

# The Advertiser

ADELAIDE: TUESDAY,

AUGUST 30, 1927.

A *SPLENDID GIFT.*

A piece of good fortune has befallen the Presbyterian Church and the University of Adelaide, as well as the State, which is deeply interested in whatever tends to the welfare of its academic life. Moved by the spirit of beneficence which characterised the late Sir John Duncan and Lady Duncan, and before them by Sir W. W. Hughes, whose generous benefaction made possible the establishment of the University, their family have decided to perpetuate their memory by the splendid gift to the Presbyterian Church of their former residence and demesne, known as Strathspey, covering some nineteen acres, to be used as a residential college, affiliated with the University. The gift is a most generous one, and all the more appreciated because it will answer a purpose that would have warmly commended itself to the honored couple of whom it will serve as a lasting memorial. Incidentally, it will contribute to the satisfaction of a want long felt in connection with the University. We have not to go to the old country for examples of the value attached to residential colleges as adjuncts to the highest seats of learning, for we have only to glance at the eastern capitals to see five established by various denominations in Sydney and four by those in Melbourne. In Adelaide a beginning was made in 1924 in the noble work of providing undergraduates with those collegiate advantages which Cardinal Newman could not rate too highly, St. Mark's Anglican College having then been affiliated with the University, and now, only three years later, it is the turn of the Presbyterian Church to possess a similar college of its own. The University will gain both in dignity and efficiency by the well-directed generosity of the Duncan family, and if the University benefits, so, *pari passu*, must the State. Newman, the author of "The Scope and Nature of University Education," may have exaggerated matters a little when in his enthusiasm for the collegiate system he declared that, if a choice had to be made, he would prefer the University which had no professors and no examinations, but "simply brought a number of men together for three or four years," to one which, though it might exact from its students "an acquaintance with every science under the sun," yet "dispensed with residence and tutorial superintendence." One may demur to the proposition as a little overstrained, for in their day-students universities have turned out great and good men; but the college atmosphere, if not essential to a successful academic life, is admitted by all who have experienced it, to be singularly helpful. In the case of a university whose students are recruited from a widely-scattered population, and many of whom must spend much of their time away from their homes, and possibly amid the distractions and temptations of city life, and in an atmosphere, therefore, anything but conducive to learning, the benefit of residential colleges must be incalculable, and in proportion to the value of the gift of the Duncan family so must be the gratitude elicited by their handsome contribution to a solution of what is a serious and difficult problem.

A.O.V. 30. 8. 27

**A GENEROUS GIFT.**

**PRESBYTERIAN RESIDENTIAL  
COLLEGE.**

**THE SECOND AFFILIATED WITH  
THE UNIVERSITY.**

As the result of the generosity of the family of Sir John and Lady Duncan, a second residential college is to be established and affiliated with the University of Adelaide.