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THE LATE MR. TURNER.

The enquiry into the circumstances attending the death of the late Mr. E. F. Turner resulted in a verdict that the poisoning of the deceased gentleman was accidental. The evidence clearly pointed to this conclusion. Mr. Turner rushed to the doctor when he discovered what he had done, and told him in an agitated manner that he had taken cyanide of potassium—a good deal—by mistake. The deadly drug acts swiftly, and the unfortunate man knew that he was dying. In less than an hour and a half from the time he swallowed the poison all was over. Cyanide of potassium, as an expert witness mentioned to the jury, possesses the same general properties as hydrocyanic or prussic acid, though it kills with somewhat less rapidity; and there is no known antidote to it. A suicide who should choose it as the means of ending life could not hope for a euthanasia; it is a poison that inflicts cruel sufferings. Yet at Newcastle on Monday another of those strange couples who, tired of existence, resolve to die together, made use of this terrible agent of destruction. In Mr. Turner's case there was no ground for the least suspicion of self-slaughter, nor any conceivable motive. The deceased gentleman was of cheerful temperament, and it is not suggested that he was in any trouble. His career had been useful and successful. Both at the University and at the School of Mines he gave evidence, in positions of responsibility, of a rare degree of scientific ability. For some time he had been rendering the colony excellent service as Inspector of explosives and Customs analyst, and, as the coroner remarked yesterday, his extensive acquirements and professional skill justified the expectation of a future of distinction. It is exceedingly sad that a life so promising should be unnecessarily sacrificed. How Mr. Turner came to make his fatal mistake is not clear, but it is evident that he owed his agonising death to some momentary thoughtlessness or want of care. The jury were told that no particular precautions were taken in Mr. Turner's laboratory to distinguish between poisonous and harmless chemicals. The fact is, as the coroner said, nearly all that the laboratory contains is poisonous. Surrounded by so many deadly agents, it would appear that a worker would take special care, when drinking, to see that he applied the right glass to his lips. The obvious

and somewhat commonplace moral of this case, as of so many others, is that in such circumstances extreme danger threatens every man who, even once, relaxes the necessary precautions. It is quite likely that the late Mr. Turner was ordinarily most careful, and that the error which cost him his life was his first lapse into negligence. On the other hand, it is a truism, constantly illustrated, that familiarity breeds contempt. In all dangerous occupations there are instances of the happy-go-lucky temperament which makes light of the ever-present peril. How often skilfully-devised arrangements to secure safety are neutralised by the neglect of persons in whose interest they were provided to take advantage of them, or keep them in working order? An accident, causing a needless fatality, nearly always brings an outcry for something more to be done in the way of regulation, and this is well enough when the precautions hitherto observed are shown to be inadequate and capable of improvement. As far as law can reasonably go to protect men from themselves, as well as from external conditions involving unnecessary danger, it is of course good policy and simple humanity to carry the law. Still it must not be forgotten that mere legal enactment cannot do away with the inherent weaknesses of human nature, and till that nature is changed, or greatly modified, preventable accidents involving loss of life will continue to occur, well-meant legal regulation and all the moralising in the world notwithstanding.

I have received from the Adelaide University the annual pamphlet dealing with the examinations in music and the Elder Conservatorium. As its former issues, this is complete in every particular, and should be of great service to all who intend pursuing themselves for the University tests. The most important part of the new matter which it contains, the amended syllabus, has already been dealt with; the only other new information of importance is the regulations in connection with the degree of Doctor of Music. To obtain this credit, candidates must write an exercise of a specially-berate character than that required for the Mus. Bsc. degree, with an accompaniment for full orchestra, and afterwards pass a final examination in the highest branches of music. This book is admirably printed by Messrs. W. K. Thomas & Co.

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SUCCESSFUL MEDICAL STUDENTS. The results of the Melbourne University final honor examinations for the first term of 1899 have just been received, and it is gratifying to find that several Adelaide students have again distinguished themselves. Amongst the number is Dr. Claude P. Cooper, who passed his fifth year, and obtained his diploma last November, and who has now been successful in surgery and obstetric medicine, and diseases of women and children, as well as in medicine, forensic medicine, and psychological medicine.

Advertiser 20th March 1899.

UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE. The following is the pass list in the order of merit in connection with the University March examination for the LL.B. degree:— Law of procedure—Walter Leslie Stuart, third class. Jurisprudence—Henry Newman Barwell, third class. Constitutional law—Thomas Abram Le-Messurier, third class; Edward Clyde Padman, third class; Alfred Charles Weaver, third class. Law of contracts—Theodore Henry Nicholls, third class; Frederick Phillips Keats, third class; Stanley Bowman von Doussa, third class. English language and literature—George Frederick Gunson, third class. Latin—Henry Newman Barwell, third class; George Frederick Gunson, third class.

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THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S RECOVERY. Forty-six years ago in March Samuel James Way arrived in South Australia; thirty-eight years ago in March Mr. S. J. Way was called to the Bar in South Australia; twenty-three years ago in March the Hon. S. J. Way was elevated to the dignified position of Chief Justice of South Australia; and on this day in March the Right Hon. S. J. Way, P.C., Lieutenant-Governor of South Australia, will resume on the Bench the duties of the extremely responsible post which he has occupied with such distinction during just half of the time of his residence in the colony. This latest appearance of His Honor affords ground for special rejoicing on the part of the public whom he has served so well. Only a few weeks ago his life was in serious jeopardy. There seemed to be grave reason to fear that the eminent jurist's last judgment had been given, and that South Australia would be called upon to mourn the irreparable loss of one who had long been the most prominent figure in the community. Though nearly sixty-three years of age the Chief Justice, in spite of the abundance of his tireless energy, exhibited in attention to numberless public duties, was at the beginning of the year one of the youngest men in the colony—interpreting youth as a synonym for vigour. Never before had his activity been exerted to the same extent; never before had his versatility displayed itself in such diverse and striking forms; never before had he manifested so much self-sacrificing eagerness to spend and be spent in the service of the State. Then the stroke of an in-

stidious and dangerous malady suddenly prostrated him and left him as a helpless child hovering on the borderland betwixt life and death, and thousands of his friends and admirers throughout Australasia and beyond watched sympathetically and anxiously for the medical bulletins conveying the latest tidings from the sick room. Happily His Honor's constitution proved strong enough to bear the terrible strain placed upon it, and we cannot draw a sharper contrast between what was and what is, or call attention to a more significant proof of the distinguished sufferer's recuperative powers than is supplied by the fact already mentioned that this morning he will be back in his seat on the Bench, which he loves as well as adorns.

To say that the Chief Justice will be able at once to resume the performance of his full share of official work would be to ascribe to him a capacity to renew his strength which eagles might envy, for recovery from an illness such as that which has laid him aside for weeks is necessarily a slow process; but it is gratifying to know that his medical attendants entertain the opinion that his restoration will be complete, and that there is every prospect of his being able during many years to come to discharge his judicial functions should he be minded so to do. We heartily felicitate His Excellency upon his reappearance among the activities of life, and the evidences of goodwill and affection which have been showered upon him cannot fail to assure him that our congratulations are endorsed by South Australians of all classes and creeds. Not less earnestly or in a less representative sense do we express the hope that he will find it possible to resist in time to come the tendency to which he has yielded in the past of overstraining himself by an all too good-natured and easy compliance with the solicitations of those who have been wont to call upon him to take a prominent part in public engagements of every description, quite regardless of his physical limitations and the necessity even in his case of an occasional rest. People are always ready to work a willing horse to death, and a contributory fault of the versatile and active temperament is that its owner never knows when he is overtaxing his strength—he being the one of all men most loth to recognise the fact that the capacity for work of even the most energetic of mortals has bounds. This fact has doubtless by this time impressed itself upon the mind of Mr. Way, but probably his dominant thought to-day will be much the same as that which the quaint American poet Carleton imputes to one of his homely characters. That character had passed through great troubles, but while they were heavy upon him there had come a revelation of an intensity of affection towards him which he had never suspected, and which would not have been revealed to him had it not been for his trial. Thereupon he remarks effusively that the men who can best enjoy the felicity of Heaven are those who have been plunged for a few minutes into the antipodes of that region. So we believe that Mr. Way, as he takes a retrospect of the last few weeks, will feel that it was worth while even to approach the confines of the next world, since that experience has evoked so many and such deeply touching proofs of the people's respect and loving esteem.

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A SUCCESSFUL ADELAIDE STUDENT. Mr. J. A. R. Smith, late of the Adelaide University, has finished his medical course at the Melbourne University with success. Last year he won both scholarships open to fourth-year students. This year he obtained first-class honours in forensic medicine and psychological medicine, and was equally successful in surgery—obstetrics and diseases of women. Besides these two scholarships, he won the Beane Scholarship for Surgery and the Beane Scholarship for Pathology. Twelve students went up for these examinations, and Mr. Smith obtained all four prizes that are offered, amounting to something over £200. Mr. Smith previously won scholarships at Prince Alfred College and the Adelaide University, where he obtained his Degree of Science. He will now fill the position of Senior Resident Surgeon at the Melbourne Hospital for one year.