

was represented by seven fine studies, one of which was the "Massacre of the Innocents," and another an exquisite little gem, "The dance of the Cupids." These, compared with earlier examples, showed the decided development of the art of engraving. This steady improvement was again made evident by some of Adam Ghisi's work. Abandoning what may be termed the Italian school, which comprised some beautiful subjects, the next to attract attention was a most elaborate production by Jacques Collat, in which there is proof positive of progress made in the art. This is a picture of a fair at Florence about the time of Cosmo di Medici, and it is not only remarkable for the large number of human and other figures introduced, but for the minuteness of detail and the very ambitious character of the conception. Next to this hung an equally fine sketch of Paris, by the same artist. In a more finished style appeared a series of portraits of about the time of Louis XIV. or XV. by a French artist, exquisitely done. The most remarkable was a portrait of Archbishop La Tellier, and another of the eloquent Bossuet. The west wall was occupied by some of the well-known cartoons of Raphael, and further on were two very fine specimens of the English school of art by Robert Strange and William Sharp, also an engraving by Balechau of Vernot's "Bather," one of the finest pictures in the collection. Mr. Murray may be congratulated upon his good fortune in possessing such fine art treasures as those enumerated. From art to science was an easy transition, for the departments presided over by Professor Lamb, Mr. C. Todd, C.M.G., Mr. Adamson, and other gentlemen of similar tastes and attainments were not far off. The room devoted for the time being to the service of Messrs. Todd and Adamson was provided with electric-light apparatus and various other instruments, not the least "uncanny" of which was an appliance by which a good deal of lightning was developed. Mr. Todd was indefatigable in getting up experiments, and one of the most entertaining was

the exhibition of the powers of the telephone connecting the University with the Post-Office, and giving surprising as well as amusing evidences of its vocal and musical capabilities. Mr. Todd's telephone apparatus has, it seems, acquired the pernicious habit of making puns. In another room Professor Lamb, with several enthusiastic students, surrounded by a perfectly bewildering congregation of scientific and some not very silent instruments, enlightened visitors on many matters undreamt of in their philosophy. The collection of beautiful and delicate instruments in this department is really fine, and many an hour might be pleasantly spent in merely examining without venturing to dive into the depths of the mysteries they solve. In the Museum Department the guests found full scope for the exercise of their faculties of observation, for here were shells, fossils, and even two very carefully adjusted and, to the student of anatomy, beautiful skeletons. It would be impossible to pass over the natural history specimens prepared and exhibited by Dr. Haacke, the Curator of the Museum, without commenting upon their beauty and the extraordinary skill shown in their preservation. There were snakes, lizards—not forgetting that fearful-looking, but very harmless reptile, the *Moloch Horridus*—fish, small turtle, and other creatures, preserved with a rotundity of form, perfection of outline, and freshness of colouring perfectly astonishing. The doctor has excellent judgment in the selection of colours best suited to form a background to the specimen exhibited, and it is a treat to see the result of his work. A number of geological specimens furnished by Mr. Otto Tepper, a fossil snapper unique in its way, some beautiful shells lent by Mr. Flatow, and a number of other curiosities had prominent places. In another part of the room were displayed some admirably made models of the human eye, ear, larynx, and heart, coloured correctly and made to take a part in sections, so that the student can study each portion in detail. A leg

array of microscopes makes up the catalogue. In various parts of the University were displayed statues, bronzes, &c., distributed so as to catch the eye but not to weary by monotony. The guests appeared to thoroughly enjoy the very varied evening's entertainment provided for them, and they could not well have done otherwise, seeing that nothing was lacking to make the conversazione a success in every way. Refreshments were provided in a room set apart for the purpose.

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ADELAIDE: SATURDAY, SEPT. 23, 1882.

BOARDS OF MANAGEMENT AND THE PUBLIC.

There is an undoubted advantage in having some of the State funds appropriated to specific purposes managed by Boards, who are charged with the specific duty of seeing that the money is wisely and economically expended. These Boards are not all constituted alike. In some instances the Chairman is a Civil servant, as also are the subordinate officials. In some cases the members of the Board are all appointed by the Governor,

and in others they are elected. In some cases the funds dealt with are voted out of the public revenue, and in others they consist partly of funds thus voted and partly of money raised by private subscriptions. Questions occasionally come before these bodies which can be best discussed with closed doors; but in the general management of the business entrusted to them the public are directly interested, and they have a right to know what is being done. Yet the startling fact is that no reports whatever appear of the meetings of some of the Boards, while others furnish to the Press a brief outline of their proceedings, for the most part so meagre that it conveys to an outsider no intelligible idea of what is being done. Thus the funds spent in connection with or under the control of the Destitute Board amount to almost as much per annum as the rates received by the Adelaide Corporation. The Press are admitted to the meetings of the latter and full reports appear; but no notice is sent to the Press of the meetings of the Destitute Board, and no report of their meetings is published. The governing bodies of the Adelaide Hospital,