

Have Universities Failed?

Sir—I read with astonishment the letter of "J.X." who raises the cry, "Have the universities failed?" The work of the university is largely cultural, but not its least important object is to train a man for his particular profession. Even "Jix" must admit that our own university, for example, has trained brilliant successions of surgeons, lawyers, judges, dentists, engineers, and scientists who are ever working unostentatiously for their country. Their efficiency and integrity lead us to accept them as a matter of course, instead of holding stormy meetings over them. Half a dozen brilliant university professors in Australia have been continually, with wisdom and impartiality, pointing out the only sane and honest course open to us, and they are ignored. The fact that even university students are attending political meetings might suggest that perhaps after all there is something wrong in Australia, and perhaps students have strong views about things political. When words of wisdom are ignored, how else can an opinion be expressed? I am informed that the general practice of certain men of other shades of political opinion is to attend meetings and express themselves in no uncertain terms from the back of the hall. "Jix" asks, "Have the universities failed? Are they of no service to democracy?" The truth would appear to be that democracy (as we know it) seems to have little use for the universities. And perhaps the correspondent may sooner or later be asking even himself the question, "Has democracy failed?"—Yours etc., HEIR TO ALL THE AGES. North Adelaide.

Adv. 1-5-31

University's Amazing Progress

Outlining the history of the Adelaide University to members of the Legacy Club yesterday, the registrar (Mr. F. W. Eardley) said there had been a marvellous development during the past ten years. Academic work began in 1876 with a handful of students, who attended lectures in chambers on the western side of Victoria-square. In 1919 the number of students was 1,054. The number now enrolled was 2,500. The original endowments provided for the establishment of four chairs, which were named after Sir Walter Watson Hughes and Sir Thomas Elder, the founders of the University. These were housed in the first building to be erected. Mr. Eardley described the gradual addition to the number of buildings. The rate of increase had been especially marked in the past ten years, during which the Darling building, the Waite Agricultural Research Institute, and Engineering building had been built. The Barr Smith library was now in the course of erection, and would be ready for occupation by the end of the year.

Adv. 1-5-31

Lunch Hour Music

Business folk and University students thronged the Elder Conservatorium Hall yesterday for Mr. John Horner's lunch-hour organ recital. Opening with a masterly rendering of John Sebastian Bach's great prelude and fugue in C, in lighter vein came the Handel harpsichord variations in E around which the "harmonious blacksmith" legend has grown. These were delightfully rendered. Basil Harwood, Oxford's greatest living musical worthy, was drawn upon for his sonata in C sharp minor. From the allegro to the final majestic fugal movement, it proved of fascinating interest to those present, who at the end gave the talented player an ovation. Miss Iris Hart creditably sang Haydn's "With Verdure Clad," being aided in no small degree by the recitalist's felicitous organ accompaniment. A curiously pathetic melody, "Sometimes I Feel I Motherless Child," was Mr. Horner's next organ solo. Skilfully arranged by Coleridge Taylor, himself the son of a West African negro, its weird, unusual beauty captivated many hearers. In effective contrast, Wagner's rousing "Epithalamium" from "Lohengrin" brilliantly concluded the recital. Mr. Horner's playing was marked throughout by excellence of technique.

UNIVERSITY EXHIBITION

Governor Will Attend

In connection with the University Exhibition and Students' Carnival, on Thursday, May 21, at the University Oval, graduates will meet undergraduates at football, lacrosse, baseball, and hockey. That evening the exhibition will be opened at the University. His Excellency the Governor (Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven) will be present. Lectures, demonstrations, laboratory, and Museum exhibits will be shown in the lecture theatres and rooms of the University. Students' Carnival Friday evening, May 22, has been set aside for the students, who have nearly a dozen committees making arrangements for the various shows. The Footlights' Club will have three performances during the evening in one of the larger halls of the University. The programme will include choruses, sketches, dancing, and humor. In the Lady Symon Hall the Literary and Debating Society will stage a short play entitled, "The Wedding Morning," from "Anatoli," by Schnitzler. A medical pageant will illustrate the history of the art of medicine. Science students will present the "House of Illusions," and "Perpetual Motion" demonstrations. The law students have arranged a "Breach of Promise" case. The engineers have in hand an exhibition of machinery in connection with the universal power question. Dental students have arranged a shadow show. The Women's Union at the University will have charge of the supper arrangements for both evenings, at the refectory, and the Dance Club will run the Palais. The organising committee comprises Messrs. R. R. P. Barbour (chairman), G. K. Hughes (organising secretary), and L. T. Ewens (treasurer).

Adv. 5-5-31

"OLD Oxford," Way Cottage, Brighton, writes:—"Dear Rufus—In this morning's 'Advertiser' the University registrar spoke of the students attending lectures in Moriatta Chambers, Victoria-square. I remember those lectures well, and also those held in the Training College, Grote-street, when Professors Read, Davidson, and Lamb used to lecture to a few, sometimes very few, students. Dear old Professor Tate was a greater geologist than a chemist, and the gas explosions in the lecture rooms are vividly remembered. Didn't the registrar, Mr. Barlow, get complaints from other tenants of the escape of sulphuretted hydrogen. As one looks through the calendars of 1877, 1878, what names haunt one. Milton Moss Maughan, afterwards Director of Education, who took the one and only first class in the first B.A. exam., 1876. Thomas Ainslie, caterer, who was, I think, the first graduate of Adelaide University, and who was clerk of the senate for so many years. In 1877 there were three in the first class B.A. list, Hans Hamilton Mack, Thomas Hudson Beare, and Percy Ansell Robin. I think each of these won the S.A. scholarship of £200 a year in turn. In the December, 1877, first class matriculation lists are William George Torr, Edith Agnes Cooke, now Mrs. Hubbe, the first woman to pass the examination; James Milne, August Holtze, Ebenezer Telchelmann, William Lewis Neale, afterwards Director of Education in Tasmania; Richard Thomas Burnard, and Charles Clark. Where are they now? Most of them have gained honors elsewhere. In the March, 1877, first class matriculation lists are James Henderson and Frederick Taylor Whittington, surely some relative of Rufus. What a galaxy of ghosts hang around those lecture rooms of 55 years ago. Your weekly talks over the air and daily notes in the 'Advertiser' are eagerly devoured by many who haven't much interest in sporting, because of their simplicity and candor. The 'human' note is always dominant." Frederick Taylor Whittington is Archdeacon Whittington, Hobart. He suggested once that I should enter the church. I'm afraid I would have made a giddy curate.

Adv. 5-5-31

Melbourne Doctor Awarded Jacksonian Prize

Sydney, May 4. Dr. Edgar S. T. King, of the department of pathology of the Melbourne University, has been awarded the Jacksonian prize offered for competition by the Royal College of Surgeons, England. The prize has been won outside Great Britain only once before. It was won comparatively recently by Dr. Harold Dew, of the Sydney University. The prize is for an original essay.

Professors to Attend Overseas Conferences

MELBOURNE, Today. Delegates from Melbourne University will attend two important conferences to be held in London within the next few months. They are the centenary conference of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, and the British Universities' Conference. Prof. A. J. Ewart (professor of botany), who will leave in the Jervis Bay at the end of this month, will attend both conferences. He will be followed by Prof. E. W. Skeats (professor of geology), who intends to travel overland through Canada. He will also attend the scientific conference. Prof. T. H. Laby was invited to be present, but was unable to accept. Mr. Andrews (Government Geologist in Sydney), Dr. A. E. V. Richardson, of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute, of Adelaide, and Prof. Brown, professor of anthropology at the Sydney University are other delegates from Australia. They will all travel to England by separate boats, and are expected to return about the end of the year. Prof. Gunn, director of the University Extension Board, who has been selected to represent the university at the university conference, will possibly leave for England by the Esperance Bay. Explaining the object of the conferences today, Prof. Ewart said that representatives from all the dominions had been invited, and grants had been made to each delegate by the Advancement of Science Council to ensure a large attendance at its centenary meeting in London in September.

Adv. 6-5-31

FREE EDUCATION

COST THE FIRST CONSIDERATION

To the Editor Sir—If our system of education were the most perfect, and experts agreed that it was as good as could be devised, even then over a million pounds a year is too much for a poverty-stricken State to pay for it; too much, because we cannot honestly afford it. But to be continually reminded that the system is more or less wrong, makes this huge burden of free education still more irritating for harassed taxpayers to bear. In many countries this free education, like sport, has become a crushingly expensive fetish. Professor Grant said that after 40 years in education he believed that the modern young man was drowned in education, and that modern education was apt to quench the spark of genius. "We don't recognise Professor Grant as an authority on education," writes the general secretary of the South Australian Public Teachers' Union, Professor Einstein also "dislikes" the usual system of State education (in Germany, I suppose). But there! He, like Professor Grant, is only a physicist, and a mathematician who has played havoc with our notions of time, space, and matter. We read daily of leading men in pure science (like Faraday), applied science (Edison), literature (Mansfield), shipping (Lord Inchcape), law (Sir Edward Clarke), who had little or no expensive free State education, or indeed any of that academical cramming many teachers consider a sine qua non for attaining exalted social positions. If we reduced the cost of our State education appliances by at least £250,000 a year, we could still produce the good citizen, and yet not in the least deter the good citizen from also becoming a scholarly one. But now cost is the first consideration; indeed, it is a solemn duty to live within our means.—I am, Sir, &c., C. SAWTELL.

News 5-5-31

ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

12 Australians to Attend Centenary in London

Distinguished scientists from all parts of the world will attend the centenary meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science to be held in London in September. Twelve representatives of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science will go, including Prof. Kerr Grant and R. W. Chapman, of the University of Adelaide, and Dr. C. Fenner (Superintendent of Technical Education). The Australian association was formed on similar lines to the British body. Objects are to bring before the public the advantages of scientific research in all its branches. In both the British and Australian associations are men who specialise in all departments of science. The centenary meeting in September will be preceded by the celebrations in honor of the work of Michael Faraday, the famous discoverer of the principles of the electric dynamo.

News 6-5-31

HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME

"Worth Investigation," Says Prof. Kerr Grant

Commenting this morning on the proposal to develop electric power from the water discharged from the proposed Mount Bold Reservoir, Prof. Kerr Grant (professor of physics at the University of Adelaide) said that it would repay careful investigation. If it were found that the supply would be sufficient to maintain a continuous service the scheme would be worth proceeding with. Prof. Grant added that the supply might be supplemented by current generated at a steam powerhouse.

Adv. 8-5-31

LUNCH HOUR MUSIC

Business people and University students thronged the Elder Conservatorium Hall yesterday, for Mr. John Horner's lunch-hour organ recital. Opening with a splendid rendering of a Bach prelude and fugue in C, he followed with the second fantasia-sonata in A flat of Rheinberger, its vividly contrasted sections each receiving masterly treatment. Three old Irish folk songs proved delightful. Miss Jeanne Illingworth sang "Invocation" (Kramer) in good style, and the recital ended with a brilliant rendering of the finale to Vienne's first symphony.

News 7-5-31

Adelaide University

Sir—I think that the cost of Adelaide University is too great a charge on the State at the present time. If its activities were curtailed in some directions for a time no great harm would be done. It is mainly a manufacturer of degrees for the well-to-do and middle class. But the general taxpayer maintains the institution. It would be interesting to learn to what extent the fees received meet the expenses.—Yours etc.,

Clarence Park.

CITIZEN.

Adv. 9-5-31

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION SCHOLARSHIPS

To assist members of the Public Service who desire to attend special courses of study, the Council of the Institute of Public Administration will consider applications from associate members, or associates of the Institute for one or two scholarships, valued at £5. It is probable that the first scholarship may be awarded to a candidate attending lectures for the Diploma of Public Administration at the University of Adelaide, and the second scholarship to a candidate attending or desiring to attend a course of study likely to be beneficial to himself or the service.

News 13-5-31

Dr. O. W. Frewin, M.B., B.S., was appointed honorary clinical assistant to the Vaccine and Asthma Clinic of Adelaide Hospital by Executive Council this morning.