

Register 20/5/21
BIRTH OF THE UNIVERSITY.

INTERESTING REMINISCENCES.

By the Rev. F. Slaney Poole, M.A.
Not a great many are left of those who took part in the foundation of our flourishing and rapidly increasing University—and while I do not pretend to be its historiographer, still (as a survivor who took his humble part in its early stages), it seemed to me that some account of the circumstances in which it took its rise would be of interest. The idea of establishing a university had its origin in the offer by Sir Walter Hughes of £20,000 to what was then known as the Union College, an establishment for the training and education of candidates for the Christian ministry. So far as I can remember, its work was confined to those whom I may be excused from terming, to avoid ambiguity, Nonconformists. The leading spirit of the Union College was the late Dr. Jefferis; and he and his co-workers, with splendid self-denial, suggested to the generous donor that so large a gift might serve as the nucleus of a university. A second contribution of a like amount by Sir Thomas Elder was contributed towards the establishment of a university; and by these two gentlemen the possibility of its establishment was translated into fact.

—Lively Meetings.—
Nothing can be done in Australia without meetings, and meetings there were. Support and opposition were freely offered and the meetings, at some of which I was present, were occasionally rather lively. One gentleman scoffed at the very idea of a local university, and stated his conviction that it would never rise to a higher level than the British College of Health, founded in New road by Dr. Morrison, whose pills were at that time famous, and do not seem to have altogether suited Matthew Arnold, who made great fun of them and of the college.

—Active Workers.—
Those who had the matter in hand did not let the grass grow under their feet. An Act establishing the Adelaide University was passed and assented to on November 6, 1874, and the first council was nominated by the Governor. It consisted of 20 Councillors, who were empowered to elect a Chancellor and a Vice-Chancellor. Power was given to the council to elect a Chancellor outside of their own body; if this were done the council would consist of 21 members. The first Chancellor was Sir Richard Davies Hanson, the Chief Justice, and Bishop Short was Vice-Chancellor; the post of treasurer was filled by Sir Henry Ayers, and that of Registrar by Dr. Barlow. Sir R. D. Hanson held office but for a short period, as he died about a year afterwards, to the great regret and with great loss to the University, for he was a man framed in a large mould, and his strength of intellect and wise judgment would have proved invaluable at that stage of the nascent University. Bishop Short became his successor in the Chair (the Chief Justice, the Hon. S. J. Way, being Vice-Chancellor), and it devolved upon him to deliver the inaugural address when the Senate was first constituted; the date of this meeting was April 25, 1876. In order to establish the Senate the Council had to report to the Governor that 50 graduates were ready to take their places in it. This number was secured by conferring on those of us who had recognised degrees an ad eundem. There was some anxiety whether the requisite number would be reached. It was, but it was not greatly exceeded.

—Personal.—
At this rudimentary stage of the life of our university, I had a rather strong personal interest in it; for it was, I like to think, through me that Professor Lamb had his attention drawn to the position which for ten years he filled so ably as Professor of Mathematics. Before I came to Australia I had been a master in Stockport Grammar School, and Lamb was head boy of that school when I left. Afterwards he went to Cambridge and became second wrangler and fellow and assistant tutor of Trinity College. On noticing the requirement of a Professor of Mathematics at Adelaide, I communicated with my old pupil, and the result followed as I have stated. Professor Lamb, who left here about 1886, took a similar office in the University of Manchester, was made a Fellow of the Royal Society when about 30 years of age, and has now the great honour of holding an honorary fellowship at his old college. The other professors at the very start were Read, Tate, and Davidson. Of these three only Professor Tate was long enough with us to leave any lasting impression, for Professor Read resigned the classical chair in 1877, and I was appointed by the Council to carry on the work for about a twelve-month, till his successor, Professor Kelly, arrived. I have, therefore, the pleasing recollection of sitting upon the professional board with my old friend Lamb, together with Tait and Davidson.

The latter gentleman did not live more than a year or two after the foundation of his Chair. He was a man of considerable taste and culture, kindly and amiable in disposition, and was much beloved by all who knew him. His wife, Harriet Miller Davidson, was the daughter of Hugh Miller, and was herself an author. Sir Walter Hughes appointed Professors Read and Davidson. Sir Thomas Elder waived any right that might have been his, and left the appointment of the Elder Professors to the Council, who delegated the selection to Isaac Todhunter, F.R.S., Hon. Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge; P. G. Tait, Professor of Natural Philosophy, Edinburgh; Dr. H. W. Aekland, Regius Professor of Medicine, Oxford; and T. H. Huxley, Professor of Natural History in the Royal School of Mines, assisted by Sir James Fergusson and Mr. F. S. Dalton, Agent-General. They made an admirable selection. The first classrooms in which we met were in Morialta Chambers, Victoria square—a very unimposing set of rooms, but it was the day of small things. There were rarely more than three or four students in our classes; but, few though they were, some of them have not been without distinction in after life. The first matriculated student was, I believe, Mr. T. A. Caterer; certainly he was the first

graduate, and I have heard him described as the Fourteen-Thousand-Pounder, some ingenious person having reckoned up that this sum of money must have been expended before he took his degree. Mr. T. H. Beare is, or was till recently, a Professor in one of the Scotch universities; Mr. James Henderson was a prominent lawyer in Adelaide, and died about 16 years ago. Mr. P. A. Robin subsequently went to my old college, St. John's, Cambridge, and has held some important schoolmaster positions, and is still "going strong." Messrs. M. M. Maughan (formerly the local Director of Education), Mack, Arthur, and George Donaldson are names that occur to me, as also that of F. T. Whittington (now Archdeacon of Tasmania), whom I coached for his matriculation.

—Accommodation.—
It would have been a difficult augury at that time to predict the expansion of the University as it is to-day. Evidently the council had little idea of the size of the tree that was to grow from the small acorn planted in 1874, for in 1879 we are told that "the council renewed their efforts to procure a design for a building which need no additions. Finding however, that any design, providing permanently and fully for the anticipated requirements of the University, would involve an outlay much beyond their means, the council, after mature deliberation, reluctantly abandoned their former intention, and resolved to erect a building suited to the present wants of the institution. It will be of such a character, and so placed on the site on North terrace, as to be capable of forming at some future time part of a larger and more complete structure." In drawing my recollections to a close I cannot do better than reiterate the remarks at the close of Sir R. Hanson's report in 1875—"The success of the University must mainly depend upon the action of the people of South Australia, and their readiness to avail themselves of the means of instruction it is intended to supply." He might have added, "and to give it all possible moral and material support, Spartam nactus es, hanc exorna."

Herald 24/5/21

STUDY OF ECONOMICS.
"We are beating the air in a great many things," said Mr. E. C. Cutten, S.M., at the Auckland Workers' Educational Association's social, in criticising the importance attached by the association to such subjects as economics. "Some people make a fetish of economics and politics, and I think that undue time is spent on them in the association's work," he said. "Far too much reliance is placed by people on material means of progress, and too little importance attached to moral means. If we concentrated the greater part of our efforts upon the moral realm the rate of social progress would be multiplied many times." Which, asked Mr. Cutten, was more desirable, an unpretentious industrial machine, with abundance of oil of goodwill, or a delicately-balanced machine with sand in its bearings? Looking at things generally, the points that should be drawn attention to most were character and character education.

MINING STUDENTS' SUCCESSES.
Mr. F. G. T. Nicholas, hon. secretary for the trustees of the Mining and Metallurgical Bursaries Fund instituted by the base metal mining and smelting and coal mining companies, state that bursaries and scholarships for the past year have been awarded under the scheme as follows:—Melbourne University.—Scholarship, Mr. G. C. Lindcay-Clark; bursaries, Mr. W. E. Cerutti, Mr. J. D. Rogers, Mr. C. M. Focken, and Mr. J. C. Mackenzie. Sydney University.—Bursaries, Mr. Frank Wattle, Mr. Horace P. Buckley. Adelaide University.—Bursaries, Mr. W. R. G. Colman, Mr. Klem B. Gross. To the boards of the companies which contributed the funds, it is a source of gratification, says the secretary, that the candidates now coming forward are showing much improved scholastic attainments, an evidence, it is thought, of the way in which this aid to the mining student is appreciated by them.

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ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY ADDITIONS
The additional buildings which are being erected on the Adelaide University grounds to cope to some extent with the great demand for accommodation, are making good headway, and some of the new quarters will be available for use before very long. In every branch of University work the number of students has increased to an extraordinary extent, and the authorities have been almost at their wits' end to provide classrooms, lecture halls, laboratories, and the like, so that the work shall not suffer. Immediate relief—although nothing like sufficient to meet all requirements—will be given by the completion shortly of a large building, to be used as a medical laboratory, and four additional teaching rooms for the Conservatorium of Music. The medical laboratory is constructed of wood and asbestos, and is erected at the back of the main building, and the teaching rooms are attached to the Conservatorium, and are being built in accord with the general design of the main structure. They will be ready for occupancy at an early date. Chief of the work going on at the University is the fine new medical school building, the erection of which was made possible by the splendid donation presented for the purpose by the family of the late Mr. John Darling, whose name it will bear. It is at the back of the Museum, and has a most commanding position, overlooking the Torrens and North Adelaide, with splendid views of the Exhibition Oval, the parks, and the northern suburbs. The contract for the work was signed towards the end of 1919 and a start was made soon afterwards. The work was, however, suspended for some time, owing, firstly, to the builders' strike, and then to the scarcity of bricks. Now, however, all is going well. The brickwork was started at the end of last year; two storeys have now been built, and a start has been made on the third. All the floors are of reinforced concrete, and the general design and thoroughness of finish are excellent. It is expected that the building will be ready for use after the Christmas vacation.

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The Adelaide University Commerce Association will hold a Parliamentary session at the union room to-night. An interesting discussion is promised by the introduction of a model Bill, designated "Should we trade with Germany?" Mr. Heaton, M.Com., M.A., will deliver the "viceregal" speech.

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INTER-VARSITY BOAT RACE.
The annual boat race between the universities of Australia will be rowed on Hamilton Reach, Brisbane, to-day. Much interest is being manifested in the contest, and the South Australian crew, who have been in Brisbane for a couple of weeks, have been doing splendidly in their training operations. In bygone contests South Australia has a satisfactory record. The local eight will comprise:—1, W. Ferguson; 2, L. P. Johncock; 3, E. P. Northey; 4, L. Thyer; 5, E. Smythe; 6, F. Morphett; 7, J. S. Lord; stroke, R. L. Naylor.

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ELDER CONSERVATORIUM

A FINE CONCERT.
The vocal recital given by Miss Myrtle Ingham, at which Mr. W. H. Foote, the renowned solo bassoonist made his initial performance under Conservatorium auspices, was a pronounced success. The Elder Hall was comfortably filled, in spite of the unpleasant weather, and the programme was of unusual interest. General opinion has placed the bassoon in an important position as an orchestral instrument only, but a few artists have made it a solo instrument with which full play is given to composers' ideas and ideals. Mr. W. H. Foote has perfect control of the difficult art of tone production, wonderful facility and versatility in clear articulation, and a wide knowledge of the artistry required to show the power and full possibilities of works written for the solo bassoon. His first offering was a "Concertino" by Ferdinand David, a work in which the nature and character of the instrument are forcibly expressed by reason of the mellifluous tone throughout the wide compass, and the fine opportunities for effective, musicianly phrasing. The second number was an "Andante and Rondo Ungarese," by Weber, which aroused fervent applause. Mr. Foote's reception was such that two encore numbers had to be added. These were the well-known Saint Saens theme, "The Swan," and Mr. Foote's own arrangement for bassoon of Theodore Lack's "Valse Arabesque."
Miss Myrtle Ingham had prepared with good judgment a fine selection of vocal gems. Her interpretations were more convincing, and showed deeper insight than at previous recitals, especially in the passionately beautiful recitative and air from Debussy's "L'Enfant prodigue." The four "Bergerettes," arranged by Weckerlin, from 18th century romances and songs, were of delicate and charming context, sung with fine expression and sweetness. Purcell's "From rosy bowers" earned a warm recall, and the scena from "Mephistopheles," by Boito, was accorded a similar compliment. Further groups showed what a wide range of vocal literature has been covered by the well-known soprano. There were Schubert's "Impatience," Brahms' "Lullaby," Taubert's "In a distant land," which was of exceptional beauty, Bishop's "By the simplicity of Venus' doves," Macdowell's "Fra nightingale," and Sullivan's "Where the bee sucks." Mr. George Pearce and Mr. Harold Wyde were the accompanists.

Advertiser 1/6/21

ROWING
INTER-UNIVERSITY RACE.
MELBOURNE WINS.

Brisbane, May 31.
The Eight-Oar Inter-University Race for 1921 was held on the Brisbane River this afternoon, in fine weather, on a flood tide. There was very little wind to interfere with the race. The course was three miles, the same as that of the Inter-State Eight-Oar Championship last year, except that the start was about half a mile further up stream, and the finish was a corresponding position higher up. This gave a much better course.
After half an hour's delay the boats got away to a good start. Queensland gained the initial advantage, and showed the way to Melbourne, with Adelaide third and Sydney last, the crews rowing about 28 strokes to the minute.
At half-way the race had developed into a struggle between Queensland and Melbourne, the two other crews being out of it. Melbourne were rowing a much cleaner stroke than Queensland, although the latter maintained the advantage until the last quarter of a mile. Owing to the deflection of the Queensland boat to avoid a vessel anchored in the river, and to the fact that Melbourne put in a fine spurt at the finish Melbourne won by a length, Adelaide being ten lengths further back third, and Sydney last. The time was 17 min. 25 sec.