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Advertiser 12.4.19.

CHAIR OF PHYSIOLOGY.

SIR EDWARD STIRLING'S SUCCESSOR.

OFFER TO HIS SON-IN-LAW.

At a meeting of the University Council yesterday it was reported that Dr. C. H. Kelleway, of the Melbourne University, had accepted an invitation to carry on the work of the Chair of Physiology during this year. Dr. Kelleway, who has

Dr. T. B. Robertson.

recently returned from the war, was locum tenens for Professor Watson (professor of anatomy) in 1915. He is highly qualified for the position which he is now to occupy temporarily.

The council yesterday decided to invite Dr. T. Brailsford Robertson (Professor of Physiology in the University of Toronto), to fill the Chair of Physiology so long occupied by Sir Edward Stirling. It is said that Professor Robertson is likely to accept the position.

Dr. Thorburn Brailsford Robertson is a son-in-law of the late Sir Edward Stirling, and is well-known in Adelaide. He is a graduate of the University of Adelaide, having taken his D.Sc. degree in 1908, and he is one of many brilliant scholars who have won honor for their university by their achievements in other parts of the world. He is only 35 years of age, but he has already won world-wide renown for his original work in science. He was not born in South Australia, but was brought here by his parents at an early age, his father being a mining engineer in charge of a mine at Callington, where the family lived for a number of years. He received his early education at Miss Stanton's school at Glenelg, and later was privately tutored prior to his matriculation at the University of Adelaide. He was always recognised as an exceptionally brilliant student, with a very original turn of mind. After securing his D.Sc. degree he went to America and joined the staff of the University of California, under Professor Jacques Loeb, one of the ablest bio-chemists in the world, who is famous for, among other things, his work in connection with the origin of life, and who is now on the staff of the Rockefeller Institute. Dr. Robertson assisted Professor Loeb in his researches, and it will be remembered that when on a visit to Adelaide in 1913 he lectured on the artificial fertilisation of sea urchins' eggs, which was part of Professor Loeb's work. The latter held a very high opinion of the young Adelaide scientist, and it was a tribute to the attainments of Dr. Robertson that upon the appointment of Professor Loeb to the Rockefeller Institute his brilliant assistant succeeded to the professorship of bio-chemistry in the University of California, in association with Professor S. S. Maxwell. The chair which Loeb filled was divided between the two younger men. Dr. Robertson held the position until last year, when he proceeded to the University of Toronto as Professor of Physiology. He has done much original work in connection with life and growth, and he discovered and patented the substance tethelin, which stimulates growth, and is of great value in the healing of wounds. A trust was formed in the University of California to manufacture tethelin, and the income from it is to be devoted to scientific research. Tethelin has been found to be very effective in the treatment of ulcers of long standing and slow-healing wounds. Striking results have followed its use. Dr. Robertson also did a great deal in the investigation of cancer. He married, in 1910 the third daughter of Sir Edward Stirling, coming from California for the purpose. He and his wife visited Adelaide again in the latter part of 1913, and he delivered several lectures here, among which was the lecture mentioned above. The late Sir Edward Stirling, apart from his private regard for Dr. Robertson, had an exceptionally high

opinion Only ward admir class which Stirli of gr lished which journals of England and America. He has also published a volume of short stories.

Veterinary School Lecture.

The inaugural lecture at the University Veterinary School will be delivered to-day, at 4 o'clock, by Mr. A. E. V. Richardson, M.A., B.Sc., superintendent of Agriculture. Mr. Richardson will speak of some of the work of the Bureau of Animal Industry in the United States, especially the work connected with the investigation of animal diseases; the large staff so employed, and the magnificent equipment and endowment provided. The vice-chancellor (Sir John Grice) will preside. The Veterinary School will be open for inspection at 3 o'clock, and the director and staff will conduct visitors round the laboratories, museum, and hospital.

Advertiser 17.4.19.

UNIVERSITY NEEDS.

CRAMPED FOR ROOM.

PRESSING REQUIREMENTS.

A deputation from the council of the University of Adelaide, consisting of the Chancellor (Sir George Murray), the Vice-Chancellor (Professor W. Mitchell), and Messrs. George Brookman (chairman of the finance committee), Angas Parsons, K.C., M.P., and C. R. Hodge (Registrar), waited upon the Premier on Wednesday regarding the need for additional accommodation at the University. The deputation asked for a confirmation of the promise made in 1914, that the North-terrace frontage in the neighborhood of the University should not be parted with for any purpose other than for University extension, and also for Government assistance towards the cost of the additional buildings to be erected.

Sir George Murray said more buildings were urgently needed. The physiological laboratory had been too small for the work for a number of years. It had been built to accommodate about 22 students, and there were more than 40 in attendance last year. It had been necessary to duplicate classes, and as the number of students was still increasing classes would probably have to be triplicated. A new laboratory was absolutely necessary. It had been decided to appoint a Professor of Pathology at the University, and although the council was conferring with the Hospital Board, with a view to obtaining the use of the pathological building at the hospital, it would be necessary for the professor to have rooms at the University. At the present time there was only the small Pathological Museum available. A lecture-room was needed in connection with the Medical School, the old room, being more or less underground and surrounded by buildings, having been declared unhealthy. Sir Douglas Mawson, who had been on active service for three years, was about to return to his duties. It had always been a reproach to the University that it had been unable to provide him with proper accommodation. Two other lecturers, Mr. Gartrell and Mr. Clark, would also be returning from the front, and as their rooms had been devoted to forestry during their absence accommodation would have to be found for them. At the Conservatorium more room was needed for teaching. Owing to the number of students having been increased by 100, new teachers had had to be appointed, and there was no room for them. The Professorship of Law, which had been vacant during the war, would have to be filled and accommodation found for the professor appointed. A new library was needed on the ground floor, as the shelves in the old library were full, and the greater part of the late Chief Justice's library was still unpacked, there being nowhere to put the books. A new hall, to hold about 600 people, was needed. The council must either spend more money or let the University go back. One way to meet the difficulty would be to hand over the whole of the School of Mines building to the University. It could then be reserved for professional work, and a technical school be established somewhere else, preferably in an industrial centre. This proposal was not so revolutionary as it sounded, as for the past 15 years all the higher work of the School of Mines had been conducted by a joint Faculty of the University and the School of Mines. Although there were difficulties in carrying out this proposal at the present time, it was highly advisable that all higher education should be controlled by one institution. The pressing need was in connection with the Medical School, for which it was imperative that a building should be erected this year. When the question of providing

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SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 1919.

The University Commencement was more impressive than usual this year. Students, graduates, and public listened to the farewell speeches of Sir Arthur Stanley and Professor Tucker. Sir Arthur Stanley has never missed a Commencement, and he has always made an instructive speech. This year all must have felt a touch of sadness as they listened to his neat, witty, little homily, and knew that it was the last time. He has always had a corner in his unofficial heart, as well as in his official organ, for the University, and for that higher ambition which it represents, and so, when he goes, our University loses a good friend and a very wise adviser. But the speech of the day was the farewell of Professor Tucker. For over thirty years Professor Tucker has stood as a witness for liberal culture at the University. All students have admired his ability, and have felt a kind of wondering reverence for the stand he has made and the testimony he has consistently borne to the value of the things of the mind. Not bread-and-butter knowledge, not the making of money, not political position, nor conspicuous prominence, but just the things of the mind, knowledge and culture and the appreciation of the best, those are what he has stood for and fought for all these years. "Seekest "thou great things for thyself? Seek "them not. . . . Thy life will I give "unto thee for a prey in all places "whither thou goest." Professor Tucker has taught all the students here to value their own life, their own mind, their own spiritual gains, above all else; that has been the secret of his own experience; and now, like an old lion, he stands guarding his prey to the end. Professor Tucker has always identified himself with the Greek language and literature. He has so soaked himself in the Greek spirit, with its sanity, lucidity, and sense of reality, that it has seemed sometimes almost as if he thought in Greek. Wondering students have said that if he kept a dog it would bark in Greek. But perhaps that very saturation has prevented him from quite realising the facts of the present time.

The great, unpleasant fact that all lovers of the University have to face is that the University does not arouse enthusiasm, it seems out of touch with the life of the people. All the criticisms which have been levelled at the University are really so many attempts to explain this unpleasant fact and, if possible, to remove it. Professor Tucker answered the criticisms in the most effective way, and with his usual delightful power, but he never seemed to realise what the criticisms meant; he never realised the fact of the lack of popularity; he never made any suggestion towards the removal of the present disability. What all the friends of the University wish is that there should be no need to go begging for money, that

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accommodation and more extensive fa ties. Nor is this so only in the lo branches; it is seen from the most mentary schools up to the University. it is not often that the University approa es the Government for aid in the work i doing, and it never does so without g cause. Therefore, the more weight ou to be given to the considerations that m follow from the request made last week the University authorities. It is not lik that such eminent men as the Chancellor the University (the Chief Justice, George Murray) and the Vice-Chancel (Professor Mitchell) would approach

the University should be so well known and should arouse such interest and enthusiasm that both private and public endowments would be always forthcoming. So, after listening to Professor Tucker's "apologia" with sadness and delight, with admiration and despair, one always comes back to the fundamental puzzle: Why does the University not call forth the interest, the pride, the enthusiasm of the community? But first it is well to take two instances of the fact in question before we discuss the remedy.

The whole University staff of teachers numbers about a hundred. How many were present at the Commencement? Perhaps between thirty and forty. At once the observer asks, Why this strange lack of interest? Out of honour to the students who have passed through their hands and now take their degrees; out of the honour to the University which they represent, and from which they draw incomes, and whose one great public day in the year this day is; out of honour to the public whom, as a University, they must face, and to whom they must render account, and before whom they should at least make a gallant show; from these causes one would have thought that every member of the staff would have appeared at Commencement. How is it, then, that the University arouses so little interest among the hundred members of the teaching staff? If they do not take an interest in the University as a corporate whole and a united life, if they are immersed each one merely in his own little job, then how can they expect the community to do what they do not? They are the leaders, but what can the people do when the leaders do not lead? Then there are about 1,000 members of the senate, and over 2,000 graduates not members of the senate; in all about 3,000 graduates, of whom probably one-third were within easy reach of the University last Saturday. How many came to Commencement, the one great public day in which they can do honour to their University? Outside the council and the teaching staff, were there ten graduates in the procession? Ten out of a thousand? Surely these facts speak even to those who will not hear. Surely these facts are worthy evidence pointing to the great fact behind, viz., the lack of interest in the University on the part not merely of the community but on the part of its own graduates and even its own teaching staff. Even those members of the senate who valued their privileges so much as to protest against any diminution thereof for the sake of reform, even they, keen as they are on the University and its life, were not to be seen among the graduates last Saturday.

Let the fact, then, be admitted. What is the remedy? Professor Tucker has shown that every criticism urged against the University can be successfully answered. Still, the fact remains, unexplained and inexplicable, an injury to our University and to the whole life of the State. The University needs, as Sir John Grice said, a quarter of a million of money; and, as Sir Arthur Stanley pointed out, Sir John Grice himself and others could raise that money as they had raised similar funds before. The hearer adds, Yes, if a similar enthusiasm could be evoked. That is the crux of the question. Can the University be made honoured and popular among its own graduates; will they take the trouble to come forward and testify, by their presence, to the interest they take in the University, and to their deep sense of obligation for all they have received from it? We cannot expect the community to follow unless the graduates will lead. Perhaps they regard their old University as a "shop" out of which they got much by paying little, and now they are somewhat ashamed of the transaction, and do not like to appear. But there is the remed et