

DISTANCES OF STARS.

Address by Professor R. W. Chapman.

In the Institute Lecture Room, North terrace, on Wednesday night, an address was delivered by Professor R. W. Chapman, Professor of Engineering at the Adelaide University, who spoke on "Soundings in Astronomy was the oldest of the sciences, said Professor Chapman, but it by no means admitted the slightest advance in credit all the way down to the present time. It was showing at the present time a particularly great development. During the last five years, the most important advances have been made in the methods for the determination of distances of the stars, upon which our concept of the size of the universe has been given to the world, Tycho Brahe, first, then the most famous astronomer of his time, Kepler, and finally, in the last few years, the most correct star measurement has been made, and he found that it was impossible to believe that the earth could revolve around the sun at a distance of not less than something like 90 millions of miles, and yet be so distant from the stars that there was no appreciable difference in their appearance in the course of the year. The observations were made in a very striking way; but it was known now, as the result of our more exact measurements, that the distance of the stars was not so great as they were so slight that the distances of the closest stars were such that light took several years to reach us from them. Until a few years ago astronomers spoke of such unthinkable distances as 60 or 100 light years; but, as the result of more recent developments, the distances of the farther stars had been pushed out to greater and yet greater limits, until to-day astronomers speak confidently of distances of such unthinkable distances as 100,000 light years.

The lecturer described the way in which distances of stars of such unthinkable remoteness by means of the lines of the spectrum, and the rate of deflection of the light of the stars. Up to 1820 it had been possible, but by the aid of almost incredibly painstaking work, to measure the distances of a few stars. The modern method of the distances of several thousands of stars had been determined in the last few years. This measurement showed that the universe extended out to such distances that light must take hundreds of thousands of years to reach us from the furthest extremities, if extremities it had.

Professor Chapman produced evidence showing that the spiral nebulae, including our own "Milky Way," these nebulae were now proved to be at such distances from the earth that light in many cases would take hundreds of millions of years to reach the other side of the nebula. Each such enormous star cluster was made up of hundreds of thousands of stars, comparable to the "starry universe" of which our own sun was a part.

The educational value of the lecture was considerably enhanced by the exhibition of many beautiful lantern slides.

ADLAIDE REPERTORY THEATRE.

The presentation of literary drama for the 16 years in South Australia has depended largely upon the enthusiasm of the Adelaide Repertory Theatre. Since 1908 this theatre has produced a number of plays, which include twelve Shaw, seven Galwey, seven Schmitzer, seven Arnold Bennett, six Ibsen, four Shaw, four Galsworthy, four Hobbes, the Lady Gregory, three St. John Hankin, three Maeterlinck, three McKevoy, three Wilde, two Barrie, two D'Annunzio, and one Shaw. The repertoire has covered nearly the whole scope of accessible English dramatics and Continental playwrights. The 1926 season will be translated. The theatre's 1926 season will again comprise the presentation of five plays and five new plays. The plays are: "Herman Suleiman" "Magda," translated by a South Australian (Miss Meta Barziz), will be the first production in the new season. The plays are: "The Day After Tomorrow" by Eugene O'Neil, "Theobald and Wanda." The theatre's subscription is being held at the Cotton Hall on Tuesday night, April 20th, when Sir Archibald Stirling will speak on "Drama Abroad," and Mr. Clive Carey will give an address on "The Future of the Theatre." Vocal and elocutionary classes will be given.

CHAMBER MUSIC.

AT THE CONSERVATORIUM.

The second concert of a long and varied programme for 1926 was given at the Adelaide Conservatorium on Tuesday night. The occasion was an auspicious one, and marked the first appearance for the season at the Conservatorium Spring Concert. The audience was large, and the programme was well received. The members of the quartet were Mr. Charles Schilly (first violin), Miss Kathleen Macdonald (second violin), Mr. Harold Pizzoni (viola), and Mr. Harold Pizzoni (cello). These players presented the Debussy quartet. The second quartet (Brahms) was by Mr. Pizzoni, violin, and cello, and Miss Maude Puddy was at the keyboard. The soloist was Miss Hilda Gill, and the accompanist, Mr. George Pearce. An artistic performance was given throughout, to the delight of an enthusiastic audience. The programme opened with the string quartet by the French composer, the only contribution he made to the literature of Chamber music. In its rich, strange harmonies and whole tone scale passages, the players combined in perfect understanding. A carefully annotated programme aided the intelligent appreciation of the work, which, by its slow movement, proved to be of ethereal beauty. An animated first movement was succeeded by a pulsing second movement, and a third, more lovely andantino, and was rounded off with the passionate fourth movement. The piano quartet, by Brahms, was full of melody and charm, and the string quartet, and it was more satisfying to ears still unaccustomed to an appreciation of Chamber music, the string quartet programme was handled brilliantly by Miss Puddy. The ensemble in this number also was splendid, and Mr. Schilly is to be congratulated for his fine playing.

In full, rich tones Miss Gill (contralto) sang a bracket of Schubert songs. They were "The maiden's grief," "The young bridegroom," and "The love." They were of passion, sweet and reposeful, and were exceptionally popular. The songs were arranged by the pianist, and completed a programme of high merit. Music lovers in Adelaide have few opportunities to hear and learn to understand the beauties of Chamber music, and the headquarters of a musical culture in this State conferred a boon on them by the performance that was given last night.

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REG. 13. 4. 26 UNIVERSITY UNION ROOM.

£30,000 TO £40,000 REQUIRED.

At a meeting of the University students, held at the University on Monday night, all present decided to support morally and financially any and all attempts for a University union room and soldiers' memorial. The meeting was organized by Mr. P. McGuire (President) who is in the chair.

Mr. McGuire stressed the need for such a hall for which students could meet and exchange views. Practically every other university in the Empire had one. The building, which would be of two stories, would cost between £30,000 and £40,000. Prof. Rennie, in explaining the attitude of the University Council, remarked that while there was no lack of sympathy between the council and the students on the matter of a union room, there were other things that were wanted first. The question of obtaining the necessary land was a big one, for the University grounds were already cramped. A large library is urgently needed, and in a few years room would have to be made for the building of a big hall for which the funds had not been provided by Sir Langdon Hornby.

Miss G. Holmes and Messrs. D. G. and J. G. spoke in favour of the union room on behalf of the students, thought that the union room should be built. The last named speaker suggested only the amount of £1,000 to give a big start to the appeal for funds by each subscribing £5. There was no necessity for that sum to be paid out straight away, but the students in the University might pledge himself or herself to £1 a year for five years, and they would have a big start to the appeal for funds by each subscribing £5. There was no necessity for that sum to be paid out straight away, but the students in the University might pledge himself or herself to £1 a year for five years, and they would have a big start to the appeal for funds by each subscribing £5.

Other students also spoke in favour of the union building, and it was unanimously decided to support morally and financially any and all attempts for a union room and soldiers' memorial and financial support to any committee formed.

NOT A BUSINESS VENTURE.

In the presence of a large gathering, Mr. Justice Poole performed the opening ceremony of the St. Mark's College, which was held at the college on Saturday afternoon. Mr. A. G. Pope (hon. secretary), in introducing the college, said that it was an important step which had not been anticipated when the college was opened in March last year. The credit for this wonderful progress the college had made was due to the members of the council, who had worked hard for its advancement. Of the members of the council, none was more concerned in the development of the college than Mr. Justice Poole, who had been associated with it since its inception. (Applause.)

In declaring the late open, Mr. Justice Poole said he was so greatly impressed with the value of such an institution as St. Mark's College that anything he could do for its progress would be done willingly. He said that he had seen a similar institution in Melbourne, he was fully alive to its value. In outlining the development of St. Mark's, Mr. Justice Poole said that he had been surprised when the college was opened, there were nine students attending, and there was room for another 20 or 30. He said that the original accommodation had to be found, but this had proved insufficient. To-day there were 22 students in residence, and he said that he had been surprised when the college was opened, there were nine students attending, and there was room for another 20 or 30. He said that the original accommodation had to be found, but this had proved insufficient. To-day there were 22 students in residence, and he said that he had been surprised when the college was opened, there were nine students attending, and there was room for another 20 or 30.

"This college," he said, "is a venture, but it is not a business venture. No college has a less developed prospect, and his purpose was not to create a profit, although it may rightly be expected to live within its income. However, the college for all future extension must come from outside. Although you may never see this college making a monetary profit in a business sense, you will find it profitable in the sense that it will raise a hundred-fold that which may be put into it, by its influence on the life of the State." (Applause.)

AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL.

ESTABLISHMENT AT URBRAGE.

An agricultural high school is to be built at Urbrage at a cost of £35,000.

The Minister of Education (Hon. L. L. Hill) stated yesterday that Cabinet had approved of £35,000 being provided on the Government account for the erection of an agricultural high school at Urbrage. The land was handed over to the Education Department by Mr. Peter Waio for agricultural high school purposes, and comprised an area of 114 acres. This area was adjacent to the 20 acres of the adjacent orchard of 20 acres. The agricultural high school would be established for the purpose of encouraging boys, especially those who take an agricultural pursuit as a means of livelihood. South Australia was essentially a farming country, and the Minister, including agriculturists, who felt that if children who had a natural aptitude for farming, would be encouraged to develop it during the latter part of their careers, it would help in solving one of their great problems, by checking the flow of population to the city.

The course of instruction would aim at carrying on the general high school course of boys in English history, and the natural history, and the study of science and the development of scientific methods. The boys would also be given a thorough grounding in the elementary theory and practice of agriculture. The instruction would be arranged with the view of giving the boys a general culture and practical knowledge of agriculture, and would prepare the boys for Roseworthy College. It also would try out city lads to see if they were fitted for a suitable preparation to farmers' sons. In any case, the curriculum would be of such a character that a boy, whether he were a farmer's son, a doctor, or a labourer, would be better for the training. He would be able to milk a cow, keep a garden, do carpentry, and be able to attend to poultry, and do many odd jobs about the house, which would certainly make him a better man, a better husband, and a better tradesman or professional man. The expenditure of £35,000 would be necessary to equip a farm for dairying, poultry farming, fruit-growing, agriculture, and so on, and to erect the principal residence, students' dormitories, dining hall, bathroom, kitchen, library, classrooms, science room, manual training workshop, blacksmith's shop, tool shed, silo, haysheds, stables, and so on.

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NEW AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL.

£35,000 to be Spent at Urbrage.

Encouraging Youthful Farmers.

The Minister for Education (Hon. L. L. Hill) stated on Thursday that Cabinet had approved of £35,000 being provided on the Government account for the erection of the necessary buildings in connection with the establishment of an Agricultural High School at Urbrage. The land was handed over to the Education Department by the late Mr. Peter Waio for Agricultural High School purposes, and comprised an area of 114 acres. This area was supplemented by the purchase of 20 acres of land, which was the site of the Agricultural High School which is established to encourage boys, especially city lads, to take up agricultural pursuits as a means of livelihood.

Mr. Hill remarked yesterday that South Australia was essentially a farming State, and there were people, including many agriculturists, who felt that if children, whether resident in the city or in the country, who had a natural aptitude for farming work, could be encouraged to develop it during the latter part of their careers, it would help in solving one of their great problems, by checking the flow of population from the country to the city.

Trying Out Farming Students.

The course of instruction in such an institution, continued the Minister, would aim at carrying on the general high school course of boys in English history, and the natural history, and the study of science and the development of scientific methods. The boys would also be given a thorough grounding in the elementary theory and practice of agriculture. In brief, the course of instruction would be arranged with the view of giving the boys a general culture and practical knowledge of agriculture, and would prepare the boys for Roseworthy College. It also would try out city lads to see if they were fitted for a suitable preparation to farmers' sons. In any case, the curriculum would be of such a character that a boy, whether he were a farmer's son, a doctor, or a labourer, would be better for the training. He would be able to milk a cow, keep a garden, do carpentry, and be able to attend to poultry, and do many odd jobs about the house, which would certainly make him a better man, a better husband, and a better tradesman or professional man. The expenditure of £35,000 would be necessary to equip a farm for dairying, poultry farming, fruit-growing, agriculture, and so on, and to erect the principal residence, students' dormitories, dining hall, bathroom, kitchen, library, classrooms, science room, manual training workshop, blacksmith's shop, tool shed, silo, haysheds, stables, and so on.

Mr. C. J. Phillips, prosecuting officer of the State Children's Department, left that service on Saturday to enter his services with Mr. C. J. Phillips, prosecuting officer of the State Children's Department for 12 years. He was appointed prosecuting officer when 22 years of age, and for six years has held that position, and has done practically all the department work in matters of child desertion, cruelty, separation, and affiliation cases in the Police Court, as well as in various actions in the Children's Court. In 1925 he was graduated at the Adelaide University with the Diploma of Commerce, and has since been studying law. His successor has not yet been appointed.

Dr. M. Schneider, M.B., B.S., has been appointed officer-in-charge of the Local Board of Health for Coloured Light Gardens.