

Register 22nd Aug. 1899.

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Advertiser 25th Aug. 1899.

THE LATE DR. WHITTELL.

South Australia lost a substantial asset yesterday when that fine old white-souled colonist Dr. Whittell passed out of the sight of those who knew him and loved him, and whose lot he had done so much to brighten. For essentially a good man was the veteran doctor, and good men are among the best possessions of any State. The poet gave voice to a universal belief—a belief deeply rooted in the nature of even the most heedless and erratic—when he wrote:—

Howe'er it be, it seems to me 'Tis only noble to be good; Kind hearts are more than coronets.

Some well-meaning mortals dream noble deeds, but Dr. Whittell performed them not the less truly because they were done unostentatiously and without thought of earthly reward or man's laudation. Some men talk in sonorous tones on public platforms concerning the nobility of rendering life less of a tragedy than it otherwise would be to stricken souls, and those who hear applaud, and say what grand humanitarian fellows these plausible professors are; but their altruism ends in the talk in which it starts, for they believe that charity should begin at home and remain there. They are not humanity-lovers; they are mere axegrinders—noble on paper only. Others find their time so much occupied in scattering seeds of kindness all around their path that they have not the leisure,

even if they had the inclination, to remind the world how exceedingly good they are. Among these Dr. Whittell always held a high place, and to-day, and during many other days and to-morrows, his death will be sincerely mourned by numerous humble souls in whose heart the memory of his gracious acts has fructified into other kindly deeds; so that the circle of his beneficent influence must constantly increase.

Too true is the saying that the world soon forgets its heroes and its saints, and that the notoriety of a Nero is a more solid assurance of immortality in earthly annals than the just celebrity of the most genuine lover and friend of his fellows who ever blessed the world by dwelling in it; but equally indisputable is the verity that the good which men do is not always interred with their bones. Not more surely do the sweet daisies spring from the corruption of the grave than come the bright flowers of gentle deeds to witness to the influence of a devoted and beautiful life. When such men die it is fitting that attention should be drawn to their distinguishing characteristics, so that in this cymbal-clashing, trumpet-blowing, self-vaunting age, when gilt masquerades so shamelessly as gold, people may see that retiring merit is valued, and that men's deeds are not assessed on the terms of their own advertisements of them. Dr. Whittell rendered much service to this community during very many years as a physician, as an original investigator in the fields of science, and as a zealous and enthusiastic public servant; but he will best be remembered for his unaffected, never-falling goodness and kindness of heart—shown here in his helpful counsel as a Mentor among matured men, and there in the gentle, soothing persuasion which—always associated with dignity—he addressed to timorous little children shivering with the dread due to a first appearance in the Coroner's Court. And, while shedding sunshine all around him, good Dr. Whittell never suffered his own griefs to shadow other people's lives. Many times his soul was harrowed by crushing afflictions, but he kept them to himself, believing in the maxim that a true man should rejoice in company but mourn in solitude.

Laugh, and the world laughs with you; Weep, and you weep alone!

"Go, bury thy sorrow; go, hide it with care." That was one of his mottoes; and, because his interpretation of it in practice was only an index-incident of a self-sacrificing and always love-inspiring career, the memory of the late Horatio Thomas Whittell will long be cherished with affectionate and admiring regard.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

The second of a course of lectures on French literature was delivered at the Adelaide University on Monday afternoon by Mlle. Dussau, formerly Lecturer in French Literature and History at King's College, London, and Lecturer in French Literature at the University of Heidelberg, Germany. The subject of the lecture was "The four literary periods of the 19th century—Mme. de Staël and Chateaubriand, founders of the romantic school." There were about seventy people present, and the lecturer, who dealt with her subject in an able manner, was listened to with rapt attention throughout.

The ninth lecture of Professor Ives's series on music, which was given in the music-room of the University on Monday evening, was chiefly devoted to a consideration of the first species of counterpoint. The lecturer gave a minute description of the rules which govern this species, with examples of common errors and methods of avoiding them, on the blackboard. Special mention was made of the interval known as the "tritone," and reasons were advanced for its avoidance. Rules to be observed in the writing of the first species of counterpoint, generally known as note against note, in two, three, and four parts, were specified, and a number of examples were composed, each step being explained in a chatty and easily understood manner. Professor Ives dwelt at length upon the importance of a wise choice of harmony, and succeeded in keeping the close attention of his auditors throughout his remarks. Next Monday the second and third species of counterpoint will be dealt with.

Professor Mitchell gave the final lecture of his course on "Hamlet," and summarized the character of the Prince of Denmark with a fine critical analysis. He briefly reviewed standard opinions which, he said, were not only varied but contradictory, and inclined to the belief that Shakespeare intended to depict one of the highest types of character struggling under extraordinary strain. He was shown to be a man with a will not equal to his intellect and intensity of feeling, yet consistent because perfectly natural. The delay of his revenge was attributed to the greatness of the task rather than to any weakness of character. Although by some critics accused of cowardice he was in no place in the play accused of it, and there was nothing cowardly or mean in the whole of his actions. He was not a man of action, yet this did not show inconsistency. The Professor drew the character as an ideal one in intensity of feeling and of lofty intellect, though prone to melancholy and reflectiveness of disposition. The course of lectures has been well attended, and exceedingly interesting to students of Shakespeare.

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The death of Dr. Whittell has removed a gentleman who had distinguished himself not only in the numerous public offices he had held in the colony, but in his private scientific pursuits. He had at different times, served on the board of management of the Adelaide Hospital, as well as on the staff of the non-surgeons. He had held the position of examiner in hygiene on the council of the University, and was a member of the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery Board, in addition of his official position as president of the Central Board of Health and city coroner. He was a man of marked individuality. His kindly, and refined features, his white head and beard, added to the picturesqueness of his personal appearance. Thoroughness was his most conspicuous characteristic. He believed in the adage that if a thing is worth doing it is worth doing well. Although his life was devoted to medicine, he, by no means confined his studies to this branch of science. He was a lover of art and literature, devotedly fond of music, at the same time taking a keen interest in the events of the day, and was beyond most men a man of culture. His private laboratory at East-terrace was amongst the best in the colony, and he devoted a large amount of time to the study of bacteriology. He was the founder of the microscopical section of the Royal Society of South Australia, and was deeply interested in all departments of scientific progress.

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The second of a series of lectures on French literature was delivered at the University on Monday afternoon by Mlle. Dussau. A bright and comprehensive description was given of the literary periods of the nineteenth century, which for the purpose was divided into four sections, and afterwards special attention was devoted to the life and writings of Mme. de Staël and of Chateaubriand, the founders of the Romantic school. Typical extracts were given from their works, and the influence which they exercised on their successors was duly indicated.

PROFESSOR RENNIE.

AN INTERESTING INTERVIEW.

Professor Rennie, professor of chemistry at the Adelaide University, and Mrs. Rennie, who arrived in Sydney on August 6, after a twelve-months' trip through England, Europe, and America, reached Adelaide on Thursday morning by the Melbourne express, and they received a hearty welcome home from a large number of friends, who met them at the railway-station. Amongst those on the platform were the Rev. Dr. Paton and Mr. James Henderson (of the council of the University), Professor Bragg, Mr. Higgins (Professor Rennie's assistant lecturer), Mr. C. R. Hodge (registrar of the University), Mr. S. Hughes (registrar of the School of Mines), and others. A large number of the University students also were present, and the ladies presented Mrs. Rennie with a beautiful basket of flowers.

When Professor Rennie left for Europe on August 4 of last year on a twelve-months' holiday he had two objects. One was to see all the principal sights of the old and new world, and the other was to obtain the latest ideas in the construction of metallurgical works and appliances, and to learn the systems of teaching now adopted in Europe and America.

In giving a short outline of his trip, the professor, who was accompanied throughout all his travels by Mrs. Rennie, said:—"We landed at Marseilles, and went down through the principal towns of Italy, chiefly on a pleasure trip. We spent a week in Switzerland, and there I met Professor Lunge, who took me through the magnificent laboratories at Zurich, which are some of the finest in the world. We made our way to Munich and Dresden, and near Dresden is Freiberg, where I went through the School of Mines and Metallurgical Works. These are of ancient date and very interesting, historically especially. You see processes there which could not be carried on elsewhere, because the local conditions enable the work to be carried on at a cost that would make a profit impossible anywhere else. From there we went to Stassfurt, and saw the great salt mines and salt works. At Mansfield we saw the celebrated copper works, which are so ancient and so unique, for there is nothing like them anywhere else in the world. We then went to Clausthal, where there are some Government metallurgical works, chiefly lead and silver. We went on to Frankfurt on the Rhine, and I there saw some platinum works for the refining of gold and silver. Passing on to Cologne we went to Krupp's great works at Essen, to a big coke manufactory at Bochum, and to some big lead works at Mechernich. Then we took a short run through Holland and Belgium. The only place of metallurgical interest was Liege, where I saw one of the oldest and finest zinc works in the world."

"Passing through Paris we crossed over to London, and there I saw several chemical works, such as a big indiarubber factory, soap and glycerine, and coal tar works. I made Manchester my headquarters for the purpose of inspecting the large alkali works, and the various kinds of iron and copper works in the neighborhood. I went down to South Wales to see some copper and iron works at Swansea and Cardiff. Then we went north to Scotland, where I saw some more iron works, and shale oil works, and went all through Nobel's explosive factories. Of course we went to a number of places for pleasure, but they were mere sight-seeing trips."

"Crossing to America in May, I visited the Yale and Harvard Universities, and met several men who showed me every attention, and gave me full information concerning their magnificent laboratories, and metallurgical collections. In New York I inspected some lead works, including silver and gold refineries, and some zinc and copper works. Then I went to Pittsburg, and saw the enormous furnaces belonging to Mr. Carnegie. These are the largest in the world, and the works are remarkable for the great development in mechanical appliances. From Pittsburg I went to Denver, and there saw the celebrated Argo smelting works, and large copper and lead works, where there is a special furnace, and where a special method of working is adopted. Finally, I went to some copper and lead works at Salt Lake City. We came home by the San Francisco route, calling at Honolulu and Samoa, and reaching Sydney on Sunday, August 6. In Sydney, by the way, I saw tin smelting works, unlike anything I had seen anywhere else."

"I did not go down to Cornwall, which is the great tin country. I wanted to acquire more recent knowledge and equip myself better for teaching purposes. I learnt a great deal, and renewed acquaintance with many scientific men in London, and had opportunities of meeting leading scientists in my own departments of chemistry and metallurgy, who were all exceedingly courteous and willing to give every possible information. I made enquiries about methods of lecturing and teaching, and obtained metallurgical specimens for the University and the School of Mines."

Professor Rennie was aware of the gift of £10,000 of Mr. George Brookman, and the proposal to erect a School of Mines building, and in this connection the information he has gained will be exceedingly valuable. He and Mrs. Rennie had a most enjoyable trip. The professor will resume his duties at the University at the beginning of the next term, in about a fortnight's time.