr. G. K. Hughes as demonstrator in chemistry was accepted, and Mr. J. R. Price was appointed his successor. Mr. Hughes has been appointed to a junior lectureship in chemistry at the Sydney University. Mr. Price is the David Murray scholar for research in science at the University.

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Epic Of The Never Never

HERE is a remarkable story of courage and endurance, which has been brought to my notice by Mr. J. M. Black, Dr. Fenner, and the secretary of the Royal Society (Mr. Ralph Segnit). It concerns Mr. H. H. Finlayson, and is told in the following letter written by Mr. Vic Dumas, of Upan Downs Station, Mount Woodroffe, via Oodnadatta, to his cousin, the Registrar-General of Deeds (Mr. V. E. R. Dumas):—"During the first three months of this year we had Mr. H. H. Finlayson (lecturer in chemistry at the Adelaide University) and his brother up here. Mr. Finlayson had quite a trying trip out to the Petermann Range. He left per motor car, with camels carrying his petrol behind. He only got out one day's stage from Ernabella with the car, when he had two bad punctures in the thick mulga. He decided to send the car back and carry on with the camels. He had a half-caste and a blackboy who had been with whites all their lives. Just as he got into the Petermann Range they both cleared out, and left him with five camels on his own. He got another black out there who said he knew all about camels. Anyway, the same day as he got him the beggar

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cleared out. Finlayson left three camels in hobbles, and pushed on with two camels for two and a half days. Luckily he took all but about 20 lb. of flour and odds and ends with him. When he got back five days later the blacks had been through his camp, and had taken all the rations he had left, even

to salt and pepper, and curry powder. He stayed two days making smoke signals, thinking he might get some natives to come to him to hunt up the other three camels he had left behind, but never a soul turned up. He re-packed his collection of specimens and brought the most valuable with him on the two camels he had. On the long trek of more than 360 miles back to Ernabella he never saw a sign of a native all the way. Mr. Finlayson has only one hand and one eye. He lost his hand and eye through experimenting with chemicals some years ago." Mr. Black told me that in spite of hardships Mr. Finlayson brought back very valuable zoological and botanical collections. He had been on country not traversed by anybody since the Elder Expedition of 1891, led by Mr. Larry Wells, the last of Australia's great explorers, whose work has not been adequately recognised. I am sorry to say.

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UNIVERSITY DEGREES
CONFERRED

Successful Students

A special conferring of degrees was performed by the Chancellor of the University (Sir George Murray) at the University yesterday afternoon in the presence of members of the Council and the Senate. Associated with the Chancellor on the platform were the Vice-Chancellor (Sir William Mitchell) and the Warden of the Senate (Mr. Justice Angus Parsons). The following students were presented:—

- Bachelor of Laws—Keith Elliott.
- Doctor of Medicine—Malcolm Turner Cockburn, M.B., B.S.
- Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery—Frank Kenneth Wallace.
- Master of Arts—Lorna Discombe Sparrow, B.A.
- Bachelor of Arts—Margaret Helen Thomas (in absentia), Ad eundem gradum—Nancy Champion de Crespigny, B.A. (Melbourne), in absentia.
- Bachelor of Engineering and Diploma in Applied Science—Mephah John Gratton, Maxwell Elliott Sparrow, Colin Francis Adams (in absentia), Jack Shnukal (in absentia).
- Doctor of Music—Robert Dalley Scarlett, Mus. Bac. (in absentia).
- Diploma in Pharmacy—Adeline Zoe Martin.

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Busy Week For University
Students

This will be a busy week for students at the Adelaide University. Tonight Professor C. S. Hicks will address members of the Science Association in the Refectory on "Some Chemical Regulators of Vital Processes." In the Prince of Wales lecture theatre tomorrow night, Mr. R. Bronner, reader in English at the University of Freiburg, will lecture on "German Religion and Philosophy." This will be the last of the three lectures by Mr. Bronner on German Nationalism in the 1934 series of public lectures arranged by the University.

On Wednesday night, in the Refectory, a debate arranged by the Men's Union and the Labor Club will be held. "A Bill for the Nationalisation of Banking" will be the subject. Mr. E. R. Dawes, former leader of the State A.L.P., will propose the Bill, and Mr. R. W. Davis (chairman of the Adelaide University Labor Club) will second it. Opposing the Bill will be Mr. Cameron, M.P., who will be supported by Mr. C. T. Moodle, the secretary of the law faculty.

On Thursday evening, the annual Pharmacy Ball will be given in the Refectory. On Friday night, the second term Australian Student Christian Movement Conference will open at Holiday House, Mt. Lofty, when more than 50 students will attend. The Rev. Norman Lade will be chairman of the conference.

Another faculty annual dance will take place in the Refectory on Saturday night, when the committee of the Science Students' Association will entertain a number of professors, lecturers, and other guests outside their own association.