

THE LATE PROFESSOR RENNIE.

An Appreciation.

The name of Edward Henry Rennie M.A., D.Sc., Professor of Chemistry in the University of Adelaide for forty one years, will deservedly occupy a prominent place in the Roll of Fame of Australia's distinguished sons, not only on account of his high attainments in the realm of science, but because he was a Christian gentleman, esteemed by all who were associated with him, beloved by the Chancellor and Professors of the University, as well as the many groups of students who from time to time enjoyed the privileges of sitting at his feet and receiving his instruction.

We are proud to chronicle the fact that he was born in Australia on August 19th 1852, his place of birth being Balmain, Sydney, New South Wales.

He received his early education at Fort Street Model Public School, and afterwards at the Sydney Grammar School. He attended the Sydney University where he graduated Bachelor of Arts in 1870, and Master of Arts in 1876. On graduating he was appointed a master in Sydney Grammar school, where he remained for five years. He relinquished the post in 1875 to assume a mastership in the Brisbane Grammar School. This position occupied his attention for 18 months, and he then left for London to pursue the study of chemistry. He became a Doctor of Science in the London University in 1881, and was the first Australian to win the distinction in an English Institution. While in London he was assistant for two years of Dr. C. R. Alder Wright in the Chemical Department of St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, and also taught in the Royal College of Science at South Kensington. Returning to Australia in 1882, Professor Rennie went to Sydney to assist in the Government Analyst's Department, and had been there for two years when the University of Adelaide secured him as Professor of Chemistry.

His value was at once recognised. He was elected to the University Council in 1889, but resigned in 1893, in order to enquire into the developments in chemical manufacture in London and America. After an absence of 12 months he was re-elected to the council, and occupied his seat continuously since that time.

Professor Rennie was a fellow of the Chemical Societies of London and

wealth Advisory Council of Science and Industry, and rendered great service to the School of Mines as a member of the council, and to the Government for many years past as inspector of explosives.

Noble testimony has been borne by the Vice-Chancellor of the University (Sir William Mitchell) as to Dr. Rennie's high attainments, conscientious discharge of his professional duties and the splendid qualifications he possessed for imparting instruction to the students who passed through his hands whilst Sir J. Langdon Bonython, president of the School of Mines' Council uttered a pleasing tribute to the Professor's memory, based upon his close association with him in the Council, a tribute of which any man might well be proud, in the course of which he said, "He not only tried to do his duty, he did it." Others have echoed like sentiments, whilst again and again the writer has listened to expressions of students in commendation of the Professor's noble work.

High as were his attainments in the sphere of science it is a pleasing fact that he found no difficulty in combining with his scientific knowledge a confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ whom he ever strove to serve with faithfulness; he was indeed a devout Christian gentleman. Such an alliance between science and religion is not always in evidence, but in his case it was specially marked, for he was not merely a Christian in name, but recognised that it devolved upon him to allow his religious convictions to have exercise in all the activities of his life, hence his attention to his religious duties was marked by an earnestness and regularity that revealed how seriously he regarded the same. He was the right hand man of his minister, and always strove to render him all the help he could. He was elected to the position of Elder in Chalmers Church about 40 years ago, and very soon after he became Clerk of the Session of that Church, a position he filled with great distinction up to the time of his death. He was beloved by everyone who knew him, and not least by the people of Chalmers. His disposition was naturally a retiring one, he never sought publicity, indeed he rather shrank from the same, whilst all the time, and in everything to which he set his hand he strove to do his duty faithfully.

His demise was quite unexpected. A few months ago his health appeared to be failing, and he was led

work, and he was suddenly called away. It was a beautiful death; no pain, no prolonged suffering; no weary waiting for the summons we must all eventually hear.

His spirit with a bound
Burst its encumbering clay;
Life's long warfare closed at last
His soul was found in peace.

A somewhat strange coincidence occurred during the week of the Professor's death. His son, Mr. Edward J. C. Rennie, of the Melbourne University, was visiting his parents, and being a musician it was arranged that he should preside at the organ in Chalmers Church on the sabbath. Dr. Rennie thereupon selected the hymns to be sung on the occasion, these were "Jesus Lover of My Soul," "When the Weary Seeking Rest," "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind," and "The Sands of Time are Sinking." These were sung at the evening service, and it was deeply pathetic and affecting to know that the one who had chosen the hymns a day or two before, and had looked forward to taking part in the service had that afternoon been laid in his grave.

Now that he has gone from our midst, it is delightful to cherish his memory—to think of the kindly deeds he performed—to thank God for his quiet, unobtrusive Christian character; his Christ-like amiableness, and his uniform gentlemanly bearing, and deepest sympathy, is extended to his widow who, bearing her own bodily trouble, has now to mourn the loss of a devoted partner, and to his son and daughters, who have been deprived of a loving and considerate father. But their grief will be mollified by the fact that he has gone to his rest and reward after duty faithfully performed.

So let him rest,
Unheard all sound of mourning
Let thy weeping cease,
Translate his grave by a gentler
Call it the Chamber of Peace.

—J. Hall Angus.

ADV. 25.1.27

Mr. Hillary Boucaut writes:—"Mr. Ray Boucaut, whose full name is Hillary Ray Penn Boucaut, is going to England in the Commonwealth liner Jervis Bay, which leaves South Australia on Saturday next, to complete his studies in medicine. He has passed some steps at the Adelaide University, and proposes to earn his degrees in London, and it will depend on circumstances how long he remains in the homeland. His history is unique. On May 25, 1872, my late brother (Mr. Ray Parkin Boucaut), the late Sir Charles Todd, the late Sir John Lewis, and Mr. Alfred Giles, and a party of men were camped at Tennant's Creek, near the centre of Australia, about 1,000 miles from Adelaide. They were engaged on the construction of the overland telegraph line. The late Mr. Cunningham, then Acting Post and Telegraph Master in Adelaide, wired by the overland telegraph line as follows:—"Ray Parkin Boucaut, Tennant's Creek. Yesterday your wife gave you a son." Mr. Alfred Giles is the only one of that party alive now, I believe. Ray Boucaut is the son of that child who was born at Kingston, South Australia, on May 24, 1872, and Ray was born on March 20, 1902. Ray attended St. Peter's College, and later the Adelaide University."

ADV. 25.1.27

Referring at a meeting of the Adelaide City Council on Monday afternoon to the recent death of Professor E. H. Rennie, the Lord Mayor (Mr. Wallace Bruce) said the professor had occupied the chair of chemistry at the University for 41 years. He was an Australian by birth, and had done much for the advancement of science in Adelaide, and in the State and Commonwealth generally. His worth had received recognition when he was elected to preside over the last congress of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, held at Perth, Western Australia, some months ago. Professor Rennie would be particularly missed in University circles, in the life of which he was so prominent a figure. A motion of sympathy with Mrs. Rennie and the family was passed unanimously.

Prof. Wood Jones for Honolulu
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WORK

By the departure of Prof. Frederic Wood Jones, F.R.S., D.Sc., M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F.Z.S., for Honolulu, Adelaide University will lose one of its most distinguished scientists who has graced its staff. Prof. Wood Jones has relinquished the Elder Chair of Zoology which he has occupied since 1920, to start the biological conditions of the people of Hawaii under a Rockefeller research scholarship.

Although he will not leave until early in February Prof. Wood Jones is in a throes of "packing up." His quarters at Adelaide University have already been dismantled.

"You see I am in a state of decomposition," he remarked with an expressive wave of his hand round the room.

"I regret my departure from Adelaide," he continued, "but my regret is lessened by the loyalty of my colleagues and the scientific enthusiasm of the younger men. These give assurance that the work will be continued. Possibilities for work in the departments of zoology and anthropology have been increased enormously by the Rockefeller grant for Australian anthropology and the sanction of the Federal authorities to the University programme of conducting a biological survey of the North-South railway route."

Flora and Fauna

Prof. Wood Jones came to Adelaide with scientific distinctions thick upon him. During the seven years he has spent here he has added to his laurels. On his arrival he began work on native mammals and organised vacation trips to the island of the Great Australian Bight in search of flora and fauna. He found these islands a rich storehouse of forms that had been exterminated on the mainland.

"Much work, however, remains to be done in connection with the insular fauna and flora," he commented.

To collect native animals he undertakes journeys to Central Australia and completed a volume on the mammals of South Australia in 1925. He conducted investigations into the present condition of aborigines and collected details of the physical characters and native culture.

Prof. Wood Jones published numerous papers on these subjects in the proceedings of the Royal Society of South Australia. He served as a representative governor on the board of the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery. During the absence of Mr. Edgar Waite acted as director of the museum. Several years he was honorary secretary to the Fauna and Flora Board, on which he was University representative.

Able Lecturer

Prof. Wood Jones was appointed Adelaide University delegate to the first Pacific Scientific Congress, which was held in Honolulu in 1920. As a lecturer he was well known not only in South Australia but in the other States.

He delivered the Douglas Price Memorial lecture in Brisbane, the Johnstone Memorial lecture in Hobart, where he received the Johnstone medal, the Memorial lecture in Melbourne, and the Lister oration in Adelaide, gaining the Lister medal. In the conference held recently in Perth by the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science Prof. Wood Jones was president of the anthropological section, and was awarded the von Mueller medal. He also conducted courses of University extension lectures both Adelaide and Sydney, and gave series of lectures for the post graduate medical course in Melbourne.

He expects to begin his new work soon as he arrives in Honolulu, where he will make his headquarters. This entails the study of the numerous islands including Polynesian, Japanese, Chinese, Phillipino, Formosan, Portuguese, Scandinavian that inhabit the Hawaiian Islands. He will also examine the blends that are produced by the intermixture of all elements of the position.

NEWS. 27.1.27

Dr. A. E. V. Richardson (director of Waite Agricultural Research Institute) and Mrs. Richardson, who have been on a world tour, returned to Adelaide this morning by the express from Melbourne. They were met by Sir William Mitchell M.A., D.Sc. (Vice-Chancellor of Adelaide University), Prof. T. Brailsford (Zoology), Prof. J. A. Prescott (Professor of Agricultural Chemistry), and Mr. Pinnis (secretary of the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of Australia).



Berlin, a fellow of the Institutes of Chemistry of Great Britain and Ireland, and President of the Australian Chemical Institute. He was twice president of the Royal Society of South Australia. He was Chairman of the Committee of the Common-

to seek a brief respite from work, after which his recovery seemed to be assured and he resumed his duties. God, however, willed that he should vacate his earthly home and his loved