

THE UNIVERSITY JUBILEE

Coming Celebrations.

A Story of Beginnings.

By the Rev. F. Slaney Poole, M.A.

There is rather a dearth of official record of the events which were preliminary to the foundation of the University 50 years ago. It is not difficult to believe that the older and the more thoughtful colonists left unconsidered so grave, and in every way so important, a matter as the higher education of the young. Bishop Short, as early as 1849, made a tentative pronouncement on the subject. Later on, not necessarily connected with that pronouncement, a committee of those interested in this question was formed, a scheme of examinations was drawn up, and the young people were invited and encouraged to submit themselves to the test. This, I have been informed, was in 1861. The Government of the day, seized of the importance of the project, made a grant of £200 in prizes as an additional attraction. No doubt there are lists of those who satisfied the examiners. All that I am sure about is that, in its later years, I prepared a young lady who passed the examination at the top of the list. She afterwards held many important positions with considerable distinction. I have heard of the names of others. J. J. Stuckey was one, and J. W. Downer was another, who availed themselves of this test of their powers, but in the absence of distinct records I do not care to venture further than this. The standard set was about that of the matriculation examination, as it used to be.

Union College.

This effort to grapple with an important question was praiseworthy, but comparatively ineffectual. In the first place it was voluntary, and in the second it was limited in its scope. It was like the first glimmer of light in the eastern sky, which tells that the sun will shortly rise. That rising came in a rather sudden and unexpected manner, in some such way as follows:—There had been established by the Presbyterians, Methodists, and Baptists a college for the training of their ministers. It was known as Union College, and it had as its professors the Rev. Mr. Davidson, the Rev. James Jefferis, and the Rev. Silas Mead. The tutor was the Rev. Henry Read, at one time incumbent of Mitcham. Two wealthy men, Sir Thomas Elder and Sir W. W. Hughes, in a moment of inspired generosity, wished to do something to help the college, and offered, each of them, a very generous sum. The Rev. James Lyall was the medium of communication. I am told, and it was he that suggested that the money should be devoted to the foundation of a university. This was no sooner suggested than it met with general approval on the part of those who administered the college, and, it may readily be believed, was hailed with satisfaction by the public. This was in 1872. It is well that this generous self-effacement on the part of those religious bodies who shared in the establishment of Union College should be recorded and remembered. Surely they have their reward in the steady and unbroken success of the University which they helped so unselfishly to found.

Distinguished Promoters.

No doubt others will tell of the steps taken to obtain a charter, and of the establishment of a council. I shall content myself by saying that the first Chancellor was the Chief Justice (Sir R. D. Hanson), the Vice-Chancellor the Right Rev. Dr. Short, Bishop of Adelaide, and the treasurer Sir Henry Ayers. There is a clause in the Act of Parliament authorizing the University, which stipulates that not more than four clergymen shall have seats upon the council. The four who had this distinction at its foundation were Bishop Short, the Right Rev. C. A. Reynolds, the Rev. James Jefferis, and the Rev. W. P. Wells. Among the lay members appear the following distinguished names:—Mr. Justice Stow, the Hon. A. Blyth, the Hon. A. Hay, Messrs. G. C. Hawker, W. R. Boothby, J. A. Hartley, and W. H. Bunney. Sir Thomas Elder and Sir W. W. Hughes retained for themselves the right of appointing in the first instance the professors to the chairs which they had founded. Accordingly Professor Davidson became the first professor of moral philosophy, and Professor Henry Read of classics. This left two chairs to be filled by

the council, for they had already decided to start with no more than four. As a result of the choice made by their referees in England Mr. Horace Lamb was appointed professor of mathematics, and Mr. Ralph Tate professor of natural science. The appointment of Mr. Lamb was not exactly a surprise to me, for so soon as applications were invited by public notice for those who might fill the vacancies I wrote to Mr. Lamb, giving him all the particulars I could, and suggested that he might apply. He did so, as we all know, with success, and for the first 10 years of the nascent University we had the advantage of possessing as the occupant of the Chair of Mathematics one who had been Second Wrangler at Cambridge and Fellow of Trinity College, and who, after returning to England, had covered himself with distinction, the last honour, which was his when he was President of the British Association which met at Southampton about a year ago. I think that the greatest benefit the Adelaide University has received at my hands was in indirectly securing Professor Lamb for its Chair of Mathematics. I was for about 12 months an under-master at Stockport Grammar School, where Lamb was head boy. I knew of his ability, and I had watched his course through the university at Cambridge, and I felt sure that he would honour any responsibilities which I had undertaken. In the year 1878 Professor Read resigned his professorship, and at that period it was almost imperative that a choice of a successor should be made in England. This course was taken, and Professor Kelly was appointed. During the interval between Professor Read's resignation and Professor Kelly's arrival it was necessary that some one should "carry on." I was approached, and appointed Lecturer in Classics during the interregnum. For the better part of the academic year I discharged all the ordinary duties performed by the professor, and again on Professor Kelly's death I had the same office till Professor Bensly arrived. I had a seat, without voting power, on the professorial board, Professors Davidson, Lamb, and Tate, and myself. Professor Davidson was a peaceful and apathetic type of man. Professors Lamb and Tate were, I should fancy, temperamentally different. At any rate, they were often opposed to each other in matters which came before the board. This condition of things did not make for harmony, and I should have been happier if the third professor had taken a more active part on one side or the other.

Students Who "Make Good."

The University occupied very humble quarters at this early date; we had a suite of some three or four rooms in Morialta Chambers, Victoria square, in the same building as Messrs. Baker & Barlow had their offices; Dr. Barlow, it will be remembered, held for many years the important office of Registrar, and I shall always feel that the University was greatly indebted to him for his faithful and diligent services; he was as painstaking and enthusiastic in the work of his office as ordinary men are of their own particular hobby. There cannot, I think, have been more than 20 students altogether to engage the four professors; these distinguished men were engaged without doubt in "licking things into shape;" the scheme of studies, their scope, the arrangement of times and places and many other matters had to be settled, which would establish precedents for the years which were to come; the actual hours engaged in direct teaching, i.e., in holding classes, did not amount to more than 14 to 18 hours. There were, of course, the examinations of the undergraduates, and also the matriculation examination, which was held for the first time in the year 1875. I recall the names of those students who attended my classes on the first occasion that I was lecturer in classics. They are:—R. S. Rogers, E. C. Moore, James Henderson, George and Arthur Donaldson, C. Solby, T. H. Beare, P. C. Robin, H. H. Mack and S. Parsons; most of these I am assured "made good" in after life; in some cases even obtained distinction. Ardent and enthusiastic as I was in the cause of higher education, feeling sure that the day of small things would be succeeded by a strong growth and wide extension, I did not dream that in so short a space as 50 years the University would grow to what we see it today. That old men should dream dreams is the privilege of old men; it may be that this is granted them since they will not live to see the realization of their dreams. This first jubilee—the only one I shall ever see—has made me wonder and surmise what will be the position which the University will occupy on its second jubilee, its hundredth birthday.

Looking Forward.

"There still remaineth much land to be possessed," and greater things await the University than she has ever attempted in the past, has not even dreamed of, or they lie in hiding in the womb of the future. In order that she may be alert and qualified to deal with these questions and problems, for which the coming age may seek for help, direction, or solution, it will be necessary that she be well equipped. Exoriare aliquis, let us hope that in the coming time those may arise who shall make generous gifts, so that the work which awaits may be attempted with some hope at least of its successful completion. In what I am about to write it will be without exact knowledge and certainly at nobody's suggestion; dreams are generally indefinite and come from regions which we do not know; it has occurred to me

that the official staff, in these days of rising prices and ever advancing pay, may not receive such a measure of income as is commensurate. I will not say with the work which they do, for that is priceless, but with the position they occupy, and the many ultra-professional duties which they, when called upon, so willingly discharge. So high is my estimation of these learned men and the offices which they fill that I feel that no class in the community is more deserving of liberal recognition than that to which I am referring. I know, of course, that the council has to cut its coat according to the cloth at command, and, therefore, it is that I hope in the not far distant future those who have more money than they want still give of their superfluity to a cause beyond all question most deserving, and one which is capable of conferring immeasurable benefits on the community by maintaining a high standard of mental and moral progress.

I should like to have touched upon one or two other matters, suitable to the occasion, e.g., I have dreams that in the future it may become possible that something akin to the fellowships that we all know of in the older universities may be established here, so that graduates may still further enlarge the borders of their learning, and that some may devote themselves to research. It may be also that colleges will in time be established in the more distant and least approachable parts of the State, and these might, in their day and time, become universities. The multiplication of these august bodies in the last 50 or 60 years is the most remarkable phenomenon in the growth of education. In the Motherland, where, within the memory of living men, there were but the two old universities of Oxford and Cambridge, there are now those of Manchester, Leeds, Bristol, and others. In the United States the development is still more amazing, and if the history of that great nation is to be in many ways repeated in the extensive settlement of population in the yet undeveloped country of Australia, who can deny the possibility that in another 100 years of there being a University of Alice Springs, when we remember that 100 years ago Adelaide was not only unnamed but unknown.

A "FATHER OF FORESTRY."

The Prime Minister (Mr. Bruce) has received, through the Commonwealth Forestry Adviser (Mr. C. E. Lane-Poole), a copy of a notice being circulated by a responsible committee on behalf of the friends of the late Sir William Schlich, and many others who appreciated his great services to the cause of forestry, and who desire to have his name perpetuated. Sir William Schlich, "the father of British forestry," was head of Cooper's Hill, where the Indian forest service and foresters of the Empire were originally trained; and when the school was moved to Oxford he went with it. Since the inception of forestry in England and in the dominions, therefore, he had taught the fundamental principles of the art; and the progress made is attributed to him. His five volumes on the subject of forestry is the only such treatise in the English language, and is in consequence regarded as "the British foresters' Bible." The principal of the Australian Forestry School at the University of Adelaide (Professor N. W. Jolly), who is the senior student of the late Sir William Schlich in Australia, has been selected by the committee to receive donations towards this fund. The form of the memorial will be decided later by the committee.

THE UNIVERSITY JUBILEE.

The University of Adelaide jubilee celebrations will begin on Saturday, August 14, and continue until the following Wednesday. Many functions have been arranged, and a large number of invitations have been issued to people, both within and without the State. The programme is as follows:—Saturday, August 14—Evening—Reception by the Chancellor (7.4 to 8.15 p.m.); conversation; inspection of laboratories; lecture demonstrations; dramatic performances; cinema films. Sunday—Afternoon—Cathedral service at 3.30 p.m. Monday—Afternoon—Special congregation, 3 p.m.; reception of delegates; Chancellor's address, and addresses by visiting delegates; conferring of ad eundem degrees. Evening—Special concert to the delegates and visitors by members of the staff of the Elder Conservatorium. Tuesday—Morning—Official opening of the physics and engineering building by the Premier at 11 a.m. Afternoon—Student sports; motor excursions. Evening—University dinner, 7.30 p.m., at Town Hall, by council to delegates and staff. Wednesday—Morning—Inspection by delegates of Waite Agricultural Research Institute, Urrbrae, Fullarton. Afternoon—Students' sports; motor excursions. Evening—Students' function in Elder Hall, arranged by the Women's Union.

MUSIC AND ART.

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

A SPLENDID RECITAL.

The seventh concert of the 1926 season of the Elder Conservatorium, which was given at the Elder Hall on Monday evening, proved to be of especial interest, the artistic presentation of each work making the whole evening a real joy. Professor Harold Davies, Mus. Bac., Director of the Conservatorium, before the opening number took the opportunity of expressing on his own behalf, and he was sure that of the audience also, his great pleasure at having Mr. Percy Grainger present. They had come to feel that he belonged to Adelaide. It had been a matter of regret that when Mr. Grainger arrived the Conservatorium was in recess, so it had been impossible for them to tender to him a fitting welcome. They did wish to express this most emphatically now. All looked forward with the greatest eagerness to his return in October, when on the 6th and 9th they would have the opportunity of hearing some of Mr. Grainger's fine choral and orchestral works rendered by the Bach Society, Mr. Grainger, and the South Australian Orchestra. (Applause.)

The concert opened with Beethoven's wonderful String Quartet in E minor in which the great master displayed to the full his consummate understanding of this form of music. The delicacy with which it was especially delightful; a mere whisper the beautiful first movement was rendered in the most sound drifted from the instrument of the four instruments into a balanced and rich effect expressed just the characteristic qualities of the master-composer. The allegro is followed by a fine adagio as artistically presented, the Russian theme being effectively brought out. The concluding presto made a fitting close to a fine performance. Mr. Charles Schilsky (first violin) has never done anything better, and Miss Kathleen Meegan, A.M.U.A., (second violin), Miss Sylvia Whittington, A.M.U.A. (viola), and Mr. Harold Parsons (cello) were all at their best—the whole performance being marked by the restraint of finished artistry. Emphatic applause marked the feeling of the large audience.

An interesting and attractive group of French songs was presented by Mr. Clive Carey, Mus. Bac., whose expressive and finished singing was enriched by the beautifully rendered accompaniments played by Miss Maude Puddy, Mus. Bac. "Quand la nuit n'est pas étoilée," by Reynaldo Hahn, gave full scope to the expressive quality of the singer's voice, and the smooth and rich quality of his vocalization. "Invitation au voyage," by Henri Dupace, was given with equally fine effect. Quite in contrast was the third number of this group—"Le Manoir de Rosemonde," by the same composer. Descriptive in another way was Maurice Ravel's song "Le paon," that tells of the peacock calling his bride, who does not come. The group closed with Claude Debussy's "Mandoline." Mr. Carey was recalled twice, and rightly included Miss Puddy in the appreciation expressed.

The concert closed with an effective presentation of the Piano Quartet in C minor, by Gabriel Faure, one of the most gifted of the modern French composers. His work has individuality, and deep feeling, and was capably rendered by Mr. Schilsky, Miss Whittington, and Mr. Parsons, with Mr. George Pearce as pianist. There is great variety and scope in this work, and Mr. Pearce brought out just the right quality in his rendering of the exacting piano part. The strings were beautifully balanced, and each movement increased the impression made. The allegro molto moderato, with its singing tone and gracious movement, was by scherzo most original, gay, and playful. The haunting feeling of the adagio was impressively conveyed, while the closing movement, allegro molto, was full of fire and made a most telling conclusion.

UNIVERSITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE.

From "GRADUATE," Adelaide:—Is it too late for the University Council to reconsider its appointments for the forthcoming Jubilee celebrations? Considerable dissatisfaction will be felt if only one thanksgiving service—and that of so exclusive a character as Adelaide has been led to expect from the Cathedral authorities—be provided for. The fixture made the more surprising, remembering the names and memories of many of its principal promoters and founders receive but a very dubious honor in the present arrangement, surely some more worthy recognition of their labors could be made