

Advocate 20.6.19.

It was decided (says the Melbourne "Argus") at the meeting of the University Council, on the motion of Sir James Barrett, to communicate with the Adelaide and Sydney Universities with a view to inviting Sir Rabindranath Tagore, the distinguished Indian poet and philosopher, to visit Australia and give lectures under the auspices of the Universities. It was stated that it would be necessary for each University to guarantee about £120, but it was not considered that there would be the slightest risk regarding the guarantee. Sir Rabindranath Tagore intends to visit America on a lecturing tour, and the idea is that he shall include Australia in his trip.

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THE LATE SIR EDWARD STIRLING.

Howing Tributes by Friends.

Mr. W. A. Horn, of Wimbledon Park house, London, has sent to the Editor of the Register a glowing tribute written by him for The British Medical Journal, and complemented by another from Lord Kintore, concerning the late Sir Edward Stirling:—"Ted Stirling was, indeed, a remarkable man. I had known him intimately for nearly 50 years as a loyal friend, a charming companion, and a conscientious, clean-living gentleman, an unerring worker, and keenly devoted to his profession. He occupied many important and prominent positions during his life. I sat all with conspicuous ability. He sat for three years in the South Australian parliament, where he sturdily upheld his views, and scathingly criticised the 'trimming' which is so often resorted to by mere politicians. He was far happier in the Adelaide Museum studying the 'Notocyetes Typhlops' (a new genus and species of marsupial) or the prognathus skull of an Australian aborigine, or in reconstructing the skeleton of the gigantic Diprotodon Australis, or that huge struthious bird, the 'Genyornis Newtoni,' both of which latter, though now extinct, at one time roamed over the vast silent plains of the Eriomian deserts of Australia, which regions in remote ages must have had a bounteous rainfall and rich pastures. On all of these subjects he has contributed valuable papers, the result of his deep research and untiring assiduity. He personally went out to the desert region of Lake Callabonna, and succeeded in excavating and bringing in on camels several sacks of fossil bones, from which he reconstructed a complete skeleton of the extinct 'Diprotodon Australis.' In recognition of his great work he was made a Fellow of the Royal Society, and later received a well-earned Knighthood. When I was taking a party to explore Central Australia scientifically I unhesitatingly selected Stirling as ethnologist, and his valuable contribution to the published report of the results of the Horn Scientific Exploring Expedition fully justified my choice. Although of a very genial nature, he was very impatient of ignorance, and his usually good-natured criticism of it was often couched in powerful language, adorned with a wealth of adjectives, both appropriate and humorous. Adelaide owes a debt of gratitude to Stirling for his long years of arduous and successful work in connection with the University, Medical School, and South Australian Museum; and the students in his classes a deeper one for the noble example that he set them. His work will live after him; but his place will be a difficult one to fill."

A Former Governor's Testimony.—"The Earl of Kintore, with whom I crossed the continent of Australia from Port Darwin to Adelaide in a four-wheeled vehicle, writes me as follows:—"You can well believe that the news of Sir Edward Stirling's death came to me as a great shock. I had received one of his most interesting letters only two or three weeks previously. His death severs one more of the few links remaining between me and the happy far-off days I spent with my family in South Australia. It is a great satisfaction to me to learn that you are writing some notes of his career for publication; for no one knew him more intimately, no one better appreciated his manifold services to science, no one cherished or valued more highly his unvarying friendship. Ted Stirling was indeed a prince of good fellows; and, if my term of office in South Australia had no other value, my time was indeed well spent when it earned for me the constant friendship, ready counsel, help, and encouragement of Ted Stirling and yourself. When it was determined that I should make the over-

land trip from Port Darwin to Adelaide I lost no time in urging Ted Stirling to be my companion. Nobly was my choice justified! Never once during all the discomforts of the journey, the scarcity of water, the dust, heat, mosquitoes, &c., and the necessity of rapid travel through rough bush and spinifex country, did a single cross or hasty word pass between him and me. No Governor has ever been richer in the constant friendship and unswerving loyalty and support of such a distinguished public servant than I was. How pleased all Australia was when his great services to science were recognised at a later date by the Crown, you and I well know. The State has lost irreparably a foremost citizen, his wife a beloved husband, his family a devoted father, and you and I a very dear, firm friend.—R.I.P.—Kintore."

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THE DIRECTORSHIP OF EDUCATION.

Attention is called by the "Daily Telegraph," Sydney, to the fact that the South Australian Government are increasing the salary of the Director of Education. The paper writes:—"It is worth noting, as evidence of the growing recognition of teachers' services, that while Mr. Maughan only received £800 a year, South Australia is now offering £1,000. No doubt several ambitious inspectors, lecturers, and teachers in New South Wales will experience a call to apply for the position."

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News was received by the last mail that Col. M. H. Downey, D.S.O., was mentioned in despatches for the second time by Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig on December 27, 1918. Col. Downey, who has now resumed duty at the Parkside Mental Hospital, has had considerable military experience. He served with the R.A.M.C. during the South African war in 1901-2, and up to the outbreak of the European war commanded the 31st Light Horse Field Ambulance. He was commissioned as lieutenant-colonel in February, 1916, to form the 11th Field Ambulance for active service, and left Australia with the 3rd Division in May of that year. He commanded his unit at Armentieres, Messines, and Ypres in 1917, and during the third battle of Ypres in October, 1917, was promoted to the rank of colonel, and appointed A.D.M.S. of the 5th Division, vice Col. Hearne, D.S.O., who was killed in action. As A.D.M.S. he was on Divisional Headquarters staff in Belgium, and subsequently on the Somme and Hindenburg's line during the German and allied offensives in 1918. Col. Downey received D.S.O. during the recent war.

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DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION.

Applications which are now being invited for the position of Director of Education at a salary of £1,000 a year—an increase of £200 on that paid to Mr. M. M. Maughan, B.A., who retired recently—will close at the end of July. The Minister of Education (Hon. W. H. Harvey) stated on Wednesday that the applications would then be dealt with by Cabinet without further delay, as it was advisable to fill the vacancy so soon as possible.

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PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS.

Dr. J. R. Wilton at the University.

For the second time in the history of the University of Adelaide, a past student has risen to the position of professor. Dr. J. R. Wilton, whose appointment as Professor of Mathematics was finalized at a meeting of the University Council on Friday, is remembered among the teaching staff as "the most brilliant mathematical student we have ever had in Adelaide." Now, after having widened his experience and knowledge by a continuation of splendid work as a student at Cambridge University, and then as a lecturer at Sheffield University, and after having won his place as one of the recognized younger mathe-

maticians who are advancing research in the subject, he is to come back to help the University from which he first graduated. It is undoubtedly a happy appointment, which must act as an incentive



DR. J. R. WILTON.

to the students who will come under Dr. Wilton's charge. Dr. Wilton, who is the son of Mr. C. R. Wilton, was born at the Bank of Victoria, Belfast, of which his grandfather was then manager (and where his mother was on a visit) on May 2, 1884, and he spent his childhood at Mount Barker. He went to Prince Alfred College as the youngest and the bottom boy in the school, and he completed his course there as dux. He then took the science course at the Adelaide University, and graduated at the age of 19 as Bachelor of Science with first-class honours in both mathematics and physics. On the advice of Professor Bragg, F.R.S., he went to Cambridge University, where he took the course for the Mathematical Tripos, and in June, 1907, graduated as Bachelor of Arts. He was placed fifth wrangler, and was awarded several prizes, and also won a major scholarship in mathematics at Trinity College. He afterwards took the second part of the natural sciences tripos, and obtained a first-class in physics. He remained for some time in the Cavendish Science Laboratory at Cambridge University, doing research work. Then he was appointed a lecturer in mathematics at the Sheffield University. When the war began he took up X-ray work at St. George's Hospital, London. He received his degree as Master of Arts (honours) from Cambridge and Adelaide, and in 1914 obtained the degree of Doctor of Science (honours) in Adelaide. To The Quarterly Journal of Mathematics, The Cambridge Mathematical Messenger, The Philosophical Magazine, and other journals Dr. Wilton has for some years contributed articles containing the results of his original research, which have made his name well known among mathematicians. His subjects have covered a very wide range, and his work has shown great power. Most of his papers have dealt either with the difficult subject of wave motion or with generalized methods of solution of differential equations. His appointment to the chair at Adelaide has been warmly approved by his distinguished predecessors, Professors Lamb and Bragg, as well as by other well-known mathematicians. Dr. Wilton married his cousin, Miss Annie Gladstone, who is an accomplished woman. She has written articles on literary subjects for The Nineteenth Century Review, and has written and lectured on Dante. She contributed a series of articles on Dante to an English educational magazine.

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RETURNED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION.

IMPORTANT RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions were carried at a meeting of the executive committee of the R.S.A. on Friday evening:—

Sentences Passed on Sailors.

"That this executive protests against the harsh sentences passed on the sailors of H.M.A.S. Australia who were found guilty of breaches of discipline after returning to Australian waters, and that we urge the central council of the league to take up the matter with the Minister of

Defence with the object of getting the sentences reviewed." The opinion was expressed that while the league recognised the necessity for maintaining discipline in the navy, the sentences passed on these sailors were exceedingly harsh and unjust, particularly in view of the war service of the men convicted, and when compared with the sentence of 60 days passed on certain soldiers on a transport for a similar offence.

Teachers and Patriotism.

"That we write to the Minister of Education, stating that it is the opinion of this executive that it augurs very badly for the future education of the children of this State that the coming teachers of our children should be trained in their work at the University Training College by two single men, both well under military age, and neither of whom offered to leave his country in the hour of need; and that if possible two returned soldiers should be put in their places, and if this is not possible, then they should be replaced by two men who were ineligible for active service, who would be better able to inspire patriotism into the minds of the younger teachers and through them to the children."

Soldiers and University Examinations.

"That we write to the Council of the University, asking that tutors be supplied in the essential subjects to assist returned soldiers to pick up and revise their back work, and that the Repatriation Department be approached by the University Council for funds for this purpose."

See Charles Cook Complaints.

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THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Council of the University was held on June 27. Present—The Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Hon. F. S. Wallis, Sir Joseph Verco, Major Smeaton, Mr. Caterer, Mr. Bayly, Dr. Poulton, Mr. Talbot Smith, Mr. Clappie, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Isbister, Mr. Brookman, Dr. Helen Mayo, and Professor Chapman. The finance committee reported the receipt of the bequest (£1,235 17/7) by the late Miss Ellen Milne Bunday, for the purpose of providing for a scholarship or scholarships for the encouragement of original research in botany or forestry. On the recommendation of the Faculty of Arts the council resolved that the subject for the Bunday prize for English verse for 1920 be "Empire." The Faculty of Science reported that a number of applications had been received from recently returned soldiers for exemption from lectures in practical work in biology for the first term. It was proposed to grant the applications, but the faculty pointed out that it would be necessary to hold a special class for the instruction of these students in the work missed to enable them adequately to prepare for the examination in November. The recommendation was approved. On the recommendation of the Faculty of Music the following scholarships will be offered for competition in November next:—The Brookman Scholarship, the Alexander Clark Prize, and the undermentioned Elder Scholarships:—One each for violin, pianoforte, composition, and the Special Scholarship for tenor voice. A letter was received from the University of Glasgow expressing sympathy with the University of Adelaide, in connection with the death of Professor Sir Edward Stirling. Letters received from the University of Melbourne and also from Professor Boyce Gibson in regard to suggested courses of lectures by Sir Rabindranath Tagore, who proposes to visit Adelaide. The Council approved the proposal that the Universities in the several States should arrange for courses of lectures.