

Advertiser May 5th 08

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INTER-UNIVERSITY SPORTS.

The annual inter-university athletic championship contests between teams from the Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide Universities will be held for the first time in Adelaide next month, beginning on June 3, at the Adelaide Oval, and continuing on the two following days. The first occasion in which students from the Adelaide Uni-

versity competed in these races was in Melbourne in 1906, when the Sydney team defeated the Adelaide team by half a point, Melbourne being third and Tasmania fourth. Of the Adelaide representatives C. R. Doudy won the 100 yards flat race, M. G. D. Murray the long jump, and H. M. Moyes tied with J. T. Lawton for the high jump, both clearing 5 ft 8½ in., which is a record for these contests. At the meeting held in Sydney last year the Sydney University was again successful; Moyes, however, this time secured the award for the high jump. The contests next month will be marked by the presence of Nigel Barker, who was Australia's representative at the Olympia games held in Athens a year ago, and who is holder of four Australian championships. This fact enhances the interest of the meeting, as the Adelaide athletes will have an opportunity of showing their mettle when matched against the champions of Australia. The teams are all in active training, and everything points to an exciting and well-contested meeting. On the Saturday after the sports (June 8) the Inter-University Boat Race will be rowed on the Port River.

A RHODES SCHOLAR AT OXFORD.

AS SEEN FROM WITHIN.

(By "Oxonienis.")

That Oxford appreciates her Rhodes scholars goes without saying, and requires no endorsements, notwithstanding the gibe of her rival Cambridge that the system savored of an attempt to create an athletic trust. The special endowments of athletes—the elect of colonial schools and universities, and of athletes only, might afford ground for this qualification. But as these Rhodes men must show an all-round excellence of scholarship, as well as of athleticism, the accusation can be passed over as one of bias, pure and simple. From the Cambridge point of view the Rhodes scholar has of late fallen from grace, through not having laid as much claim to distinction in the world of athletics as was expected of him. That each individual should prove himself a champion—which in Varsity language means a "half-blue," a "blue," or a "double blue"—was not the wish of the founder of these scholarships so much as that the lot should maintain a reputation of all-round excellence. Sufficient time has not yet elapsed for opinions to be formed as to the attainments of the Rhodes scholars in the world of letters. A three or four years' course is needed before finality—the conferring of the degree—can be reached. In the matter of athletics, however, opportunities for distinction offer themselves each term from the time of entering as a freshman up to the close of the Varsity career.

As a body Rhodes scholars are older men, and consequently more staid, than undergraduates hailing from public schools. The majority of the latter enter at 19 years of age, whilst the Rhodes man is often five or six years older. At this stage in life such a gap takes a lot of bridging, and the two forces have not in consequence fused together as readily as might have been desired. This lack of immediate assimilation does not astonish any of us who are familiar with the "noli me tangere" attitude of the average young Englishman on first acquaintance with all colonials. Nevertheless the influence of the elder men from oversea is good, and will do much towards upholding the best traditions of ancient Oxford. Their tastes naturally differ somewhat from those of their juniors. The man of 25, even as a freshman, takes a different view of life from the man of 19. Perhaps some may think the age of 19 no qualification for manhood, but at Oxford we are all "men," irrespectively, and addressed by our tutors and by all authorities as Mr. So-and-So. The average Rhodes man has had more practical experience of the world, and has probably long since cast aside the boisterous spirits of early youth on first finding its liberty. No better illustration of this could be cited than the after-dinner conduct of the whole assemblage of Rhodes scholars at the annual banquet given last term in memory of the founder. This dinner is in every sense a very "swagger" function, quite up to the highest standard at Oxford, where good cooking and good liquor are well-understood, and correspondingly appreciated, and where dinners become life-long memories, and menu cards are treasured up in albums. Out of this great assemblage of 170 men, two only could at the close of the evening be brought under the heading of "merry," somewhat of a contrast to the customary wind ups of undergraduates' dinners, where the percentage of "merry" is almost invariably established in inverse ratio.

Few Rhodes men have as yet reached that pinnacle of fame in the University athletic world known as a "blue," the wearing of the dark blue colors awarded to all who represent Oxford in certain annual contests with Cambridge. I use the word certain advisedly, because in some departments of athletic skill a "half-blue" only is given. The possession of two half-blues does not carry the right to a full blue (probably about the only instance of two halves not making a whole), otherwise one of South Australia's representatives, W. R. Reynell, of Balliol, would be entitled to this decoration. This very promising Rhodes scholar successfully represented Oxford in the lawn tennis (doubles) match with Cambridge, and added immensely to his reputation (and ipso facto, to that of South Australia), by winning the heavy-weight boxing championship for Oxford. Prior to the tennis match against Cambridge the Oxford pair, Reynell and Winston, met H. L. Doherty (champion of the world for the last five years), and G. W. Hillyard (another doubles champion), and to the intense delight of the spectators and of the whole University, defeated them. This victory over All-England was in itself a far finer

Reynell's performance in the boxing arena against Cambridge—to qualify for which part he had to defeat all comers at Oxford—will long live in the memory of the vast crowd of undergraduates present on the occasion in the huge Oxford Town Hall. The building is immense, but notwithstanding its size, it was veritably packed from floor to ceiling, and proved inadequate to hold all who wished to be present. It must have been a very trying and nerve-racking ordeal for all taking part as principals, but doubly so for Reynell, as his performance was the last of a very exciting evening, and decided whether Oxford won the whole competition or only established a draw. Our man had rather the better of the first round, but the second bout was fairly level pegging. In the third round his opponent began to tire, and the superior condition of Reynell (largely due to winding up his training at Brighton) began to tell. The result was that he did nearly all the scoring, and secured the victory to the intense and uproarious joy of all Oxford with considerable ease.

South Australians will be pleased to know that Reynell has been persuaded to take up rowing again (he had a seat in his college, Balliol boat, last year, during the Torpids race week), and will row in his college eight this term. "Torpids" are rowed on fixed seats, and "college eights" on sliding seats. This should give Reynell a chance for his "trial eights" in December. To the uninitiated it may be as well to explain what "trials" are. Before the Varsity eight (which has to meet Cambridge on the Thames) can be picked, about 50 men are tried. These men are chosen from the college eights of the previous summer—two or three from each college. These are again drafted and weeded out until 16 remain, and these two eights race against one another. From them the Varsity crew is finally chosen. Each of these 16 gets a "trial eight" cap, which is the next best honor to a rowing "blue." Reynell's weight (13 st. 10 lb.) is a handicap to him, as every pound over 13 st. tells against rather than in favor of rowing.

Reynell is taking up medicine for his final schools, and is desirous of covering the four years' ground of study in three years. Under these conditions he can hardly expect to get a better qualification than a second class, as it is well nigh impossible for any man to cover the ground necessary for a first within the time at his disposal.

The Rhodes men have nearly all joined the King's Colonials. The glowing accounts of the good times experienced in camp last year have done much towards making this movement a very popular one. Whatever distinctions may have been, or are to be, gained by representatives from other States, public opinion here at Oxford gives the palm to Reynell, of Balliol, and incidentally to South Australia, for the way in which he has up to date "kept his end up."

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THE GAMMA RAYS.

LECTURE BY PROFESSOR BRAGG.

Professor W. H. Bragg, at the Royal Society meeting on Tuesday evening, delivered the second part of an interesting lecture on "An experimental investigation of the nature of the Gamma Rays." He said that when X rays, or gamma rays, fell upon atoms electrons were driven off with great speed. The question was, what was the origin of these electrons? He had succeeded, with Dr. Madsen's assistance, in proving that all the characteristics of the electron, namely, the direction of its motion and its velocity, depended on the nature of the ray, and not at all upon the nature of the atom. These facts supported his theory that the electron came from the gamma ray, of which it originally formed part, and the atom merely dissolved connection between the electron and the corresponding positive counterpart, all going together to make up the neutral particles of which he supposed the gamma rays to consist. Professor Bragg also outlined the present theories held in other parts of the world, and mentioned that, in order to explain the remarkable conditions under which these electrons are produced—some of which he had himself shown to be true—Professor J. J. Thomson was maintaining that light and X and gamma rays did not spread out in uniform sheets, but consisted of minute bundles of energy, possessing all the properties of material particles.

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Quorn.

Quorn.—On Friday night a public meeting was held at the institute for the purpose of discussing the advisability of asking the University Council to establish a local centre at Quorn for examinations, &c. Mr. W. H. Hoggarth occupied the chair. It was unanimously resolved that the council be approached on the matter, and the following committee

was appointed, subject to the approval of the council:—The Rev. E. W. M. Hines, the Rev. A. H. Carne, and Messrs. H. A. Wigzell and H. S. Davey.—The