

THE COMMEMORATION AT THE UNIVERSITY

THEN AND NOW

No. II.

By the Rev. F. SLANEY POOLE, M.A.

It will, I think, be found that in all ages, and in all countries, there has been contention between the old and young. It is not to be regretted, for it is in this conflict that the wisest and best progress is made possible. Old men dream their dreams, young men will see their visions; and since "Man never continueth on one stay," we must look for opposition from both sides. "One increasing purpose," says Tennyson, "runs through all ages," and he adds that "the thoughts of men are widened by the process of the suns." It is true that the older we grow the more attached we are to the practices and customs of our youth and early manhood. It seemed to us "so lovely what our fathers did," but it was to them as it is to us, "tollsome and incomplete." The visionary gleam is with the young. They see what we old men with failing vision fail to discern. It is true that the wisdom brought by long experience rests with the old, and it is small wonder that they are resentful at much change, certainly if the change be violent. Living as we do in a rapidly changing world, a world that has changed in the last 20 years more than in the previous two centuries, all are conscious of disturbance. This hurrying bustle in which life is lived to-day is a rude and rough trial to the strength and patience of the aged. The mind of the young differ largely from that of the old, their thoughts are not so much for the limited past as for the apparently unlimited future. They have visions, plots, and plans for the years to come, years which seem to be stretched out before them like a large unrolled plane which invites them to make their mark. The future, they feel, is with them, and the problems of the future will be placed in their hands for solution. Their chief outlook is on the future, but if they are wise they will "interrogate the past." They will seek the advice and stored wisdom of the old, but it must not be expected that they will accept dictation.

I have said all this because I have a confession to make of misconceptions, errors if you like, which possessed me in my younger days. I am, I believe, the oldest living member of the University of Adelaide. In those early days I was a strong upholder of what is called classical education in the old schools in the mother country. I am speaking of 70 years ago, hardly anything else was taught but Latin and Greek, and at the universities at that period the only recognised faculties were divinity, law and physic. Additions and changes were made about that time by the creation of other schools of study. The older method put the student into communication with the minds of great men of former times and other countries, and it had the effect of widening and improving what was distinctly "human" in him; hence these studies have been termed the "humanities." In spite of my confession, I still believe that the old classical culture to be the best, for the proper study of mankind is "man," not merely as represented by our next-door neighbor, but "man" as he appears in all ages and in many countries. Unfortunately, such studies do not appeal to all minds, nor perhaps are they so necessary in these days of rapid intercommunication; but in the days of which I am writing, seventy years ago, no distinction was made; each boy had to go through the same mill, and gerund-grinding was required from all.

Wedded as I was at the time to the methods of the old schools and universities in England, I contended for the maintenance of the old methods in our new University, and when, some 40 years ago, an attempt was made to eliminate Greek from the curriculum I was perhaps the strongest antagonist of such a course. I was wrong; I should not do so now, for everything seems to point to the gradual widening of the work of the Universities so as to embrace and comprehend all arts and sciences which require elaborate teaching and training. I feel forced to say this, after witnessing the proceedings at the commemoration on Wednesday: the large number of those who were admitted to their degrees, or who received their diplomas, the crowded assemblage in the body of the hall, the platform equally crowded with the members of the Council and of the Senate, the professors and other members of the University, the charming dignity of the Chancellor and his well-delivered address; all helped to make me feel that my early conception of a university was wrong, and that the wider the scope of the

sweep of the activities of the University was fully justified. Numbers, I know, are not everything, but they mean more than no numbers at all; and comparing what I saw, and remembering the scant classes and small professoriate of the early days, I could not refrain from admitting that Finis coronat opus (good work has, indeed, been done). It is much—apart from what they actually acquired of knowledge and learning—that so large a number of the younger members of the State should have been brought into touch with an institution whose great object is the advancement of knowledge, research, and wisdom. At the commemoration I derived much satisfaction from noticing that diplomas were granted in "economics" and "political science." This struck me as if it were heralding the dawn of a better day, a day when our legislators shall be required to acquire a testamur that they have fitted themselves for the great positions they seek to fill, and possess a knowledge—equally applicable to States and individuals—that he who goes a-borrowing goes a-sorrowing. I am afraid, however, that the time is not yet.

In conclusion, may I be permitted, in all modesty, to congratulate the University on the generous treatment which its work and general conduct of its affairs has evoked from the Government of the State, and on the splendid support which has been given to it by the endowments and gifts of its long list of benefactors; some of them like those of Sir Thomas Elder and Sir Walter Hughes, given in faith, because they saw the need of such an institution; others again because they recognised the good work which was being done, the very sincerest testimony to the way in which the University has discharged its duty to the community.

ADV. 20-12-29

CHAIR OF PIANOFORTE

NEW PROFESSOR FOR SYDNEY

Mr. Isodore Goodman, the new professor of Pianoforte at the Sydney Conservatorium, is a passenger on the Aberdeen liner Euripides, which arrived yesterday at the Outer Harbor.

Mr. Goodman, who is a young man, was born in South Africa. As a youth he won the open scholarship of the British Isles, which entitled him to three years' study at the Royal College of Music. He continued his studies in England and on the Continent, where he subsequently gave recitals as a solo pianist. He admitted a special fondness for the works of Beethoven, Bach and Chopin, and was taking up a more extensive study of the compositions of modern composers. He hopes to tour the capital cities of Australia before long. This is his first visit to the Commonwealth.

ADV. 23-12-29

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY

AIMS OF COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT

The Commonwealth Government are making strenuous efforts to apply the knowledge of science to industry, said Senator J. J. Daly, Vice President of the Executive Council, who returned from Canberra on Saturday morning. He will remain in Adelaide until January 8, and before returning will visit the Waite Agricultural Research Institute with the Hon. John Gunn. He will also inspect the result of Professor Brailsford Robertson's research regarding animal nutrition, and discuss its applicability to present day conditions.

News 26-12-29

Senator J. J. Daly, to acquaint himself with the work of the Animal Nutrition Laboratory at Adelaide University, under Prof. T. Brailsford Robertson, paid a visit of inspection this morning, accompanied by the Hon. J. Gunn (member of the Development and Migration Commission). Later in the day Senator Daly inspected Waite Research Institute.

adv. 3-1-30

CHAIR OF ANATOMY

Applications for the position of Elder Professor of Anatomy and Histology in the University of Adelaide, rendered vacant by the retirement of Professor H. H. Woollard to accept a position in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, closed with the Registrar of the University (Mr. F. W. Eardley) on Wednesday. Although no announcement will be made until a decision is reached by the council, it is believed that applications will be received from Great Britain and Europe. The applications will probably be considered next week.

News 26-12-29

LECTURE TOUR

Prof. Murray to be Invited

MELBOURNE, Today.

As Dean Inge was unable to accept the invitation of the Australian universities to visit the Commonwealth on a lecture tour, an invitation will be extended to Prof. Gilbert Murray, an Australian, and one of the most distinguished scholars produced by this country.

Prof. Murray, who has been professor of Greek at Oxford since 1908, was born at Sydney on January 2, 1866. His father was the late Sir Terence Aubrey Murray, who was President of the New South Wales Legislative Council.

News 26-12-29



PROF. GILBERT MURRAY

An Australian, to whom an invitation is to be extended by the universities to conduct a lecture tour of the Commonwealth.

News 28-12-29

ANOTHER REFUSAL

Lecture Tour of Australia

PROF. MURRAY DECLINES

(SPECIAL TO "THE NEWS") LONDON, December 27.

"I greatly regret that I am unable to accept the invitation to visit Australia," said Prof. Gilbert Murray today.

"As an Australian, it would be of great interest to me to revisit the Commonwealth, but engagements here forbid such a long absence as that would entail."

Prof. Murray has been Regius Professor of Greek at Oxford University since 1908.

It was decided by Australian Universities to invite him to visit the Commonwealth on a lecture tour in place of Dean Inge, who has declined a similar invitation.

Reg. 6-1-30

Mr. H. H. Finlayson, a member of the honorary staff of the South Australian Museum, has set out on a two months' research expedition in north Tasmania and the Furneaux and Kent Islands in Bass Strait. He will specialise in the field on mammals.

Reg. 6-1-30

MR. W. V. Ludbrooke, B.Sc., left for Sydney on Saturday to go to Wisconsin University for a two years' course in plant pathology. He holds a research student scholarship under the Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

Reg. 7-1-30

GEOGRAPHY LECTURE ON NEW COURSE

"Part Of Many Subjects"

DR. FENNER APPOINTED

"A great need is felt by both departmental and private secondary schools for guidance in modern geography," said the Superintendent of Technical Education (Dr. Charles Fenner), who was notified yesterday of his appointment as lecturer in geography at Adelaide University.

His duties will begin with the opening of the coming academic year.

It will be the first time that geography has been the subject of a degree course in Adelaide.

The Director of Education (Mr. W. J. Adey) was largely responsible for interesting the University authorities in the necessity of the course.

"Geography is no longer a mere list of mountains and islands, or the products of countries," said Dr. Fenner, discussing the purpose of his new work (which he will carry on without relinquishing his position in the Education Department).

"It is rather the gathering ground of the sciences.

"Geology, zoology, botany, history, and economics all contribute something to geography—each has something in it which relates to the reaction of man to his environment.

"We are no longer satisfied to know that London is on the Thames. We want to know why it is there, and what are the advantages and disadvantages to mankind of its position."

RECENT MOVEMENT

"Most of us when at school were taught what is now called "sailor" geography, which involved long imaginary accounts of journeys all over the world, and laid great stress on meaningless lists of rivers and products, and was particularly strong on bays, capes and lighthouses.

"Nowadays in geography we must ask, 'What are the things that matter to man?'"

"This movement towards modern or casual geography is recent so far as Australia is concerned, although on the Continent and in Great Britain and America it has been for some time an advanced University subject.

"Australia's only geographer has been Professor Griffith Taylor, who recently went to Chicago where there are seven other fellow professors in geography.

"Professor Taylor will teach nothing but the geography of Australia and Antarctica."

News 6-1-30

LECTURER IN GEOGRAPHY

Dr. Charles Fenner Appointed

NEW UNIVERSITY SUBJECT

The council of the University of Adelaide, with the approval of the Hon. M. McIntosh (Minister of Education) has appointed Dr. Charles E. Fenner (Superintendent of Technical Education) lecturer in geography and in the Faculty of Arts.

This is a new lectureship, and has been created by the council in response to requests from teachers and others for instruction in geography. The course has been added to the curriculum for the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

The appointment of Dr. Fenner is a part-time one. The course will begin in the first term of the University in March, and lectures will be given probably in the evenings only.

Dr. Fenner expressed pleasure when acquainted with his appointment. He is well qualified to hold the post, having made a close study of geography and geology. He has written several works on Victorian and South Australian geography.

Dr. Fenner is joint secretary in South Australia of the Geographical Society. He holds the gold medal of the Victorian Geographical Society, and he won the Syme Prize for geographical research.

