

PROFESSORS AND THEIR WAYS

Men Who Have Graced the Chairs at Adelaide University

MANY brilliant men have occupied the chairs at Adelaide University. During an association of 40 years, 32 of which were spent as registrar, Mr. Hodge came in close personal contact with them, and is now able to relate many interesting particulars of the professors and the growth of university work. Mr. Hodge retired in February, 1924, and is now living at Victor Harbor.

By C. R. HODGE

THE University began in a modest way with four professors and eight undergraduates. Two of the professors were brought from England—Sir Horace Lamb and Mr. Ralph Tate. The two others appointed were Revs. Henry Read and John Davidson, university graduates and ministers in Adelaide. The following notes, however, deal only with professors who were at the University during the writer's period of office, excluding present members of the staff.

In 1884 the staff of the institution included four professors, two lecturers, one lecturer's assistant, the registrar, registrar's clerk, and a caretaker.

Prof. David Frederick Kelly, M.A. (Camb.), a highly qualified man, succeeded Mr. Read to the chair of classics, but had limited opportunities so far as his position was concerned. For some time he suffered from creeping paralysis, but manfully continued his work under great difficulties. He died in 1894. Prof. E. V. Boulger held the position until the end of that year.

Edward von Blomberg Bensly, M.A. (Camb.), the next occupant of the chair (1895-1905), was a cultured man with a pronounced English university manner and method of speech. His students in Latin were nonplussed when they discovered that their mentor favored the "K" in place of the soft "C," and thereby became acquainted with one called "Kikero," whom they had previously known as "Sisero".

Prof. Bensly did excellent work in the arts school, and will be remembered as having opposed with success a movement in favor of making Greek and Latin optional instead of compulsory subjects for the B.A. Degree. He returned to England when he resigned, and is still in the land of the living.

A HANDSOME man—affectionately called Adonis by his intimate friends—H. Darnley Naylor succeeded Prof. Bensly, taking up his duties in 1907 and remaining until 1927. He is a charming and capable man.

Vivacious and interesting but somewhat restless and erratic was Edward Vaughan Boulger,



Sir William Bragg

popular for many years, and still functions. After the death of Prof. Kelly, the chair of classics was held by Prof. Boulger.

M.A., D.Litt. (Dublin), who in 1883 took over the chairs of English language and literature and mental and moral philosophy. He did much in the interests of the University. His classes were larger than the average. He had, therefore, a greater source of inspiration than some of his colleagues. It was at his instigation, I believe, that the University Shakespeare Society was formed during the 'eighties—an organisation, by the way, which never has had any definite connection with the University save by name. It was active and formed during the 'eighties—



MR. HODGE

Sir William Mitchell (present vice-chancellor) was appointed to the chair of English language in 1894, and held the position for 28 years.

FOR a time the subjects modern history and English language and literature were associated, and Robert Langton Douglas, M.A. (Oxon.), was in charge from 1900 to 1902. English language and literature were then dissociated, and the title of the chair was altered to that of modern history, to which was appointed George Cockburn Henderson, M.A. (Oxon.), who held the position for 22 years. He instituted reforms that raised the standard of his work and widened the horizon of his students. Good results were achieved, particularly after the establishment of the Tinline Research Scholarship in History, for which an endowment of £1,000 was generously made

by Sir George Murray (present chancellor).

During his tenure of office Prof. Henderson wrote and published "The Life of Sir George Grey," Governor of South Australia from 1841 to 1845. In 1924 he resigned and left the State.

MATHEMATICS and physics was a conjoint chair for some years. Sir Horace Lamb, M.A. (Camb.), a distinguished mathematician, was one of the four original professors appointed in 1875. He was guide, philosopher, and friend to his students, and a tower of strength to the council. He was a chubby, cheery man with a smile reminiscent of Pickwick. He could, however, look very stern, and there was something arresting in that sternness. The distinguishing feature was his eyeglass. His 10 years of service were invaluable to the University, and his departure was much regretted.

UPON the resignation of Dr. Lamb, William Henry Bragg, M.A., F.R.S., a young graduate in arts of Cambridge University, received the appointment. He was easily the juvenile professor, but was well qualified for his work, and became a power for good in practically all directions. He and Sir William Mitchell inaugurated that excellent scheme for the free education of teachers in the Education Department who desire to obtain university degrees. This has saved the Government thousands of pounds.



Prof. Henderson

The University, on its part, did something for Prof. (now Sir William) Bragg, by giving him an opportunity to become a distinguished research scientist in radio-activity. Although he has attained fame since he left Adelaide in 1908, he has never forgotten his Australian friends, and keeps in touch with the University. Deep sympathy was felt for Sir William when Lady Bragg, a daughter of the late Sir Charles Todd, passed away.

State Parliament

STATUS OF DENTISTS

Degrees Required After 1941

Provisions in the Dentists Bill, which was introduced in the Legislative Council yesterday afternoon, would raise the status of the dental profession and consolidate the existing law, said the Chief Secretary (Mr. Whitford).

Part II of the Bill, said the Minister, altered the constitution of the Dental Board, which at present consisted of two doctors, two dentists, and a Government nominee as chairman, leaving dentists in a minority. The chairman of the new board would be the Dean of the Faculty of Dental Science at the University, and the members would be three registered dentists and a doctor appointed by the British Medical Association. The board would be required to issue an annual balance-sheet within one month after the end of the financial year.

New Registration Conditions

There were two innovations in the law dealing with registration, he said. After 1941, the system of registration after apprenticeship and examination in accordance with the board's regulations would cease, and only persons holding degrees or diplomas granted by universities or medical boards would qualify for registration. Provision was also made for the registration as dentists of persons engaged as operative dental assistants when the Bill came into operation. They would, in all cases, have to pass an examination or test, depending on the length of time during which the applicant had been engaged in dentistry. Any person holding a degree granted by any Australian University or dental college, or any of the principal universities or medical bodies of the United Kingdom might be registered. Holders of any other degree would require to obtain a degree of the same grade from the University of Adelaide.

Assistants to be Licensed

The licensing of operative dental assistants was required by another section of the Bill. To obtain a licence they must have been employed by dentists registered and practising in the State before the commencement of the Bill, and must apply for registration within three months of the Bill taking effect. The Bill would not affect the position of dental mechanics or nurses.

Position of Clinics

Although the Bill would generally prohibit the employment of registered dentists by an unregistered person or company, exceptions were made in favor of dental clinics. Clinics could, in future, be established only by complying with the requirements of the board and paying an annual licensing fee of £3 3/. The Bill gave the Dental Board disciplinary power over dentists and dental assistants, but any decision of the board would be subject to appeal to the Supreme Court, a right which did not exist at present.

"The Government has every reason to hope," said Mr. Whitford, "that this Bill will be the last word on the subject of dentists for some time to come, and will be a desirable addition to the Statute Book."

The debate was adjourned until Tuesday next.

Perth Gossip

From Our Special Correspondent
Perth, September 22.

An interesting report on University conditions abroad has been brought back by the returning Vice-Chancellor (Professor Whitfield). It supplements that recently issued by Sir William Mitchell, of Adelaide. The fact that the number of students tends to rise in bad times and to fall in prosperity was noted by the Western Australian professor, who, however, thinks that local conditions do not warrant the reduction of numbers by making the entrance standards fiercer. He appears to think that it is all to the good that the University should do the work, at the beginning of its courses, now done abroad by the higher classes of secondary schools in Great Britain, and that students should go up young. He believes that Australians who go to English universities from school are at a great disadvantage, but that those who go for post-graduate study hold their own very well. The University Senate has postponed its discussion of the very vexed question of fees for a week.

OLD SCHOLARS' MEETING

The advanced school for Girls' Old Scholars' Association held its third meeting of the year at the Adelaide High School on Monday evening. Miss C. E. Sells presided. Misses Ivy Dun-can (secretary) and Florence Fergu-son (treasurer) gave reports on the progress of the association. The old scholars decided that a University prize be established as a memorial to the late headmistress, Miss Madeline Ross-George, and that Mrs. I. McNEIL be appointed as treasurer of the fund. Misses Eric and Bessie Mills gave an interesting account of their travels in England and on the Continent.