

SUMMER SCHOOL AT MOUNT LOFTY.

A summer school, under the auspices of the Workers' Educational Association, was inaugurated at Holiday House, Mount Lofty, on Saturday. Between 40 and 50 students are in residence, the arrangements being under the supervision of the general secretary (Mr. G. McRitchie) and Mrs. McRitchie.

During Saturday evening the objects of the school were briefly outlined by the secretary, and short addresses of welcome were delivered by Dr. A. C. Garnett and Mr. A. L. G. MacKay, M.A.

The educational committee appointed by the executive consists of Mr. McRitchie, Dr. Garnett, and Mr. MacKay. The following committees were elected by the students:—Social, Mesdames Penny, Atkinson, Richards, and McRitchie, Misses Kinson, Richards, and the Rev. E. G. Tyler and Olsen, and the Rev. E. G. Hale; sports, Messrs. A. L. G. MacKay, R. S. Gibbins, and Miss Gale; magazine, R. S. Gibbins, Dr. Barnett, Rev. E. G. Hale, and the Misses Simons; musical, Miss Bower.

The first formal gathering took place on Sunday afternoon, when Dr. Garnett delivered a short address, entitled "Pigeons or penitents?" The discourse was founded on an extract from McDougall's "Outlines of psychology," dealing with the ordered, even life of a pigeon, following natural primitive instincts, which might seem, in some senses, quite ideal, as contrasted with the Scriptural passage concerning the joy in heaven over one repentant sinner. The speaker outlined the question as to how "right" was to be decided, and dealt with the theories of law, dogma, utility, and conscience as to what is "right." He urged the education of conscience by broad reading and thinking. He also pointed out that the teaching of Jesus placed a high moral value on the effort after right, which made the sinner's repentance a greater cause for joy than the easy complacency of those good people whose environment did not lead to a great tendency of transgression. At the same time, it was possible for the best to grow better, as the spiritual effort, whether from saint or sinner, was weighed rather by the things attempted than by those accomplished.

The discourse was followed by a very interesting discussion.

During the afternoon the director of the association (Professor Darnley Naylor) arrived for a short visit.

The school is to continue until January 9, the lecturers being:—Economics, Mr. A. L. G. MacKay, M.A.; psychology, Dr. A. G. Garnett; literature, Rev. G. E. Hale; history, Mr. E. G. Biaggini, B.A. These tutors will conduct special study groups, and additional addresses will be delivered by Dr. Ramsay Smith, Principal Kiek, and Professor T. B. Robertson. Rambles to study bird life and geology are to be conducted by Messrs. J. Sutton, and C. T. Madigan respectively.

RHODES SCHOLARS.

REPORT OF THE TRUST.

LONDON, December 30.

The report of the Rhodes Scholarship Trust for the academic year 1924-25, states that during the year 63 Rhodes scholars took up their scholarships for the first time. There were 185 scholars in residence at Oxford, of whom 96 were from the British Empire, and 89 from the United States. There were also sixteen former scholars. In the course of the year 57 scholars completed their term of scholarship or went finally out of residence without completing it, and 3 scholars suspended residence temporarily.

The academic year 1925-26 starts with 184 scholars in residence, and two more are coming in January. There will also be 15 former scholars at Oxford. Three former scholars died in the course of the year. The trustees have purchased a site from Wadham College, on which they will erect a building, to be known as "Rhodes House." It will contain a hall for the annual dinners of the trust, an English-speaking library, and the residence of the Oxford secretary. The building will be erected from designs by Mr. Herbert Baker.—Reuter.

A cable message reports that Dr. E. V. Mackenzie, neurologist at the Glasgow University, will arrive in Australia by the R.M.S. Otranto with the intention of working for a year or more. It was Dr. Mackenzie, who at a recent meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, said surgery had reached a stage where it had become possible to splice severed nerves.

10 Reg 2-1-25
New 6-1-26
Interest in Education.
The University extension lectures in New South Wales have not been a success. A professor says that the audiences have been disappointingly small. In towns where, 10 or 15 years ago, large numbers of people would assemble, there is now a marked indifference to educational matters. Local affairs, civic or religious, are sufficient for the general public, and the popularity of the picture shows, with their sensational films, is a proof that people choose that kind of evening recreation in preference to a lecture on art, economics, or travel.

Yet it is true that parents are now more than ever interested in education, especially where it touches their children. Academic discussions on abstract subjects do not attract, but a large audience is assured, if the matter is one of immediate urgency, and dealing with something concrete. In England large gatherings are common, and it is remarkable how leaders of educational thought can create an interest. Probably education pure and simple was never so commonly appreciated as it is to-day. One of our leading educationists would not fail to gather a good audience in any country town, and after his lecture be certain of intelligent discussion.

Agricultural Chemist

During the absence from South Australia of Dr. A. E. V. Richardson (Director of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute at Urrbrae, Glen Osmond), his duties will be undertaken by Professor J. A. Prescott, M.Sc.

Born in England, the professor graduated master of science at the Manchester University. For four years he engaged in scientific training at the Rothamsted Experimental Station. This institution, which was founded in 1843 by Sir John Lawes, is situated about 25 miles north of London, and is the parent organisation of its kind in the agricultural world.

Professor Prescott then went to Egypt as chief chemist of the Royal Agricultural Society, and was superintendent of field experiments while there. These experiments were conducted at the Bahim Experimental Farm near Cairo. He remained in Egypt until about 14 months ago, when he came to South Australia to occupy the position of Professor of Agricultural Chemistry in connection with the Waite Research Institute.

His special lines of work are concerned with problems in soil chemistry and other agricultural problems particularly in connection with the cultivation and irrigation of maize, cotton, and wheat. So far he



PROFESSOR J. A. PRESCOTT, M.Sc.

has had no opportunity of studying the conditions under which cotton is cultivated and irrigated, but his researches in this direction may at some future time take him further north.

Climatic and other conditions differing so much in the countries in which the professor has studied, his research work must naturally cover a wide field. He confesses to having a fondness for gardening as a hobby, but his whole interests are devoted to his work at Urrbrae.

He is a young man, keenly enthusiastic about matters which come within the scope of his profession, and in the short space of time he has been at Urrbrae has done valuable work.

INTERESTING NATIVES

David Unaipon on His People

POOR INCENTIVE FOR EFFORT

There is nothing of the traditional "Jacky" about David Unaipon, the full-blooded aborigine who is engaged on anthropological research work in connection with the Adelaide University.

Of medium height he is sturdily built, and his twinkling eyes and alert carriage belie his abundant grey hair.

He has the typical features of his race, and also its whimsical philosophy. His English is excellent, verging on the pedantic, and he speaks in a quiet, cultured voice.

"I was born and educated at the Point McLeay Mission Station on Lake Alexandrina, where I had Mr. Walter Hutley for a teacher," he began. "My father was one of the first, if not the first, of his race to take an interest in higher education, and obtained a good working knowledge of science. As a child I became interested in study, and have remained a student ever since."

"It is five or six years since I left the mission station, and since then I have lectured in connection with the Presbyterian Church and the missions. Last November I began my research work for the Adelaide University."

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Who can refute a sneer?—Bagehot.

"I am well on in the fifties, and for an aborigine I am fairly well preserved. The average man of my race is old at 30. I am afraid that my son will not follow in my footsteps, for he was born in a sporting age, and so far has shown little interest in study."

Significant Legendary

Although born in civilisation Mr. Unaipon has been always deeply interested in the customs and traditions of his race. "Like most children," he said, "one of my earliest questions was 'Where do we come from?' My father told me the tribal tradition of a point between the north and the west, called by a native name which may be rendered the break-connection. This broken connection of the aboriginal tradition is what some scientists think was the lost continent of Lemuria."

"Every aboriginal legend has its peculiar significance, and is generally an expression of some form of nature, and so have the signs with which the natives communicate to one another. For example, if an aborigine were stalking a kangaroo and another man came on the scene the hunter would make a sign suggestive of the kangaroo's head and forepaws, and the intruder would immediately gather what the other was doing and what was the nature of his quarry. If he were in pursuit of an emu the sign would suggest the swaying movement of the bird."

"I am particularly interested in native methods of telepathy, and early in February I hope to study it in the interior, where it is brought to perfection. Telepathy to the aborigine is like the telephone or the wireless to the European. I have known some remarkable instances of thought transmission by the natives, but my investigations into this work are just beginning. I hope to obtain full information during my trip to the interior."

Power of Suggestion

"The aborigines appreciate fully the power of suggestion. The use of the pointing stick is a concrete instance of this. If a man wishes to injure another he will enlist the co-operation of a friend and a medicine man. He will use the pointing stick as the symbol of his ill-will toward his enemy. The object of his attention is given a heavy meal of emu flesh, and the resultant indigestion is ascribed to the ill offices of the man with the pointing stick."

"The stricken man begins to brood on his sickness, and when he is told by the medicine man that it is fatal he simply lies down and waits for death, which in most cases is not long in coming."

"An aborigine does not marry a member of his own tribe. If he is of the emu totem he must marry a 'possum, and a goanna must marry into the eagle hawk tribe. Although the chiefs have two wives, as a rule the aborigine has only one, to whom he is generally devoted."

"This reminds me of an incident which occurred while I was lecturing at Manly. I was speaking of the aborigine's affection for his wife, and was asked why he sat down and picked the meat off a bone, and then flung the bone to his wife. I answered the question by asking another. 'How is it that a white man on receiving his weekly wage will make straight for an hotel and drink away his money at a single sitting, going home to his wife without even a bone to offer her?'"

Lived for the Day

Comparing the social life of the white man and the aborigine, Mr. Unaipon said that fundamentally there was little difference. The white man's civilisation was more advanced; that was all. He had to advance continually, otherwise he would starve. The aborigine, on the other hand, had no such incentive for strenuous effort. He lived for the day, and so long as the food supply was sufficient he asked for nothing more.

Age-old tribal customs in many cases resembled the ways of the modern world. There was a festival toward the end of each year, during which there was a general interchange of presents between the tribes. If one tribe trespassed on the preserves or rights of another it was brought to book for the offence and an inter-tribal war resulted.

"There is no doubt that the missions have done good work for the natives in the way of Christianising and educating them," said Mr. Unaipon. "But that is not enough, and I am afraid they have failed to perform their whole duty to the aborigine."

"There is too much spoon-feeding. It is 'Jacky, come here,' or 'do that' all the time. They treat them as children. They take away all responsibility from them. I am trying to impress on the public that its duty is not only to feed and clothe the natives, but to bring them to a more elevated plane of thought by ideals that stimulate us. They lead us so far and no farther."

"There is the instance of a young aborigine who was rescued in the north of Queensland by a professor of Sydney University. He and his wife adopted the boy and gave him the same privileges as a white boy. He was apprenticed to the engineering at Mort's, in Sydney. Now that little black boy is the chief of staff of draughtsmen at Lithgow Smallarms Factory."

"There was another who was studying for the medical profession. He contracted consumption and died. This is the scourge disease of the aborigine. It is no use trying to make anything of the natives in the wilds while they are in that environment. It is far better to leave them in their natural state than to half-educate them and give them the clothes and consumption of civilisation."

MADE UNIVERSITY OVAL

Work of Able Groundsman

Enhanced by picturesque surroundings the University Oval is recognised as one of the best cricket grounds in the State. When favorable comments are made—and they are frequent—few people consider the work that is entailed in the preparation of an oval and the perfection of the wicket.

To Mr. J. Howlett (groundsman), of North Adelaide, must go the entire credit for the condition of the University Oval. With the exception that the area was ploughed when his application as curator was accepted in 1909, Mr. Howlett has in every sense of the word made the University Oval what it is today. In 1910 the ground was officially opened.

Mr. Howlett has worked day and night in nurturing wickets and outfield. In addition to the cricket arena the maintenance of the adjoining hockey ground and tennis court claims his attention. Baseball, lacrosse, and football are also played at the oval, and all call for additional time from the groundsman.

Few men know as much about the preparation of wickets as does Mr. Howlett. He has been responsible for many excellent results in this direction. Many international stars have played on and appreciated the wickets, particularly the batsmen. Among these were the South African cricketers who visited Adelaide several years ago.

S. H. Clutterbuck, the former well-known North Adelaide bowler, on one occasion remarked that he would not like to try to get a batsman out on a wicket which had been prepared by Mr. Howlett. The latter spent six months in planting the hedge which now borders a large part of the oval. He asserts that there are handicaps, namely, a poor pressure of water and the oval's ready access to passers-by.

Mr. Howlett observed that by inferior treatment a good wicket could be spoiled, and that four or five years' hard work would be necessary to return it to its former standard.

Mr. Howlett stated that he was of a rambling disposition in his younger days. He had been a jockey, fencer, and shearer. In the last-named capacity he was particularly proficient, and had often shorn 200 sheep in a day.