

## NEWS BY THE MAIL.

### CUR ANGLICO-COLONIAL LETTER.

[From our Special Correspondent.]

London, July 15, 1887.

You have been informed by telegraph of the appointment of Mr. Thomas Hudson Beare to the chair of mechanics and engineering in the Heriot-Watt College, of Edinburgh. He was, I believe the first holder of the South Australian Scholarship, and his career has been one of brilliant success. The appointment he has now received is worth £400 a year, and he has the right to continue his private practice. Of course his status in the profession will be materially improved by his occupancy of this chair at Edinburgh, and he will probably find his services sought for more than he can conveniently accomplish in the way of private practice. There are those in England who have watched the success of some of the holders of Australian scholarships, and who regret that the privilege accorded to such gentlemen as Mr. Beare will so soon be a thing of the past. Perhaps you are right in diverting the money thus spent in the past to another channel; but at all events there are two sides to that question. Though perhaps Mr. Beare's career is familiar to many South Australians, it will not be out of place if I remind them of its principal points. Prince Alfred College, I believe, lays claim to the credit of having given him his start in the academical course that he has pursued. At the college he was the holder of some three or four scholarships at different times, and I am told that since he was quite a youth he has worked his own way, and cleared by prizes of one kind and another the total expenses incurred in his studies. From the statements contained in his application for the professorship at Heriot-Watt College I find that in 1875 he passed the South Australian Government Civil Service examination, being classed as first on the pass list, and entered the Public Works Office of that colony, Engineer-in-Chief's Department, and remained in that department till April, 1879, when he left for the purpose of preparing for his B.A. examination, which he passed in November of that year, and in December he competed for and secured the South Australian Scholarship. On

arrival in London he selected University College, London, as his place of study, and completed, in June, 1883, a three years' course of study in the Engineering Department there. During this time he was awarded the Gilchrist Engineering Scholarship, value £70, and he subsequently took the B.Sc. degree at the London University. He has gained practical experience of his profession at works at Wednesbury and Manchester, and acted as assistant to Professor Kennedy, at University College, London, where he also acted both as demonstrator in the engineering laboratory and as Professor Kennedy's assistant in private practice as consulting and testing engineer. He is at present engaged in translating, with Professor Cremona's concurrence, two of his works, "The Graphical Calculus" and "Reciprocal Figures in Graphical Statics;" the work is being published by the Oxford University Press, and is announced to appear this summer. He is an associate member of the Institute of Civil Engineers. This truly is a very worthy record for the young South Australian; and though apparently he is not likely to return to your colony, his career reflects credit on the country and its institutions which made it possible for him to pursue such a course.

The history of the Heriot-Watt College is interesting in itself, and serves to illustrate the advances being made in this country in regard to technical education. The Heriot-Watt College is an old mechanics' institution, founded in 1821 under the title of "School of Arts for the better education of the mechanics of Edinburgh in such branches of physical science as are of practical application in their several trades." It at once met with success. In 1824 it was decided at a

great meeting in Edinburgh, presided over by Henry Cockburn (afterwards Lord Cockburn) to build an edifice as a memorial of James Watt, to be the future home of the institution. This scheme was not carried out till 1852, when the name was altered to "The Watt Institution and School of Art." For some years premises were rented, but in 1871 a handsome building was erected in Chambers-street, and this has ever since been its home. In 1885 a scheme was obtained under the Educational Endowments Commission of Scotland, under which the governors of the famous Edinburgh Trust, George Heriot's Hospital, agreed to take over the management, spend £4,000 a year, and turn it into a really splendid technical college, the name now becoming the Heriot-Watt College. Under this scheme three professors—physics, chemistry, and engineering—were appointed, the first being taken by the principal, Mr. F. Grant Ogilvie, M.A., B.Sc., and the two last have just been bestowed—engineering on Mr. Beare and chemistry on Mr. Perkin. Each of the three professors takes charge of his own branch of technical instruction, and will have numerous lecturers under his control and handicraft instructors. Two large wings have been added to the building, while the old portion has been reconstructed. Most extensive laboratories, engineering, mechanical, physical, and chemical, are being fitted up, which will be some of the most completely equipped in the kingdom. As soon as everything is in order, besides the 2,000 students now attending night classes, drawn from all classes of people engaged in business in the day, it is expected to gradually draw together a big day attendance who will be people of a higher grade, training for professional careers, engineers' pupils, &c. Hope is expressed that by energy and hard work on the part of the professors the college will in a few years' time take foremost rank amongst the technical colleges of this country, both in the number of students and quality of instruction.