

CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION.

Mr. G. A. MacMillan delivered a lecture on "The Tragedies of Seneca" at a meeting of the Classical Association at the University on Thursday evening. He said that L. Annaeus Seneca was born at the beginning of the Christian era at Corduba, in Spain. He went to Rome with his father, and, though a provincial, became the greatest writer of the day. He formerly enjoyed a great reputation, but at the present time his works were little read and less admired. His tragedies were, with one exception, imitations of the Greek, and consisted of rhetorical speeches, the Greek, and consisted of rhetorical speeches, the Greek, and consisted of rhetorical speeches...

INTER-UNIVERSITY DEBATE.

SYDNEY VERSUS MELBOURNE.

The second of a series of inter-University debates was held on Saturday evening in the Prince of Wales Theatre, University, when teams representing the Universities of Sydney and Melbourne discussed the question whether Governments are justified in engaging in trading enterprises. Mr. C. J. Abbott presided, and the adjudicators were:—Dr. Herbert Heaton, Dr. Donald Kerr, and Mr. H. Thomson. Each speaker was allowed 15 minutes to state his case, and the leaders were permitted seven minutes in which to reply, the leader of the side taking the affirmative having the right to speak last. The teams were:—Sydney—Messrs. F. R. Louat, F. C. Stephen, and L. G. Melville; Melbourne—R. R. Scholl, A. L. Pratt, and T. W. Smith.

The Melbourne team took the affirmative view, and the Sydney men the negative. In opening the case for Melbourne, the leader defined Government trading as the sale of goods or services by the central Government of a State, or any body deriving its authority from that Government. A misapprehension existed in many persons' minds regarding Government trading. It did not necessarily mean the carrying on of commercial enterprises by civil servants.

The main points brought out in favor of Government trading by the Melbourne team were:—1. Governments were justified in engaging in trading enterprises when they could do so efficiently. 2. In certain circumstances, Governments were not only justified in engaging in trading enterprises, but it was their duty to do so. Those conditions were:—1. Where private enterprise had not supplied the goods to the community, e.g., irrigation and afforestation schemes; 2. Where private enterprise supplied the community, but had a monopoly; 3. Where Governments had a particular advantage in engaging in business; and 4. Where enterprises were necessary for the safety of the community. Other points made were that managers of Government trading enterprises had just as much incentive to make those ventures a success as managers of joint stock companies had, as their reputations depended upon it.

The Sydney team argued that the functions of Governments were to govern and not to trade. Their task was to provide the means whereby the industry of a country could function efficiently. In other words, their duty was to hold the ring for private enterprise, only providing what was necessary to enable such private enterprise to function efficiently. They contended that Government trading must be inefficient in the majority of cases for the following reasons:—1. Because of the difficulty of securing effective administrative control; 2. Because of the danger of political interference; and 3. Because of the innate conservatism of Government institutions.

Dr. Heaton, who announced the decision on behalf of the adjudicators, congratulated both teams on the excellence of the debate, and the manner in which they had presented their arguments. The adjudicators had decided that Sydney had won by a narrow margin of points, mainly because their combined treatment of the subject was slightly better than that of their opponents.

INTER-UNIVERSITY DEBATE.

THE POWER OF THE PRESS.

The third debate of the inter-University series arranged by the Adelaide University Students' Council, attracted a fair attendance to the Prince of Wales Theatre, University, on Monday evening. Mr. J. T. Woods was chairman.

The subject chosen for debate was "Is the influence of modern journalism pernicious?" The Melbourne team argued in the affirmative, and the negative side was taken by the Queensland representatives. Messrs. A. E. Clarkson, W. J. Denny, and G. McRitchie were the adjudicators. The teams were as follows:—Melbourne—Messrs. Smith (leader), Pratt, and Stephens, and Queensland, Messrs. Pegg (leader), Fry, and Horner.

Mr. Smith (Melbourne) opened the debate. He considered that modern journalism was distinctly pernicious. Journalistic methods had changed greatly within the last 30 years. Sensationalism had been introduced into the English press from America. There had also been a remarkable increase and concentration of press power, so that in America one group of publications was able to cater for 30 million readers. He charged the press, both in America and elsewhere, with the deliberate falsification and suppression of news. The power of the press was becoming dangerous, and both Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George had been forced out of office by the press, which, he considered, was a serious menace to democratic government in England. The charge of sectarianism was also levelled, and it was further alleged that the manner in which the news of the day was presented had a detrimental effect on the English of the people.

Mr. Pegg (Queensland), replying for the negative side, said the good points of the newspapers of the day far outweighed their bad ones. The newspapers reflected the tastes of the people of the day, and it was unfair to expect them to devote a lot of space to the voicing of untried theories. Satirists, who were often reformers, would help to correct the errors of the press, through whose columns they were able to reach the public. It was impossible for journalists to indulge in flowing Johnsonian periods nowadays. People read the papers for news, and the opinions voiced in the political and other columns, did not affect the great mass of the reading public, who desired the news to be presented in as bright and concise a manner as possible. The debate was conducted vigorously, and the interest of the audience was maintained throughout the proceedings.

The adjudicators decided in favor of the Melbourne team, and in announcing the decision, Mr. Denny paid a tribute to the excellent leadership of Mr. Smith. The debate had been well conducted throughout, and a great deal of promise had been displayed by the young speakers.

The championship debate will take place to-night, when the Sydney and Adelaide teams will meet.

INTER-VARSITY DEBATES.

Championship Won by Adelaide.

A large audience assembled at the Prince of Wales Theatre, Adelaide University, on Tuesday evening, when the championship debate concluded the series of inter-Varsity debates that have aroused keen interest in literary circles during the past week or so. The fourth and final battle of wits was particularly interesting. Adelaide and Sydney teams were the contestants. Mr. E. W. Hawker was chairman. The subject was:—"That the French occupation of the Ruhr is justified." The Sydney team argued in the affirmative, and Adelaide took the negative aspect. The judges were Professor Coleman Phillipson, and Messrs. A. W. Piper, K.C., and H. N. Taylor. The Sydney team comprised:—Messrs. Lovat (leader), Mackintosh, and Melville. Adelaide's representatives consisted of Messrs. Adams (leader), Kriewaldt, and McCabe. The secretarial duties throughout the session, were ably carried out by Mr. D. P. McGuire.

The Case for France.

Mr. Louat (Sydney) opened the debate. He contended that no realm of affairs had been more distorted in the eyes of the world, and France had been the victim of unreasoning press propaganda dominated by the power of finance to try and restore Germany to a financial state. France's occupation of the Ruhr had been based on principles of right and justice, as was shown by the Treaty of Versailles. Her claim for reparations was based on broad grounds of justice and fairness. She realized that, in dealing with Germany, she was dealing with a nation already proved dishonourable in meeting her obligations. Force was, therefore, the only weapon. On Germany rested the moral responsibility of the war, for she could have averted it even at the last moment. Instead, she pressed the button and precipitated the calamity. Militaristic doctrines had been hurled down upon the German people so that they had been keyed up to expect world power. Since 1815, with the Peace of Vienna, treaties had been ruthlessly violated. It was just and equitable, therefore, that Germany should be asked to pay for the restoration of France. She had forced fabulous sums from French towns, and had sunk merchantmen. The Armistice was another treaty that she had broken. She had saved her face, but had followed the policy of evasion and trickery. The "victors" so far had paid the whole cost of the war. There was a higher doctrine than all that, and it concerned the sanctity of treaties. A nation's word should be sacred. Hence, France's act in occupying the Ruhr Valley was justified.

Occupation Not Justified.

Mr. Adams (Adelaide), responding in behalf of the negative side, acknowledged the moral responsibility of the war incurred by Germany. But that did not justify France's action. The case did not rest on sympathy for either nation, but on the fact that France's action in the Ruhr Valley precluded payment of reparations. The result opened the doors to possibilities, such as another world war. Defeated Germany had lost her colonies, and her products were not immediately able to be realized upon. She had lost five years and had to readjust herself. She had lost, also, some of her main arteries that fed her machines, and that must be considered from a political plane. She possessed only two means of reparation, gold or goods, and, as she was part of the trading world, it was an economic necessity to place her on some secure economic basis. At the Paris Conference on January 4, Great Britain presented a business plan not tinged with politics, in order to give Germany breathing space, and to avert political chaos. But that was forcibly turned down by the French people. It must be remembered that two-thirds of Germany's supplies of coal and steel came from the Ruhr Valley. So France had struck at the very heart of Germany whose exports had practically ceased. Trade was dislocated, and Central Europe was also disorganized, as was shown by the monetary exchanges. Even though Germany had disobeyed treaties in the past, it was no excuse for France to break a bond to which she had set her hand. She had always fought for the Ruhr Valley, and, to-day, was seizing upon the technical aspect, in order to get what she had failed to do at the Versailles Conference.

A Substantial Win.

Amid acclamation, the adjudicators gave their verdict in behalf of the Adelaide debaters. Professor Coleman Phillipson, in making the announcement, said that the Adelaide speakers had shown a know-

Mr. A. C. Garnett has resigned the pastorate of Grote-street Church of Christ. He will close his ministry there in January, 1924. Mr. Garnett's purpose in leaving Grote-street is to secure a little leisure to undertake a further course of



The Rev. A. C. Garnett.

study in philosophy. His plans for next year are not yet fixed, but it is probable that he will take a smaller church in the suburbs of Adelaide, and, if so, he will continue to conduct the W.E.A. classes in psychology and philosophy that he has for the past two years been teaching at the University.

DAILY CABLE LETTER TELEGRAMS.

The Deputy Postmaster-General (Mr. J. W. Kitto) advises that on and from September 1, a system of plain language daily letter telegrams at quarter rates, 2d. per word, with a minimum of 15/ for 20 words or less, will be available via "Pacific" and via "Eastern" cable routes between Australia and the United Kingdom. These cable letter telegrams may be accepted on any day except Sundays, and in normal conditions delivery will be effected after 48 hours. The indicator DLT must be included as the first word of the address and will be counted and charged as one word in the same way as "TWT" in week end cablegrams. The system will also be available from the same date between Australia and Canada, via "Pacific," on the same conditions, except that the charges will be 7d. per word with a minimum of 11/8 for 20 words or less.

WEEK END CABLEGRAMS—REDUCED RATES.

The Deputy Postmaster-General (Mr. J. W. Kitto) intimates that advice has been received from the Pacific Cable Board that on and from September 1, the rates on week end cablegrams (TWT) via "Pac" between Australia and the United Kingdom will be reduced from 7 1/2d. per word, with a minimum of 11/ for 20 words or less, to 5 1/2d. per word, with a minimum charge of 9/7 instead of 11/8 for 20 words or less.

EXTENSION LECTURES.

A course of three University extension lectures on "Crime and punishment" will be delivered by Professor Coleman Phillipson on Tuesday evenings, September 4, 11 and 18, at 8 o'clock, in the Prince of Wales lecture room. As the accommodation is limited, those especially interested are advised to procure as soon as possible their tickets, for which only a nominal charge is made. The lectures will deal with some of the most interesting and important questions that are engaging the attention, not only of Australians, but also of many people in Europe and America; for example, the modern view of criminal justice and administration as contrasted with the earlier; the treatment of criminals, the use of various punishments, the modern prison, the question of responsibility, whether crime is a disease, the grounds and aims of punishment, flogging and death penalty, the systems and objects of imprisonment, prison life, various measures for effecting amelioration, and so on. A detailed syllabus of all these, and allied topics, is obtainable at the University.