

The Register November 11th 1884

THE PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY.—At the special meeting of the Council of the University held on Friday, November 7, Dr. Edward H. Rennie was unanimously elected to fill the Chair of Chemistry recently founded by the liberality of Mr. John Howard Angas in connection with the Adelaide University. Dr. Rennie, who is in his thirty-second year, graduated B.A., Sydney University, 1870, taking the medal for chemistry and experimental physics and first-class honours in mathematics. Graduated M.A., Sydney, 1876, taking honours in chemistry and the medal for mathematics. From 1871-75 lectured on chemistry and experimental physics in Sydney Grammar School, and from 1876-77 on the same subjects in the Brisbane Grammar School. In July, 1877, he went to London and graduated B.Sc. at London University in 1880, taking the three subjects, chemistry, physics, and mathematics, and obtaining honours in chemistry. In June, 1882, he graduated D.Sc. at London University, taking organic chemistry as principal subject and inorganic chemistry as subsidiary subject. During 1879 and 1880 Dr. Rennie was Demonstrator of Chemistry in St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, and in 1881 acted as Demonstrator of Chemistry in the Science Schools, South Kensington. In 1882 he acted as Assistant to Dr. H. E. Armstrong, F.R.S., at the London Institution. Dr. Rennie while in England was also employed by the Chemical Society of London to make abstracts of papers published in foreign journals, and received from that Society grants for the prosecution of chemical research. For the past twelve months, owing to the ill-health of the Government Analyst in New South Wales, he has practically superintended the various work of that officer. Professor Rennie will also act as Government Analyst, and will be remunerated on a scale of fees to be arranged between the Government and the University Council.

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THE PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY.—The appointment of Dr. Rennie as Angas Professor of Chemistry in the University of Adelaide is in more ways than one a significant event. Professor Rennie is the first Australian student who has attained to a Professorial position in our University, and his record as a thorough and painstaking worker in the cause of science is very creditable to him and to the country where he has received most of his education. Some fifteen or sixteen years ago Dr. Rennie was one of the most advanced pupils at the Sydney Grammar School, and on proceeding to the University of Sydney he became imbued with an ardent love for science under the guidance of Professor Liversidge, a man who from a scientific point of view has probably exercised a greater influence than any one else on the young men of Australia. In London the domain of study was wider, but the success attained showed the thoroughness of the work which had been done beforehand. The London degree of D.Sc. is perhaps the most difficult of attainment in the world. Dr. Rennie, besides being an ardent student, is also a practised teacher, having been Demonstrator of Chemistry at St. Mary's Hospital Medical School and also at the South Kensington Science Schools. His presence in the University of Adelaide will no doubt be very beneficial to that institution. Science has not yet received anything like its proper share of attention in our University. On the side of mathematics and physics, which lie at one extreme of the domain of science, Professor Lamb, F.R.S., is a distinguished ornament to the University; while botany and other branches of biology which lie at the other extreme are the favourite studies of Professor Tate. But between these branches of science there is an immense and constantly increasing area of study which as yet is almost totally unrepresented in the Adelaide University. The University has authority for granting degrees in science, yet it has not all the machinery for teaching science thoroughly. It is true that students of pure science are not very numerous. Yet their influence on the present-day progress of the world is enormous. Of course Professor Rennie's services will also be valuable to the students of medicine who will soon be gathered together within the walls of the University. Chemistry and anatomy

form together the basis of medical science, and with the services of some distinguished teacher from England, combined with those of Dr. Rennie, Dr. Stirling, and other lecturers, the University will be in a position to impart at least as much knowledge as is required for two years of the medical course. Many people in New South Wales will probably regret that Dr. Rennie has not remained in that college. But so far as the Council of Adelaide University is concerned its business is simply to choose the most suitable man for the work, no matter from what part of the world he comes. Still there is an advantage—perhaps mainly a sentimental one—in having for one of our Professors a man whose life's work is so completely identified with Australia.