

**BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY.**

Tenders are being invited for the first of the additions which the council of the University propose to make to the buildings connected with the institution. In the present instance the contract will be for the erection of the second storey on that portion of the main edifice north of the library, the object being to provide additional rooms for library and other uses, but the ultimate idea is to devote the whole of the new space to the library. Temporarily, however, only the rooms on the western side will be set apart for such purposes. A big room on the eastern wing at the northern end will be utilised as a classics and philosophy lecture room, a smaller apartment south of it being reserved as a law lecture hall, and a third room being intended for the use of the professors. The whole of the masonry work will be of Sydney freestone, as the original block is constructed of that material, and in every respect the architecture of the new portion will be in harmony with that of the old. The main stairway will not be interfered with, as the plans, which have been prepared by Messrs. Woods & Bagot, provide for the erection of a separate flight of steps north of the existing flight, and also escape stairs at the rear of the building. It is hoped it will be possible to arrange with the contractor to insert the ceiling and floor one each side over the existing lecture rooms before proceeding with the erection of the walls, so that the work of the different classes which use the rooms shall not be interfered with to any great extent. If it is found impossible to do so, the whole of the ground floor space may have to be dispensed with while the contract is in progress, which would be a cause of serious inconvenience to the work of the University.

**MAWSON EXPEDITION.**

**GOVERNMENT AID SOUGHT.**

MELBOURNE, January 18. Professor Masson, accompanied by Dr. Mawson, called upon Sr. Pearce to-day to place before him, as senior Minister of the Government in Melbourne, the grounds upon which they asked for Government assistance for the antarctic expedition. Sr. Pearce stated subsequently that his visitors had pointed out that the prospects of mineral discoveries were good, and that there were other commercial possibilities in the way of sealing and fishing enterprises. They had informed him that the land was only five days steam from Australia, and its permanent settlement was practicable.



DR. DOUGLAS MAWSON.

They had also referred to the great scientific importance of the expedition, but had dwelt more strongly on its commercial side. He had noted all they had said to him, and would lay it before Mr. Fisher and Mr. Batchelor, who would, no doubt, bring the matter before Cabinet. The Minister said he would not commit himself to any statement regarding the probable attitude of the Government; but it is understood there are good grounds for believing that the request will receive sympathetic treatment at the hands of the Ministry, particularly as they have already recognised the claims of expeditions which were not, like his, of a purely Australian character.

**MORE HELP.**

MELBOURNE, January 18. At the conclusion of the Science Congress in Sydney, Professor Masson, of the Melbourne University, sent a cable message to Sir Ernest Shackleton, asking him whether he would sanction the proposal to organize an antarctic expedition under Dr. Mawson's leadership, unfettered by any control outside Australia. An instruction was given to Professor Masson to send the cable message, as doubt had been expressed whether the Australian expedition would clash with Sir Ernest Shackleton's arrangement. Professor Masson to-day received a cable message from Sir Ernest Shackleton stating that he approved of the scheme for a purely Australian expedition under Dr. Mawson's leadership. The expedition will now receive the grant of £1,000 made by the Science Congress. Professor Masson to-night received a telegram from Sydney, stating that Mr. Samuel Hordern had given £1,000 towards the expedition.

**GREAT MEN COMING TO AUSTRALIA.**

Almost all the great British men of science will come to Australia to attend the Science Congress in 1914. Professor Balfour, of Edinburgh University, the great botanist, hopes to be able to spend six months in Western Australia in botanical investigation before the 1914 meeting. The following British scientists are among the most important of over 200 who, in reply to a circular sent out by the British Association, said they would be glad to come out here in 1914:—Sir William Ramsay, the great physical chemist; Professor Rutherford, the great New Zealand-born authority on radio-activity, and who was awarded the Nobel prize for chemistry in 1908; Sir William Crookes, the inventor of the Crookes tubes and discoverer of a new element; Sir Oliver Lodge, one of the men of science who have gone in for psychical as well as physical research; Professor Herdman, of the Chair of Natural History at the University of Liverpool; Professor Armstrong, professor of chemistry at the London Central Institute; Major MacMahon, the leading mathematician, secretary of the British Association; the general treasurer, Professor Perry, one of the best-known scientific engineers; Sir Joseph Larmor, secretary of the Royal Society; Sir E. Thorpe, late director of the Government Laboratories, London; Dr. Boyd Dawkins, the geologist; Professor Sollas, president of the Geological Society, professor of geology and palaeontology at Oxford in 1897; Professor Gregory, author of "The Dead Heart of Australia"; Professor J. A. Thompson, the biologist; Professor G. C. Bourne, the anatomist; Professor G. B. Poulton, the zoologist; Sir D. Johnston, Dr. J. S. Keltie, and Sir C. M. Watson, who are interested mainly in matters geographical; Professor Hudson Beare, of Edinburgh, formerly of Adelaide, and first winner of the South Australian scholarship at the University; Professor Hele Shaw, Professor Hopkinson, and Sir W. H. Preece (engineering); Dr. C. Elliott-Smith, who is one of the best-known anatomists in Great Britain; and Professor A. C. Haddon, of Cambridge, and Professor J. L. Myers (the three leading embryologists); Sir R. T. Fraser, of Edinburgh, Professor Cleland, of Glasgow, and Professor Sims Woodhead, of Cambridge, the leading physiologists.

One of the most interesting personalities attending the Science Congress is Miss Amand-Wright, of Adelaide (says the Sydney "Sun.") She has probably founded and belongs to more clubs than any other Australian, and is the author of 30 inventions. She is one of the founders of the Adelaide Club for Women and the Linguists' Society, which she hopes to make a Commonwealth affair. She is on the committee of the Glenelg Institute, and is deputed to enquire into the working of libraries in the eastern States, belongs to the Microscopical Society and Field Naturalists' Society (which are branches of the Royal Society), the Musical Lyric Club, the May Club (for the sale of needlework, &c.), and the Poetry Recital Society. Nine Adelaide poets belong to this society, in which Miss Amand-Wright, as a relative of Mrs. Hemans and Thackeray, is deeply interested. She also belongs to the newly-formed Adelaide University Women's Students' Association, which has adopted for its badge a silver owl on a black ground, bearing the motto "Koaa" (native for "Onwards"). Miss Amand-Wright's speciality is languages. She speaks French, German, and Italian fluently, and has dabbled in ten other tongues, as she knows the Continent of Europe thoroughly. The Pin-guard League was founded by Miss Amand-Wright. A Melbourne doctor knows of 40 cases where death was caused by stabbing with a hatpin—and not at football matches either. In Germany it is proposed to pass a law to make the guarding of hatpins compulsory. Miss Wright's idea is that wealthy women should combine to buy pin-guards for their poorer sisters. Her chief hobby at present is the founding of a School of Domestic Science in connection with Adelaide University on the lines of the one started last May at London University. Her scheme has the approval of the Minister for Education (Mr. Coneybeer), and when she returns to Adelaide it will be formulated. It is to be something more than a domestic training college. There will be five branches—Physics (in which students will be encouraged to invent mechanical appliances to lessen labor), chemistry of foods, cookery, physiology, to determine the bodily effects of cookery, and psychology to determine its mental effects.

**THE ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.**

**SIR ERNEST SHACKLETON'S APPROVAL.**

**DR. MAWSON'S MOVEMENTS.**

Melbourne, January 18. Dr. Douglas Mawson, who will lead the Australian expedition to the South Pole, reached Melbourne to-day from Sydney. He called on the Lord Mayor, Federal Ministers, and others, and left by the express for Adelaide in the afternoon. Next week he will leave Adelaide for London by the R.M.S. Osterley. Dr. Mawson and Professor Masson had an interview with the Minister of Defence to-day in reference to the proposed expedition to Antarctica. They asked that the Commonwealth should assist financially, and also give what moral support lay in its power. It was explained to the Minister that the idea is thoroughly to investigate the lands in the antarctic regions lying immediately south of Australia. Assurances were given that there were good prospects of important mineral discoveries and the possibilities of commercial development in other directions, which will make the occupation of this land profitable to Australia. The greater portion of the territory which it is proposed to explore is within five days' steam of Australia, and is practically as near to Melbourne as Perth. It was urged that there were no insuperable difficulties in the way of settlement, and the scientific results of the expedition would be of great value. The total cost was estimated at about £40,000. Senator Pearce had a note taken of the interview, and promised to bring the matter as early as possible under the notice of the Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs. When Professor Masson learned to-day that Sir Ernest Shackleton had not made any definite plans for his next Antarctic expedition, he sent a cable message asking him if he approved of the contemplated expedition from Australia. This action was taken in order to comply with the stipulation of the Science Congress in Sydney that £1,000 would be voted to assist the undertaking provided that Sir Ernest Shackleton did not regard the expedition as an encroachment upon his unwritten right of priority. In reply to Professor Masson's communication, Sir Ernest Shackleton stated that he approved of the Australian project.

In addition to the assistance already promised by others, an amount of £1,000 has been subscribed by Mr. Samuel Hordern, of Sydney.