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UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING. In connection with the university extension lectures Mr. F. W. H. Widdows, A.I.E.E., began a course of ten lectures on electrical engineering on Wednesday evening. The first of the series, which was very popular and highly interesting, dealt with "Electrical engineering as a profession—training, specialization, and scope." The succeeding lectures will be mostly of a practical and technical nature, and will presuppose some previous electrical knowledge. On Wednesday evening the lecturer dealt with the progress and development of electrical engineering in England within the last few years. He showed figures and diagrams giving such interesting information as follows:—The amount of capital invested in electrical undertakings rose from 14 millions in 1850 to nearly 50 millions in 1900. The number of works in operation rose from 20 in 1850 to about 400 in 1900. The amount of electricity sold for the same period rose from 20 million units to over 100 million units, and the lamps supplied from 2 millions to 75 millions. Electrical engineering had assumed a more settled form, and alterations in machinery were not those to be so radical in the future. Mr. Widdows pointed out to the training of electrical engineers, which was chiefly an account of the practice in England, where the students usually spent some time in an electrical technical institution, and afterwards a further period in mechanical workshops. He laid great stress on this mechanical engineering training. The subjects to be taken up by electrical engineers were most varied, including not only steam and mechanical engineering, but chemistry, physics, and, of course, electricity. He dealt in detail with the subject of training in mechanical engineering workshops. After this period the electrical engineer began to specialize in one or other of the various electrical engineering branches, which embraced manufacturing, electro-chemistry and metallurgy, lighting, traction, and power work. The lecturer dealt in length with each of these various branches, the training necessary, the amount of work to be done through, and the general scope of each of these branches. He laid particular stress on electro-chemistry, which offered a wide field for students, and had hitherto been greatly neglected. He treated at great length with electric lighting and traction work. Generally speaking, he advised students who desired to take up electrical engineering to get a preliminary training in Australia, and to go for further experience to either England, America, or Germany. He felt well assured of the great future of electrical prospects in Australia.

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"A. T. Saunders writes, stating that in the University Calendar for 1897 it is recorded that one candidate passed third-class in her examination for bachelor of music, first year, and also that another candidate passed, first-class, his final examination for Mus. Bac. In the University Calendar for 1898 it is recorded that a third candidate passed her final examination for Mus. Bac., but it is not stated whether she passed first-class, second-class, or third-class. Our correspondent asks:—Why is this? If the last-mentioned candidate passed first-class, why was she not given that credit, as another candidate was in the previous year? If she only passed third-class, why was that fact not set out? If the fact that the first-mentioned candidate only passed third-class in her examination was published, why should not the fact that the last-mentioned only passed third-class—if that was the fact—be also published? In our correspondent's opinion a wrong has been done to one student or to the others. He says:—"It would be interesting to know why this change was made in the calendar, who made it, and for whose benefit it was made." We submitted our correspondent's letter to the registrar of the University, who states that candidates may pass without being classified.

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PROFESSOR IVES'S RESIGNATION.

To the Editor. Sir—Having read many of the letters published in reference to Professor Ives's resignation, there appears to be a suggestion of some friction or disturbance between the professor and the University council. If this is so, the public are entitled to know the particulars, and if the "rules and regulations" of the University are not sufficient to bring these particulars to light I think there is sufficient public opinion to have the subject ventilated; and the professor would be wise to at once withdraw his resignation. If, on the other hand, the professor will assure the public that his resignation is purely on private grounds, then the requisitions now being signed, asking him to withdraw his resignation, are surely out of place, and immediate steps could be taken to prepare a suitable demonstration for his departure.—I am, &c., J.B.W.

Adelaide, July 24, 1901.

PROFESSOR IVES.

In connection with Professor Ives's proposed resignation, several petitions were handed to the University Council on Friday. The first, from music teachers, bearing 99 signatures, reads as follows:—"Our attention having been drawn to a paragraph in the 'South Australian Register' of July 7, 1901, intimating that Professor Ives is shortly to sever his connection with the university chair of music, we, the undersigned, members of the musical profession, beg very respectfully to urge you to reconsider the question of that gentleman's reappointment, so that the state may retain the services of one who has done so much to foster musical art and encourage the higher branches of study. We beg that you will take into consideration the fact that to Professor Ives's labours must be attributed the admitted success of the musical branch of the university, and we earnestly hope that you will see fit to reappoint him to the chair, as his removal would be a grave loss to the state, and a matter of deep regret by all interested in musical progress." A second petition from past and present Mus. Bac. students who have studied under the professor, carrying 30 signatures, reads:—"We, the undersigned students, past and present, of the Adelaide University, desire to express our regret at learning that there is a prospect of the university losing the valuable services of Professor Ives. We have received much benefit, in our own experience, from the excellent methods of study and the high tone of thought and purpose Professor Ives has always sought to establish. The flattering comments made from time to time by visiting European musical authorities as to the high standard of theoretical knowledge shown by Adelaide students owes much to the sound methods of study the professor has founded. By his recent writings the professor has further shown that he is no mere idealist—but that he can successfully practise those principles he teaches—and we hope in the truest interests of the musical art that Professor Ives's services may not be lost to the state." Petitions are also presented from members of the Adelaide Grand Orchestra, the Adelaide Choral Society, the Adelaide Orpheus Society, the Adelaide Liedertafel, and the theatre orchestras, having between 300 and 400 signatures attached. A further petition was sent from members of the teaching staff of the Elder Conservatorium. The decision of the university council has not yet been made public.

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Mr. Clarence Degenhardt has gone to Kalgoorlie to open a branch in connection with the business of Messrs. S. C. Ward & Co., sharebrokers, of Adelaide. Mr. Degenhardt was the winner, nearly three years ago, of a scholarship at the Elder Conservatorium of Music, and his fine bass voice has been heard frequently in public. He will be much missed in musical circles here.

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UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

CAPTAIN MATTHEW FLINDERS.

On Friday evening Mr. George Sutherland, M.A., delivered the first of a series of University extension lectures on "Three Australian Explorers." The course will consist of three lectures, the subjects being Captain Flinders, Captain Sturt, and John McDouall Stuart. The first of these was dealt with on Friday evening. Mr. Sutherland, after briefly referring to the early life of the great explorer, mentioned that the maps published in England one hundred years ago of the continent of Australia—or Terra Australia, otherwise New Holland, as it was then named—showed the island of Tasmania as a mass of land connected with the mainland of Australia, and gave nothing but a vague dotted line to indicate the coast from near the head of the Great Australian Bight to the southern shores of Tasmania. The discoveries, which enabled geographers to fill up the blanks in the world's knowledge of Australia, and to correct the serious mistakes, were made by mainly two young men, who came out to Sydney in H.M.S. Reliance along with Governor Hunter in the year 1795. The adventures of these ardent navigators (one of whom was the ship's surgeon on the Reliance and the other a midshipman), while surveying the coasts of New South Wales in a small boat named the Tom Thumb, only 8 ft. long, formed very thrilling reading. These two, either together or in separate expeditions, succeeded in proving conclusively that Tasmania was an island, and later, in 1801, Flinders started on a voyage of exploration in the Investigator, of 334 tons, and a picked crew. The events, which led to the discovery of the two great gulfs, named after Earl Spencer and Earl St. Vincent, were narrated, and a specially interesting account was given of the accident of the loss of a boat's crew near Thistle Island, when the mate, after whom that island was named, lost his life. The subsequent progress of the expedition was related, and extracts from Flinders's great book on "A Voyage to Terra Australia" were read in connection with the discovery by the navigator from a headland on Kangaroo Island of Mount Lofty in the distance, on March 23, 1802. The meeting with the French Captain Baudin in Encounter Bay, when Flinders expected to have a real encounter with the Frenchman, was made the subject of some interesting comment, and the strange adventures which terminated the voyage occupied the remainder of the narrative. Flinders found that his vessel was rotten, and had to return to Sydney, after surveying part of the northern coast. Two of the three ships, which he was then given to pursue his voyages in, were wrecked, and after enduring great hardships the ship returned to Port Jackson, Flinders, with only ten men, Flinders called for King Island, but was disappointed in finding any further discoveries. The French

kept him there for over six years, and when at length they liberated him he was to a large extent broken in health. He died on the very day on which his book was published. The adoption of the name Australia, instead of Terra Australia, was, the lecturer explained, due to Flinders's suggestion. Referring to the personality of the explorer, Mr. Sutherland said that in science he was an ardent student of the subject of magnetism and made the first steps toward the elucidation of those problems on which the balancing of the attraction of the iron in ships had been successfully accomplished. In conclusion it was urged that Flinders was one of those truly great men, whose memory should be cherished by the people of the Australian Commonwealth, and whose statues should grace the public places of our cities for encouragement of younger generations, and in order to make them take a pride in the land in which they live.—The lecture was interesting and instructive, and was much appreciated by the audience.

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PROFESSOR IVES.

At a meeting of the council of the Adelaide University, held on Friday, a letter was read from Professor Ives, addressed to the Chancellor, requesting a statement concerning his reappointment as Elder professor of music. The council directed that the following answer be sent by the registrar to Professor Ives:—"In reply, I am directed to refer you to my letter of December 18 last, and to state that the council see no reason to alter their decision, which was only arrived at after very long and careful consideration." Mr. N. L. Burnell, secretary to the teachers' committee, wrote, enclosing communications from teachers, lovers and students of music, and members of musical societies. The letter and communications were read, as were also a communication from some of the staff of the Elder Conservatorium, and letters from Mrs. Law, the Rev. A. E. Green, and Mrs. Green, asking for the reappointment of Professor Ives. The council directed that the following reply should be sent to Mr. Burnell:—"Your letter of July 26, and the enclosures thereto, have been laid before the council, and they have directed me to say in reply, that Professor Ives's connection with the Elder Conservatorium ceased in December, 1900, and the council do not deem it desirable to renew his engagement as professor of music, which comes to a termination at the end of the present year. The decision of the University was arrived at after long and careful consideration, and was communicated to Professor Ives in December last."

PETITIONS FROM TEACHERS AND OTHERS.

The petitions presented to the University Council on Friday last, asking that Professor Ives's services should be retained for the benefit of the educational life of the State, were highly influential. Ninety-nine teachers of music "urge the council to reconsider the question of that gentleman's reappointment, so that the State may retain the services of one who has done so much to foster musical art and encourage the higher branches of study." They further beg the council "to take into consideration the fact that to Professor Ives's labors must be attributed the admitted success of the musical branch of the University," and they earnestly hope the council will see fit to reappoint him to the chair of music, as "his removal would be a grave loss to the State, and a matter of deep regret to all interested in musical progress." Another petition, numerously signed, says:—"The flattering comments made from time to time by visiting European authorities as to the high standard of theoretical knowledge shown by Adelaide students, owes much to the sound methods of study the professor has founded. By his recent writings the professor has shown that he is no mere idealist, but that he can successfully practice those principles he teaches," and this petition concludes with the hope that "in the true interests of the musical art" Professor Ives's services may not be lost to the State. In view of the pronounced success of the professor's new symphony, and the spontaneous outburst of appreciation that the performance of so important a composition evoked, it is not surprising that the public have echoed the words of the memorialists that the council would seriously and fairly consider their wishes.

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Dr. Stirling, who is at present the guest of Sir William Ingham, his brother-in-law, at 65, Cromwell-road, Kensington, had a very pleasant journey to America from Sydney via Auckland, and the Hawaiian Islands, where he stayed three weeks before making for 'Frisco. A further spell of the same duration was spent travelling in Southern California, and thence he made for Vancouver, and by way of the C.P.R., Chicago, and Rochester, to New York. Visits to Washington, Princeton, Boston, Harvard, Yale, Ottawa, and Quebec followed. Then Dr. Stirling crossed the Atlantic in the Oceanic to Liverpool, and he arrived in London early in the present month. His trip round the world was undertaken primarily for purposes of pleasure, but his route has been largely determined by a desire to examine various laboratories, libraries, and museums, and will continue to be so. Dr. Stirling anticipates spending three months in Europe, but his plans for the future are not yet crystallized.