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UNIVERSITY IDEALS tacts are made; and the state is dying is not surprising that the university abroad a cynical notion, which is dying in common with the rest of our educations of the state of gilded youth can play the fool for a the coping-stone, receives its failure. It is no doubt the prevalence versity to the neglect of the oth ment from Dr. Priestley, Vice-Chancellor of Melbourne University. In what may be termed a policy speech, he among other things, that a university should be more than a degree-conferring institution. It should not merely be a shop, producing, at however high a standard the academic goods advertised in its calendar. should be first and foremost a labora-tory for the formulation of new thought; a suitable home for the herishing of old ideas. Newman, in his masterly treatise on this subject, finds the origin of the university idea in the free growth of Athenian culture of the al period rather than in any d conceived system. For some the peculiar and beauty, produced a pheno Athens the hub of the world of learning and art. Thithe sia Minor; and thither, too, came asng students from every part of the lised world to sit at the feet of ous professors. This free trade, as it were, in learning, arising from a supply of scholars on the one hand and a demand for their knowledge on the other, is, according to Newman; the idea of a university in a nutshell. This was not essentially an age of books; carning was disseminated by personal and the spoken word; and Carlyle says that "the true rsity of these (modern) days is a books," Newman mainthat the inspiration which can only from actual associa-with scholarly men, is an essential feature of such an institution, The fine, free—almost irresponsible— conception of Athenian life epitomised speeches of Pericles and emodied in his person, the liberal attitude towards knowledge for its own sake, persisted long after Athens became Athenians can hardly be credited any systematic attempt to propa- for a degree a dull grind. it cannot be said to attended dictated n ever yet. Politically, copied down to be Athens was absorbed by the Mace donian empire, but her culture still adopting the p survived; and the Macedonian Alex-typed copies of which they seem to spread afield. He

When, later, the Roman Empire beorld's University; and, because "cap-

The Advertiser at Athens. The credit, therefore, for women who must be counted on to will not one unit and the control of the more particularly, to Rome. love of law and order was grafted upon the feeling that the university

the care-free Athenian ideal, giving to a university a more definite charter and a more deliberately social and both they and the universit political outlook. Influence first as Newman says, and then the law: "such is the history of society; it begins in the poet and ends in the policeman." versities subsist in a great measure on the poet and ends in the poet an versities subsists in a great measure. Later, the influence of Christianity iert Government grants and endowments its mark on the universities of Europe; by public-spirited benefactors, there is and finally the addition of the modern by piblic-spirited beneatcors, there ex and finally the addition of the modern a growing public interest in their do-conception of science brings us to the ings, nevertheless there still remark university of our own times. Such conflicting and totally inadequate very briefly, is the heritage of the views on the aims and ideals of a university. For some, it is an establishRoman concept of law and system, then ment where one can earn a degree the ennobling influence of Christiwhich is an open sesame to a comfort, anity, and finally the progressive spirit able billet. To others, it means, pri- of modern science. The fourfold duty marily, a place where useful social con- of using this heritage to best advanmade: and there is still tage, is fraught with difficulty; and it is not surprising that the university, hard, that a university is a place where tional system, of which it should form few years before proudly facing the of criticism. The natural tendency world with a record of academic is to emphasise one aspect of a uniof such vague and unsatisfactory no- There are some people so enamored of tions that recently evoked strong com- the Athenian ideal, that they look upon a university solely as a repository for knowledge, with facilities for adding to the store by research. It exists, they think, for the professors and a few brilliant students who are tal are taking study. Meticulous scholarshin is their watchword; and they become so ab ministered sorbed with the notion of carrying on present Mr. the torch of learning, that they tend to overlook the need for using the torch to enlighten the community. Others. again, neglecting this fine quest after truth for its own sake, emphasise the social and more blatantly utilitarian aspect. Many young men, for instance, aspiring to a professional career, look upon the university as a machine through which they have to pass and from which they will duly issue bearing a trade mark. The public, realising that this trade mark gives them at an rate some guarantee of efficient profes sional service, acquiesces in this view Others, again, of radical leanings, conthe fine ideal of character implanted in the conception of a un sity by Christian ethics: while reactionaries even in these days contemptu

ously dismiss "modern" subjects, and wave aside science as "stinks. Most people will agree with Dr. Life Of Modern Child "Too should should "formulate new thought" and "cherish old ideals," provided, of course, looked. The modern university has the esponsibility of working for humanity in a broader sense. It must not take the lead in preserving old ideals and formulating new discover more efficient means of disamong the munity. Nor should it overlook its duty in the less exalted sphere of vocat training. Dr. Priestley admits that " university can go a certain way ticular professions" Anyone who has attended a university persisted long meer than although knows how easy it is for the student who is not specialising, examination the practice the Great, who added to his still a fact that the lecture periods are ideals a fine conception of or- not at all generally spent in discussion have or in establishing those personal con Greek tacts which were the essence of the world to civilise it, and the turers do make up, to some extent Ismous university and library estab- what is lacking here, by mingling with lished under the Ptolemies at Alex students in the various social institu-andria is linked with his name. But tions of the university, Many underwas still an essentially Athenian graduates,

arger scale, belongs to Macedonie that they should become imbued with the right spirit; and, if they leave with and the university failed, That Australia, although so remote from European culture, has been able to secure so many of the world's great scholars for its profesworld's great scholars for its profes-sorial chairs, is a great tribute to the strength of the university spirit in this young country. Always the finest men available have been sought; and South Australia has been particularly fortunate in securing at all times men not only of great scholastic attainment but plastic attainment but of fine ideals and personality. Much too, is being done to extend culture to ties are thrown open to the public by ues are thrown open to the public by such means as extension lectures, bre deasts, and Workers' Educational As citations. The scope of these acti-vities, however, must yet be extended; is to education in its broadest conception that the world must look if modern democracy is to survive. And although something more systematic and effective must be done than was done by the Athenians, whose demo-cracy came to ruin in spite of their culture, yet it is not without confidence ne looks to our universities to point the way to a more general en-

## NEARS END

Olde 14 9.33 Visiting Doctors Acclaim Gathering

## STRIKING DEBATE ON NORTH AUSTRALIA

## Strennous"

MELBOURNE, September 13. The annual meeting of the British Medical Association-acclaimed by prominent overseas visitors as one of the

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most successful ever held-will receive its finishing touches tomorrow were raised today preserving Ausfrontiers from the pressure and kin

Problems Of Northern Australia

al medical services had their

lation and its relative. He painted a glood tions in the Pacific,

Sir Raphael Cliento added that opulation of Japan had increase 0 years from 28,000,000 to 60,000 trigely because of the rapid imprent in food and wages and bec