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UNIVERSITY AT WORK

Crowds at Demonstrations

SCIENCE WONDERS

The Adelaide University threw wide its doors last night, disclosing all its secrets of science to an eager public.

This University exhibition, the first for three years, was so crammed with displays that the hundreds of people there could not take in nearly everything. Its success exceeded the most sanguine hopes of the organising committee. The demonstrations, going on all the evening, created tremendous interest, and the scientific lectures by professors filled the lecture halls.

The Governor (Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven), the Chancellor of the University (Sir George Murray), and the Vice-Chancellor (Sir William Mitchell) were there.

There was an amazing variety of University work to be seen—chemical flower gardens, blue mice, a device that photographs heart beats, preparation of synthetic silk and perfumes, lightning made to order, the most powerful electro-magnet in Australia, a liquid air plant, dry ice made from gas. Those were just a few of them.

The students were all eager to show what their University is doing.

Machines Working

The engineering workshops were open, the motors and generators in the electrical laboratory were in operation, the strength testing machines in action, and medicines were prepared for all who wanted to see.

Fossils, relics of periods from 250 to 500 million years ago, were on show; meteorites and radio-active minerals were also special exhibits.

The electro-cardiograph was the most popular of the record giving machines. It was the first exhibition in Australia of this instrument, which gives a photographic record of a person's heart beats. Other instruments gave records of the pulse, circulation of the blood, and various nerve impulses.

Motorists manipulated the controls of a car to see their reactions to sudden warning signals. The man who had the footbrake on 3 of a second after "Stop" flashed out, put up the record performance.

Food and Food Values

The Bio-chemistry Department was a provision store for once. To illustrate the food value of the daily diet, all sorts of food were in tempting array—an object lesson for housewives, for each group had its food value, its value in protein, and its price set out. Many people were told for the first time that it would take 31 lb. of asparagus—price, £2 14/3—to provide the daily 2,500 calories needed. One pound of peanuts has the same food value.

The wonders of X-rays and photoelectric cells, the track of atoms in moist air, and the response of gas jets to inaudible sounds, were shown by the physics staff and assistants.

The research department's "perpetual motion" machine was not ready, but it will be working tonight.

In a lecture on electrons, Professor Kerr Grant demonstrated a photoelectric organ, played by means of light transformed into sound, which was amplified. It was the first time such an instrument had been made in South Australia, he said. He played the "Photo-Electric Anthem"—on four notes—composed by Professor Davies, of the Elder Conservatorium.

Frozen by Liquid Air

The effect of liquid air on such things as a piece of meat, a sausage, a rubber ball, flowers, and an egg was demonstrated by Professor Macbeth. The articles were frozen so brittle that they broke into small pieces when hit with a hammer. Mercury poured into a mould was quickly frozen solid by liquid air, and used as a hammer to drive nails into a block of wood.

Professor Harvey Johnson gave a lecture on whales and whaling, illustrated by slides of pictures taken on the last voyage of the Discovery to the Antarctic.

Sir Douglas Mawson gave people a fine idea of life in the Antarctic, with explanatory talks, on an exhibit of equipment his expedition took south last trip.

A moving picture of aboriginal life near MacDonaid Down Station, taken on the visit of the anthropological section of the University to Central Australia in August, was shown by Professor Wilkinson, and records of aboriginal music obtained by him on various

ous expeditions, were played by Professor Davies.

A lecturette on "How we Breathe" was given by Professor Hicks. Tonight will be carnival night at the University, the big night for the students.

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UNIVERSITY AND STATE

The Adelaide University did a good service to itself and the community last night, by throwing its doors open to the general public. It was not, of course, the first time that visitors have been entertained at a conversazione; but this year's demonstration, which will include a students' carnival tonight, was arranged on a specially elaborate scale, and is characterised by several novel and interesting features, perhaps to compensate for the three years interval which had been allowed to elapse since the public were last admitted to this home of the higher learning. By brief addresses by professors and lecturers to those interested in the subjects dealt with, supplemented, where possible, by exhibits bearing upon them, the guests were made to realise what an invaluable work the institution is doing for those brought within its range, and directly or indirectly, for the intellectual life of the whole State. The University has gained a reputation for the thoroughness of its training, so that it ranks in value with those of any similar seat of learning in the world.

To most people the University is mainly known as having helped many students on their way to a legal or medical practice, and as having contributed very largely towards training the school teachers; but, as visitors were reminded yesterday, its labors in research cover a wide field, and, in equipment, its laboratories are unsurpassed in Australia. Associated with its teaching staff have been men of world-wide fame, such as Bragg, Brailsford, Robertson, Bently, Watson, Stirling, Wood Jones, and Darnley Naylor, to name but a few of those of the past. There is a possible danger that, by a parade of its paraphernalia and mechanical resources, visitors may be tempted to suppose that the material side of existence absorbs the attention of the University, to the exclusion of any other. But, while putting the undisputed stamp of efficiency on its graduates in those avenues which lead to the various callings, the supreme educational tribunal makes its students the emissaries of a broad spirit of culture, which is felt throughout the State, and the weight and value of which cannot be exaggerated, though they may be imperceptible to visitors to a conversazione. It is not by the number of its graduates, that the worth of a university is to be measured; if it were, this number might be multiplied ad lib. It is by the discipline enforced on all who enter its portals, whether they emerge stamped with its hall-mark or not. It is the habit, enforced by attendance at its classes, of keeping the mind in a constant state of interrogation with regard to phenomena and ideas to which the illiterate are indifferent, which constitutes the main service rendered by a university. The value of a sojourn in the groves of Academe is best tested by the thought of what a prodigy of learning a man or woman would be, who carried into later life the methods practised there, and applied, to one subject after another, those habits of assimilating and memorising, which every university makes it its business to inculcate.

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SIR GEORGE MURRAY ESSAY

The Chief Justice (Sir George Murray), who is patron of the South Australian group of the Institute of Public Administration, has again offered £10 to provide prizes in the members' and associates' sections of the competition for the Sir George Murray Essay. The choice of the subject will be left to individual competitors, but it must be regarded as a useful contribution to the study of public administration.

The Advertiser

and Register

ADELAIDE: FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1931

OUR FOREST WEALTH

The opening, in the Mount Burr pine plantations, near Millicent, of the largest saw-milling plant in Australia, may be expected to give a fresh stimulus to public interest in the vital question of afforestation. In the way of forest land, this continent, taken as a whole, has never had much to boast of. It has received, indeed, in this respect, the most meagre endowment from nature of any division of the earth of similar size. That, of course, should have moved its Governments and Parliaments to special action, to preserve its natural forests from destruction by fire, and the still more ruthless axe of the settler. But, even had the original area of forest land remained undenuded, it would still have been imperative to enlarge its area by cultivating timber of the kind required for modern industrial purposes. To this State must be assigned the credit of having enacted, for the benefit of the others, the role of pioneer, the opening phase having been the extensive planting of Pinus insignis by John Ednie Brown, getting on to half a century ago. Again, in establishing a school of forestry at its University in 1911, South Australia served the Commonwealth by training men for technical appointments in any of the States, and the school did its work so well that it has never ceased to be a matter of wonderment that the Commonwealth should have added needlessly to its expenditure, by establishing a similar school at Canberra.

Very properly—and, in our present economic circumstances, very appropriately—Mr. Pollard, Assistant Minister of Agriculture in Victoria, in his remarks at Mount Burr, referred to this matter, strengthening by his personal testimony, the protest against the intrusion of the Commonwealth into the arboricultural field. He has inspected the afforestation work done in this State, as well as Victoria, and knows sufficiently what has been accomplished in other States to be assured that nothing the Commonwealth can do can improve on it. One shares, with no very sanguine feeling, his hope that the Commonwealth will quit the field, if only on the score of economy. The further hope may be indulged that the protest of the South Australian Government against the imposition of the shocking duty of £1,500 on the milling plant, equivalent to nearly half its cost, will not be lost on either Labor or Nationalism. The case affords a very good example of the way instruments of production, whether or not they are capable of being locally manufactured, are treated under the present tariff, and is at least a partial explanation of the cloud resting on the industries of Australia. Forestry in this State has many achievements to its credit, and there is no public department, the operation of which deserves more attention, than that over which Mr. Julius presides. Its record has been one of steady, if unostentatious progress, and it may be congratulated on the evidence furnished by the Mount Burr enterprise, that it is a very "live show." Mr. Whitford assesses the value of the timber, which the plantation will yield at the close of a quarter of a century, at from £75 to £80 an acre per annum. There is an insatiable demand for pine timber, and, in its plantations, the State, in future years, will have one of the most valuable of its natural assets.

STUDENTS' NIGHT OUT

Carnival at University

Carnival reigned supreme at the University last night. It was truly a students' night out. Everything was topsy-turvy, and visitors had to watch their steps.

Undergraduates the world over love a "rag," and those of Adelaide were no exception last night. Fancy dress was the rule, and the more grotesque and ridiculous it was the more successful it appeared to be.

In the House of Illusion in the Physics Building Messrs. "Reardore" and "Scuttle" were busily engaged printing their carnival issue of notes, which they distributed free. At the same time "Runedini the Great," in the mineralogy lecture-room, was demonstrating how to get money for nothing by plucking coins from the air. Heath Robinson has nothing on the engineering students of the University when it comes to designing weird and wonderful machines, and Ivanitch's back-scratching machine, which, it is claimed, did all the scratching for the Melbourne Cup, and the flytrap were quite as ridiculous as anything he has ever suggested.

High Court of Injustice

"Legal Lapses," the court skit performed by members of the law school in the physics theatre, was crowded at every sitting.

Medical Students' Rag

Equally successful was the pageant produced by the medical students, which was so popular that extra performances had to be given to accommodate those who wished to see it. It purported to trace the growth of medical science through the ages, and was well described in the official programme as "unparalleled, unequalled, unbiased, and unintelligible."

The revue by the Footlights Club in the Elder Hall, and the one-act play, "The Wedding Morning," presented by the Literary, Debating, and Dramatic Society in the Lady Symon Hall, were thoroughly enjoyed by the crowds who saw them. The dance palas in the refectory was well patronised throughout the evening by a heterogeneous collection of dancers in probably the weirdest collection of costumes ever seen in Adelaide.

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University Carnival Success

Exhausted after their arduous efforts in the exhibition and carnival, students of the University of Adelaide welcomed the end of the first term today. They will be on vacation until Tuesday, June 9.

Gratification was expressed at the University at the success of the carnival, which was the most comprehensive ever staged. Mr. G. A. Hughes (organising secretary) said that there were nearly 2,000 people present last night. He could give no estimate of the proceeds, but is certain that the University Sports Association, University Union, and the Royal Institution for the Blind, will benefit materially.

Mr. R. R. P. Barbour (president of the organising committee) stated that the part taken by the students in the exhibition and carnival suggested that good use was made of the average student's time at the University.

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FIDUCIARY NOTES

Heavy Demand for University Issue

So great was the enquiry for free "money" in the form of imitation bank-notes, which were issued at the University carnival on Friday night, that students had to work the hand-power printing press in the physics for several hours on Saturday morning to cope with further demands.

The notes are a clever skit on the fiduciary issue proposed by Mr. E. G. Theodore (Federal Treasurer). The lettering reads:—"The usurer of the University of Adelaide promises to give the bearer one pound in dirt on demand.—(Signed) Y. Scuttle and E. X. Reardore."

The border on the notes comprises caricatures of Messrs. Scullin and Theodore and sketches of siphon bottles, white elephants, and Federal Parliament House. On the reverse side is a picture showing Mr. Theodore, dressed as a miner, working at a shaft at the "Banana" mine, Queensland.