

## THE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD.

### A GOOD YEAR'S WORK.

The report on the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery for the year ended June 30, 1897, was laid before Parliament on Tuesday. Referring to the Board the report stated that in October, 1896, Messrs. David Murray and R. Barr Smith, and the Ven. Archdeacon Farr retired, but did not desire reappointment. Dr. Rogers and Messrs Foster, M.P., and T. Gill were appointed in their places. The elected Governors who retired in the same month were all re-elected. A special compliment was paid to Dr. Farr, whose retirement was caused by advancing years and failing health. Owing to the duties of the Chairman, Right Hon. S. J. Way, in England involving long absence, a Vice-Chairman was appointed, Sir Charles Todd accepting the position. Graceful allusion is made to the zealous and faithful service of Mr. R. S. Benham, the Librarian, who died on July 17, 1896. Mr. J. R. G. Adams was promoted to the vacancy, each of the other library officers rising a step. Later in the year Mr. W. H. Ifould, second library assistant, was appointed cataloguing clerk. It had been decided to start early next year re-cataloguing the Library on the dictionary and card-catalogue system. The reading-room in the Institute Building proving too small to meet the public requirements two rooms above it had been opened as magazine-rooms. As to the Museum, the Board recorded a good prospect that measures would now be adopted for effectually curing the damp evil. By the progress made in the restoration and arrangement of the fossils from Lake Callabonna by Dr. Stirling and Mr. Zeitz a room would be presently available for the exhibition of Mr. Horn's coins and of the Egyptian antiquities. Professor Bensly had undertaken the duties of Hon. Curator of Archæology and Numismatics. Reference is made to the erection and exhibition of the cast of the Megatherium Americanum obtained from Professor Ward, of Rochester, United States. Dr. Stirling found during his visit to Europe that the Callabonna fossils excited much interest, and expected to be able to make exchanges which would be of great value to the Museum. The Director gave very great praise to Mr. Zeitz for the skill, care, and patience which he had bestowed on these fossils and for the valuable results which he had obtained.

### THE ART GALLERY.

Coming to the Art Gallery it is mentioned that the intercolonial loan exchange of pictures was continued during the year, but would now be discontinued for a time at least.

The Curator of the Art Gallery reported:—

(1) That all works in the Art Gallery are in good order; (2) that several donations have been made during the year, including the oil painting presented by J. C. F. Johnson, Esq., "Golden Autumn," by Charles Stewart; (3) that one picture has been purchased during the year, supposed to be a portrait of J. B. Colbert. The magnificent bequest by the late Sir Thomas Elder, G.C.M.G., of £25,000 for the purchase of pictures for the Art Gallery is, of course, the most important matter connected with the Gallery. The question of the judicious expenditure of this large sum has occupied the attention of the Board for some time, but pending the return of His Honor the Chairman from England no definite action has been taken. One valuable and important result has, however, followed on Sir Thomas Elder's bequest being made known. The Board represented to the Government that it would necessitate the erection without delay of a safe and suitable Art Gallery building. This was recognised by the Government at once, and preparations were immediately made for the commencement of such a building.

### THE ART SCHOOL AND EXAMINATIONS.

The Director for Technical Art, in his annual report, gives a satisfactory account of the work of the past year, and is able to record progress in nearly every department of the Central School, and in the branch schools at Port Adelaide, Gawler, and Kapunda. There

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is a decided increase in the number of students in the Central School. In the branch schools, Port Adelaide and Gawler show some increase, but there is a falling off at Kapunda.

The free juvenile scholarships granted by the Board give satisfactory results, both in their immediate working and in the subsequent attendance at the school of some of those who have held their scholarships. One Local Art and Science Examination has been held during the year, at which 597 papers were worked, of which 325 were successful. This examination was held at Hahndorf, Gawler, Moonta, Mount Pleasant, and Port Adelaide. These country examinations were superintended by gentlemen resident in the localities, and the officer of examination reports very favourably of the careful way in which they performed their duties.

#### INSTITUTES.

The Institutes continue to make progress, more perhaps than could have been looked for, considering the unfavourable seasons which have been experienced for some years. The total number of affiliated Institutes on June 30, 1897, was 159, an increase of two on the number recorded for the previous year. Steps are now being taken to form a small special library of books on scientific and other subjects of an educational character, from which Institutes will be able to obtain on loan such books as their members may desire to read. This special circulation of high-class books will be in addition to the bookbox circulation, and will not in any way interfere with it.

#### VISITORS.

The attendance during the past year has been as follows:—Public Library, 74,015 visitors; Museum, 71,161 visitors; Art Gallery (including the loan pictures at the Institute), 98,558 visitors. Reading and Magazine-room—The attendance continues large, but there is no means of recording it.

*Register* 27<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1897.

**TEACHERS' GUILD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.**—At the annual meeting of the Teachers' Guild of South Australia Professor Mitchell, M.A., D.Sc., was elected President.

*The Register* 20<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1897.

Monday, October 11, was the last day for receiving entries for the practical examinations in music at the Adelaide University. The Registrar, Mr. C. R. Hodge, informs us that up to the present forty-four candidates have entered for the senior examination, and 171 for the junior. These figures show a slight falling off from last year, which will be accounted for by the fact that there were eighty-four candidates for the primary examination in practice of music. Last year there were forty-four candidates for the senior examination, and 190 for the junior; and in 1895 the figures were respectively fifty-nine and 139. The theoretical examination will be held at the Central Hall, Grenfell-street, on Friday, November 5, at 2 o'clock, and the practical work will commence at the University on the Saturday following.

## CYCLING THROUGH THE HIGHLANDS.

[BY PROFESSOR IVES.]

Their groves o' sweet myrtle let foreign lands reckon,

Where bright beaming summers exalt the perfume ;  
Far dearer to me yon lone glen o' green breckan

Wi' the burn stealing under the lang yellow broom.

At one of the many dinners to which I was invited while in London I made the acquaintance of a gentleman who requested me to accompany him on a cycling tour through the Highlands of Scotland. Learning, however, that he was the President of one of the largest cycle-touring clubs in London, I hesitated, being dubious of my own power to keep abreast of such a companion; but, on being further pressed, I weakly accepted the invitation. I arranged to meet my friend at Oban on a certain Saturday; and it was to keep this engagement that I tore myself away from Shakspeare's lovely birthplace, as mentioned in a former letter. Journeying northward I made another halt at Stafford for the purpose of visiting Ashbourne and Dovedale—places whose quiet rustic charms have been rendered famous by Izaak Walton in his "Complete Angler." As I strolled through the dale along the banks of Walton's favourite stream, and passed the many landmarks he has made familiar in his exquisitely charming and simple descriptions of rural scenery, I felt something of his own spirit of sweet contentment creep over me. The playful trouts leaping at the flies that skimmed the surface of the water, the streamlet's gentle gurgle, the sweet voice of the lark joyously singing as he mounted heavenward, the low bleating of the lambs as they wandered about picking dainty bits from the hillside, the quiet stillness of Walton's favourite pools, over which stood like sentinels the "Twelve Apostles"—those curious pillars of rock, now almost hidden by tangled masses of creepers—all these seemed to harmonize with my contemplative mood; and I sauntered on until a shower of rain caused me to take refuge in one of the many caves in the neighbourhood. No harm was done by the shower, only that the brown waters of the Dove changed to a darker hue, and the wet grass tried to wash my dust-covered feet as I retraced my steps towards that pleasant hostelry, the Izaak Walton Inn. Here in the dining-room mine host showed me where the old piscator had scratched his initials on a window-pane to wile away the time as he waited for his tankard of old brown ale. Here, too, were to be seen the initials of many other celebrities who had loved to visit Walton's favourite haunts. After satisfying with a frugal meal the healthy appetite that my long walk had given me, I hied forth to the old-fashioned vehicle that was to convey me back to the railway station, some distance off. How I enjoyed that drive along sweet country lanes edged in with briars and hawthorns, across which numerous rabbits skipped in timid haste, while the finches sang amid the clumps of beautiful willows growing by the waterside, and the thrush whistled from his perch in the avenues of poplars that lined the road! What titbits for the camera were revealed as we wound in and out among flower-clad hills, crossing and recrossing the little stream, by shallow fords, or frail old bridges! And how content the good folks seemed in their hamlets 'neath the hills as they peeped out of the latticed windows of their thatched cottages, from the chimneys of which the smoke lazily rose skyward! And how spontaneously those lines by the author of the "Autocrat of the Breakfast Table" came forth—

Thus humble let me live and die,

Nor long for Midas' golden touch;

If Heaven more generous gifts deny

I shall not miss them much—

Too grateful for the blessing lent

Of simple tastes and mind content.