

Registriert August 31<sup>er</sup> 1887

Dresses could be ascertained, inviting their co-operation. A special appeal was made to medical practitioners in South Australia not members of the British Medical Association. Special communications were addressed to the Presidents and Chairmen of the Medical Societies of Australasia. Notice of the proposed Congress was sent to the medical Press of Australia and of India, and to the chief organs of the profession in other parts of the world. Through the good offices of the committee of the International Exhibition representations were made to the Agent-General and to Sir Samuel Davenport with a view to obtaining an adequate display of scientific appliances at the Exhibition. Numerous promises of support were received from representative members of the profession in the various colonies, and the Council of the University of Adelaide generously granted the use of their halls. Reporting to the South Australian Branch of the British Medical Association in October, the Joint Committee was instructed to continue its labours and to place the matter fully in the hands of the profession. A circular was accordingly issued in November inviting all legally qualified practitioners to become members of the Congress and to assist in carrying it to a successful issue. The invitation met with a hearty and general response, and the first meeting of subscribers was held in Adelaide on December 11. It was then determined that the Congress should be held on the lines suggested by the Provisional Committee. Dr. J. C. Verco was elected President, and an Executive Committee was appointed consisting of twenty members, with power to add to their number. The Governors of all the Australian Colonies and of New Zealand accorded their patronage to the Congress. Sir Anthony Musgrave, G.C.M.G., a former Governor of this province and now Governor of Queensland, expressed his special gratification in being associated with a movement so well calculated to benefit the profession and the public throughout Australia. Sir Charles Mitchell, of Fiji, has written regretting that the exigencies of the public service would probably prevent the desired attendance of some of his leading medical officers. The Presidents of all the Medical Societies of Australasia have become Vice-Presidents of the Congress. Special delegates are present from the New Zealand Medical Association; from the Universities of Sydney and Melbourne; and from the Medical Societies of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Ballarat, and Sandhurst. The Executive Committee conducting the business of the Congress reported progress on July 14 to a meeting of the members. A small Business Committee, delegated by the Executive has met frequently since January. A Reception Committee, under the presidency of Dr. Stirling, has been actively engaged in providing for the entertainment of visitors. The number of members on the list to-day is 155, and includes practitioners from New South Wales, Victoria, New Zealand, Queensland, South Australia, the Northern Territory, and Fiji. The work of the Congress will be conducted in the four main sections—medicine, surgery, gynaecology, and State medicine—under the presidency of Dr. Williams, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Foreman, and Dr. Whittell respectively. The committee in submitting this report of its work would express the hope that this Congress may

express the hope that this Congress may result in such substantial benefit to the profession throughout these colonies as to warrant the convening of a second session at no far distant date."

Dr. DAVIES THOMAS moved the adoption of the report.

Dr. D. JAMIESON (Victoria) seconded. He felt sure that their expectations of the success of the Congress would be realized. Speaking as a member of the medical profession in Victoria, he would say that they did not grudge to South Australia the honour of initiating what they hoped and believed would be a series of Congresses. If the honour of holding the next Congress should fall to the lot of Victoria, they would deprecate its being held too soon, because it would need a great deal of time and thought before they would have a second Congress which would not be at all inferior to that to be held in Adelaide.

The motion was carried.

Dr. VERCO then asked His Excellency to open the Congress.

#### THE GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

His EXCELLENCY, who was received with cheers, said:—Mr. President and gentlemen—It is with great pleasure that I once more find myself taking part in a meeting of an intercolonial character, the third or fourth, I think, that may be said to be directly due to the jubilee celebrations and to that federal spirit the growth of which we have noticed with so much satisfaction. First came the opening of the Exhibition, the great event of the year, followed by that quick succession of visitors which has done so much to draw the colonies together. This was succeeded by the Intercolonial Chess Congress and the intercolonial rifle matches, both of them events of much interest and importance in their particular ways; and to-day we welcome from the other colonies, and from distant parts of our own, the members of a noble learned profession, whose conference in the fair City of Adelaide will mark an important step in the development of federal unity, and should prove of far-reaching benefit to the public. Medical conferences have been held before now in older parts of the world, as witness the meetings of the International Medical Congress, of which I understand seven or eight have been held in London and on the Continent of Europe. But this, I believe, is the first held in Australia of an intercolonial character, and I am sure I echo the sentiments of all present when I express the hope that it may be in every sense of the word a success. But a few years ago such a meeting of medical gentlemen engaged in the active business of their profession would have been difficult, if not impossible. To-day it is not only possible but easy, thanks to the rapid improvement that has of late taken place in the means of communication between the colonies, and probably one question to be considered before you separate will be as to the possibility of arranging for similar conferences in the future, thus securing for this Association now inaugurated a permanent intercolonial character. The scope and object of this conference will be better explained to you by others, but even to the unprofessional mind it must be clear that great good may be expected from such a meeting as this. Longfellow has said that

Joy, temperance, and repose  
Slam the door on the doctor's nose.

Temperance—in other words, moderation, that golden rule of life—it is open to all of us to practise. Joy and repose are not so easily commanded, especially by those who are engaged in the battle of public life; and the hurry and toil of existence will tell on us here in time as they have told for generations on older and more densely peopled communities. We know that even in the delightful and health-giving climate of Australia we cannot escape those ailments to which the flesh is heir, and when the leading medical men from the various colonies meet and, as I assume they will, confer together upon such questions as the sanitary condition of our cities, the prevention as well as the cure of disease, the influence of our climate for good or evil on complaints which are formidable elsewhere, and other kindred questions, it is clear that valuable results may be anticipated and not at all surprising that the public should feel much interest in the conference. I understand that we are indebted for the inauguration of this movement to the South Australian branch of the British Medical Association, which, acting on a suggestion from Dr. Poulton, took steps for carrying this project into effect. That the exertions of the promoters of the Conference have been so far successful is shown by the pleasing circumstance that we welcome to-day some forty or fifty gentlemen from the neighbouring colonies, together with some 100 from South Australia, all of whom have done us the honour of cordially responding to the invitations which have been addressed to them to be present. On behalf of the people of South Australia I beg to extend to our visitors a cordial welcome. That we are all glad to see them is evident from the printed programme of proceedings, recording as it does the desire of our leading colonists to do them honour. The only fear, indeed, is that in congratulating themselves, as they will undoubtedly be able to do, on the accomplishment of much valuable work, they may also have to say with the Archbishop of York in Henry IV.—“We are all diseased, and with our surfeiting and wanton hours have brought ourselves into a burning fever.” Mr. President and gentlemen, I will now no longer detain you. I will only say in conclusion that I feel it an honour to be connected with this Conference as one of its patrons, and hope that the members, one and all, may carry away agreeable recollections of their visit to South Australia. (Applause.)

#### INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

The PRESIDENT said—Your Excellency, your Honor, Mr. Chancellor, medical gentlemen, and ladies and gentlemen: My first pleasure to-day is to thank the Intercolonial Medical Congress for the honour of my election as President. The history of our meeting has been told by our General Secretary (Dr. Poulton), so that no words of mine are needed to lay this matter before you. It may be easily believed that when this Congress—the first of its kind in the Australian Colonies—was proposed, some misgivings were entertained as to its success; but the distinguished patronage of His Excellency, so readily granted, the patronage of all the Governors of the Australian Colonies, secured by his aid, banished all fear of failure. And when the various Medical Societies and the leading professional men in the sister colonies gave

early and hearty support to the movement we had but to proceed with such arrangement of details that the greatest good to the greatest number might accrue. Such a large gathering as this of busy men—some from great distances—testifies that our Congress is neither premature in time, puerile in its intentions, nor petty in its anticipated results; and we do not feel the slightest diffidence in assuming at this early period the mantle of the prophet, and predicting to those anticipations a large measure of fulfilment. As my audience to-day consists largely of the Congress itself it can scarcely be necessary for me to justify its existence, or show its advantages. Our roll of members to the number of 155 is in itself a sufficient vindication, and furnishes witnesses in evidence of its presumed advantages. We need only direct our eyes to the old world, where similar gatherings have become a recognised institution, and see what vast proportions they have already assumed to form some estimate of their real or supposed value. The seventh session of the International Medical Congress, held in London in 1881, had a register of nearly 3,200 members, congregated from every country in the continent of Europe, from North and South America, from the Cape of Good Hope, from the eastern coast of Asia, and to the number of a score from Australia and Tasmania. The distance travelled by those Australians and Tasmanians might be used as a strong argument in favour of the International Congress, but is doubly strong on the side of an Inter-colonial meeting. The long voyage to Europe, even though now contracted within the space of a month, is an absolute barrier to any but the most limited participation by us in an International Congress, for how few, even for such a pleasure, could arrange a three months' absence from duty. But the thousands of miles which separate us from the old world, and preclude a personal intercourse with our medical brethren in the International Congress create a distinct need for general meetings amongst ourselves. Our continent is not only the antipodes of Europe, but to some extent its antithesis; it is not only isolated, as much almost as distance can isolate, but it is in many of its essential features a different sort of world. We live, we study, we practice amid circumstances very unlike those of Europe and special to ourselves, and which therefore demand a special adaptation on our part. And while we could never afford to dispense with the vast stores of medical knowledge which come to us across the seas, or disregard the latest results of that delicate and elaborate research which the very nature of things has hitherto prohibited among ourselves, we can as ill afford to neglect the special recognition of our own surroundings, or the application of that borrowed knowledge, whether extensive or intensive, to our peculiar colonial conditions. And that this special recognition may be full, this adaptation perfect, we need conference. Without doubt, many problems can be and must be solved far more satisfactorily in Europe than here. To enter into competition is to court defeat, for neither the wealth of material, the special apparatus, nor the otherwise disengaged labour are to be found among us. But on the other hand it is beyond question that much ought not

and cannot be done for us ; we have a special field for interesting research, special experiences to embrace, special difficulties to overcome, and to help and fit one another in this work we need conference. Let me briefly point out some some of these circumstances, which are worthy of our notice, and which demand our mutual attention. (1) Coming as our enterprising forefathers did a three or four months' voyage over a disinfecting sea, they left many of the terrible scourges of humanity behind. The plagues of the olden time, and of the new, are largely only names and phantoms among us. Hydrophobia, the sweating sickness, relapsing fever, typhus, the cholera, have never from their shrivelled lips breathed pestilence and death over our fair land. Now and again a foul form is seen prowling at our doors ; the people are anxiously uneasy at the threatening danger. But hitherto the monster has been strangled upon the threshold. I ask, is not the heritage we enjoy in our freedom from these plagues a special boon? Does it not involve, in common prudence, a special duty, a special vigilance, and since our communication with the old world has become more rapid, and hence the liability to the importation of infection increased, and our intercommunication is more extensive and more speedy, and hence the distribution of infection greatly facilitated, is there not special need for concerted inter-colonial action, for discussion amongst ourselves of such subjects as federal quarantine? And how is this emphasized by the virulence and wildfire spread which characterizes infectious diseases in tropical and subtropical regions, and still more by the fact that it is in the domain of preventive medicine that the grandest victories of late years have been gained, and if I can read the times aright it is in the department of preventive State medicine that the largest if not the most brilliant triumphs will yet be won. Then, again, is it not generally recognised that we have diseases in our land, some unfortunately too common, which in Europe are comparative rarities? It is scarcely necessary to mention them in this company. Here is hydatid disease. Do we not meet with it at every turn? Have we not to keep it in mind in our diagnosis of every tumour, external or internal, every collection of fluid, every central nervous derangement, every obstinate cough, every hæmoptysis, however trivial? Who has not been surprised by the unexpected apparition of these parasites? Our experience of this disease is probably a hundred times more extensive than that of our European brethren. Here, then, is a special subject. To be honest with our patient we must study it thoroughly. To the truth-seeker here is ample opportunity. We should be teachers to the antipodes in this department rather than learners, and we are proud that there are some among us who are attaining this position. Whence comes pterygium? In England it is a visitor from the tropics. In Australia it has its home. Here it is born and grows to grand proportions. What are its antecedents? How is it begotten? What is its mode of life? Thousands of instances are to hand. Watch them! Learn and teach the truth! Go up North, into certain districts, at particular seasons, and you will find a complaint called "Barcoo." What is it? A British physician never saw a case. Many a one has never even heard of or read the name. Most know nothing about it. Why? Because we have not yet taken advantage of our opportunities to properly

investigate and describe. Here is a complaint whose natural history is unknown, or, at least, unpublished. What an interesting field of observation has been opened up in connection with filaria disease. The story of its elucidation, with which the names of Bancroft, of Brisbane, and Manson, of Amoy, are inseparably associated, reads more like fiction than fact, tracing to the insignificant mosquito a number of serious tropical diseases, and grouping them, despite their diverse forms, into one natural order. Is it credible that the mosquito is the only insect agent in our various obscure complaints, or that the Amoy mosquito is the only offender of its kind? Who will be the Bancroft of other filariæ, the Manson of the next mosquito malady? But, again, what an area for survey is opened up in the modification of diseases which are common to the old world and the new. That the types are altered who will deny? That with an identity of disease there should not of necessity be wide variations who can imagine? Consider the difference between the climate of England and that of any of our Australian colonies, from Queensland in the tropics of the north to Victoria in the south — the humidity of Britain and the aridity of Central Australia. Contrast the millions of population there, crowded within a few thousand square miles, with our three millions of people scattered over as many millions of miles. Compare the social state, with its destitution there, where poverty means disease and death, with the comparative plenty here, where poverty, even when present, means but little more than inconvenience. Does anyone ask for evidence that these causes *do* work? I have measured 300 South Australian immigrants from the old world. They stand 5 ft. 7.13 in., and weigh 146.58. I have contrasted with them 250 South Australians born in this colony. They average 5 ft. 8.21 in., and weigh 146.42 lb. Our native population are therefore exactly an inch taller than their forefathers, and within the fraction of a pound the same weight. What is the significance of these facts? That our southern climate, our social circumstances, our mode of life, are altering the physical constitution of the healthy man, of the growing child, and giving him a taller and more slender form. Whether this be a development or a degeneration I will not say; but it is this—an evidence of the modifying influences which are at work upon our material economy either for good or for ill. And those same surroundings which, in a single generation, can add one inch to our stature must probably operate in altering the incidence, the prevalence, the manifestation of disease. Our South Australian statistics, for example, covering a period of fourteen years, show that phthisis is less than one-half as common here as in England. Is it exactly similar to that of Great Britain? What is the comparative predisposition of our native population to this complaint? What may we expect in the next generation? What are those influences which are so steadily affecting the extermination of our aboriginal races? Is our rheumatic fever the fac-simile of what we studied in the hospitals of London, Edinburgh, and Dublin? Do we get the pericardial friction rubs with the same frequency or the same intensity, and if not why not? Again,

we live in a new country. In the old there is scarcely a locality, high or low, whose meteorology has not been thoroughly worked up and criticised in reference to its suitability for a health resort; scarcely a spring the chemical composition of which has not been examined with a view to its use as a mineral water; scarcely a plant of any note whose physiological properties have not been investigated and its medicinal virtues tested, not merely by the wise women of the villages, but by expert pharmacologists of the schools. Here there is a bewildering profusion of novelty and diversity courting our curiosity and inviting our labour. We cannot send our invalids to Madeira or the South of France or Davos Platz. But have we not between the snow-clad mountains of New Zealand or New South Wales and the scorching tablelands of the interior variety enough to meet all our requirements, were we possessed of information sufficiently definite to warrant advice and action? We cannot utilize the thermal springs of the Continent of Europe for hydrotherapeutic purposes. We can scarcely afford for our patients the natural mineral waters that have to be bottled 10,000 miles away for any but temporary use. But have we no thermal springs, no mineral waters of our own? This is the very complaint from which our country suffers. The streams which gush from our artesian bores, are they not thermal enough? The springs which rise spontaneously in the North, are they not mineral enough? They are so impregnated with saline ingredients, so brackish that they destroy rather than nourish vegetation, the very cattle cannot drink them; but yet our technical knowledge of these springs is so meagre, more especially of those most accessible, that we are unable to employ them, and humanity lives in misery or dies prematurely, whilst relief and life are wasting in the sands. We read accounts, we hear the experience, half amusing and half pitiful, of the physical troubles endured by men who are compelled to drink these nauseous waters, how they are worked by them *ad deliquum*, how they break out in boils and blisters, how they swell until they can barely crawl into hospital. It requires but little reflection to perceive in these very troubles the curative treatment for various forms of disease. Could we send our sufferers into those regions and induce these consequences in a measured form we should have a means of relief. But we must know more that is definite and decided before we can act with assurance, and therefore act at all. We have an indigenous flora, largely peculiar to Australia. What use has been made of it medicinally? Some, but not enough. The derivatives of eucalyptus, the redgum, and a few others. Here and there a worker records some experiments or some experiences. But whole forests are yet unexplored ready to yield us, shall we prophesy, better antiperiodics than quinine, better anæsthetics than cocaine, better stimulants for heart and cord than digitalis or strychnine. These poisonous herbs of which we read now and again as having proved so deleterious to stock, do not their baneful properties evidence a physiological action upon the animal economy which we only require to understand and to control by fixed principles and regulated doses so as to transform the curse of the cattle into a blessing to mankind? From these noxious plants we



may derive our substitutes or antidotes for belladonna, convallaria, or opium, &c. Let us believe these worthless weeds were given to amplify our *materia medica*. Look, again, at the different conditions under which our work is performed. First, in the city. Here we have no special class of pure consultants such as are found in London, but every man is more or less a general practitioner, and, on the other hand, each one is in turn called in to consult, and that in all departments of medicine, surgery, &c. Further, even our largest cities are not so large but every man's practice overlaps every other man's, and all come into a kind of competition. Moreover, there is a freedom of intercourse, a circulation of news, a canvass and criticism of medical work and professional men such as is an impossibility in the larger and less democratic cities of Great Britain. Do not these special circumstances entail special responsibilities in relation to our patients, to each other, and to all codes of medical ethics? It becomes quite a question whether it is wise or right to bind ourselves absolutely by those regulations which may be needful and best in a country where the surroundings are different, and whether on some points we should not be even more stringent. Notice, too, our peculiar position as regards a legal standing. In some of the colonies there is practically no Medical Act. This of necessity gives us a relation to the State and to unqualified practice very dissimilar to that in which a practitioner in Great Britain stands, and this altered relation must free us from some of the conventional usages of medical society, and at the same time imposes on us extra obligations and places us in positions of peculiar difficulty. In discussing also legal recognition by our respective Legislatures we should regard the special characters of our colonial Governments, and still more the special exigencies of colonial life—not only in the large centres, but in distant parts as well—that we may neither hamper a free profession nor a free people by a rigid and unsuitable law, nor tantalize a learned and certificated profession, and blind a public which has often but little will and less material for discrimination by an act which is practically lawless. Look again at the isolated country practitioner, hundreds of miles from the capital, in his thinly populated district. For months together he is entirely cut off from the society of his professional brethren, without a chance of interchange of ideas or the stimulus even of competition. Skilled assistance is unobtainable. He must do with his own unaided hand what is resolved by his own unsupported judgment. Such a state of things is almost unknown in the old country. The remedies and the appliances, too, at his command are often of the simplest nature and most limited supply, and with these he must do his best and improvise according to his need. Picture a medical man, on a newly discovered goldfield, whither there have rushed within the course of two or three weeks thousands of men, living, as they have never lived before, in flimsy calico tents; their work unusual, laborious, and exposed; their diet often insufficient, inferior, unvaried, and badly prepared; their drinking water brackish, and contaminated with decomposing organic matter; the very air polluted by unsavoury and insanitary surroundings. Picture the practitioner working according to the methods of a London hospital. No, he must grasp the situation and adapt himself to it.

and adapt himself to it; do what can be done with the means at his disposal, meagre though they be; and accommodate his treatment to the circumstances, however unfavourable and unusual. In greater or less degree the same applies to us all, for the excessive heat of our summer, continued for many days together, not only relaxes the fibre of the healthy, but often kills outright the very young, the old, and the feeble. Have we not to tax our ingenuity and our resources to the utmost to obviate its fatal tendencies in the case of delicate infants and of those suffering from pyrexia, whose probabilities of life are reduced by the serious heat of the houses and the air? And so in many other particulars our surroundings are unlike those of medical men in England, and if we are wise our manner and our methods will vary in an equal ratio, just as the special characters of our colonial land business brought as a wise and natural consequence, the Real Property Act, in place of the cumbrous methods of land transfer still in force in England. So should the exigencies of colonial life result in wise and simple adaptations in the domain of medicine, and whether it be the disposal of our sewage or the disposal of our dead—not to follow blindly the sentiments of society or the example of others, but learn what had best be done by us and do it—taking all the experience of others, but not failing to combine it with our own. To resume then. There is reason why Australian professional men should meet in Congress — that they may make common property what facts peculiar to Australia have been observed in disease, what methods employed have proved most appropriate in their hands, what new remedies Nature has provided at our doors, what suggestions relating to medical ethics or legal status arise out of our colonial life, and that an opportunity may be afforded those far away to contribute their unique or exceptional experiences for the general interest, and to reap the pleasure and profit of that social and professional intercourse which is so rarely theirs. Now, almost the same facts which we have mentioned as arguments in favour of conference could be adduced with equal force in support of an intercolonial medical journal, in which our facts, theories, and proposals might all be made common property, be discussed in measured words, and be preserved for future reference. And while we could not abandon our *Lancet* and *British Medical Journal* and other British weeklies, which are our post graduate educators, and keep us abreast of the times, we ought to have some organ of our own which has the confidence and support of all the colonies, and in which shall be perpetuated whatever is worthy in connection with Australian medicine. And might we not as a Congress discuss such an enterprise? Now. I do not imagine that our Congress will accomplish during this week all I have indicated as lying within our province. Even the best of us requires to be educated up to the possibilities, the best methods, of such gatherings. To know we have fairly and unitedly begun will be a satisfaction. Especially will this be the case if, as I hope, it shall be decided before we conclude our business to call the Congress together again,

and to regard this gathering in Adelaide as its first session only. This will be for you to determine. One suggestion only I will make if the decision be favourable. Let the sessions be neither so frequent as to make them impracticable nor so seldom as to lose their interest. Nor do I presume our arrangements will be found perfect. The committee has laboured under the disadvantage of having to inaugurate, and has therefore been compelled to take to itself certain powers, because they could not be conferred. It has had to draw up a tentative programme for the simple reason that it had no previous experience as a guide. This disadvantage will not be the lot of future executives, and must be our apology for any dislocation of appointments which may occur. His Excellency has done us the honour to open our Congress, for which our heartiest thanks are justly due. We shall find abundant opportunity for honest work in the four sections which have been arranged. Let each one be devoted to it with a threefold motive—the improvement of ourselves, the benefit of our fellows, and the advance of truth. (Loud cheers.)

Dr. STIRLING said he was only fulfilling the wish of every one present in expressing to His Excellency their deep sense of gratification at his presence there, both in the capacity of Her Majesty's representative and as patron of the Congress. He was sure, if the Congress was to achieve success—as there was every prospect it would—that success would be largely due to the assistance received from those outside the profession. (Hear, hear.) He moved a vote of thanks to His Excellency.

Dr. WILKINSON, M.L.A. (Sydney), seconded. He was sure that His Excellency had attended not merely as the representative of Her Majesty but also in his private capacity as an enlightened English gentleman. He did not doubt that it was a pleasure to him to be present. (Hear, hear.) Royalty had never been backward in English-speaking communities in forwarding the works of art or science. He remembered vividly the important part played in the International Congress of 1881 by the Prince of Wales. Not in England only but in other countries science was being recognised and encouraged by those in authority. In democratic communities like Australia there was undoubtedly a tendency to disparage and depreciate royalty. One of the beneficent effects of royalty was seen in the patronage and encouragement it gave to science and the fine arts—(Hear, hear)—and it seemed to him that it was a gracious act that the representative of Her Majesty should be present to open the proceedings of this Congress.

The vote was carried by acclamation.

His EXCELLENCY, in responding, said—Gentlemen, I thank you very much for the cordial way in which you responded to the vote of thanks to me, and the mover and seconder for the graceful terms in which they put it to you. I have already stated that I feel it a great honour to have been invited here to open the Congress. I can only say that if the remainder of the proceedings are marked by the same practical ability and interest as have characterized your President's address to-day we may well expect great and good results from this important Congress. Again, gentlemen, I thank you for so kindly acknowledging my small services on this occasion. (Cheers.)

Dr. J. O. CLOSS (Invercargill) moved—  
“That a special meeting of this Congress be held on Thursday at 2 p.m. in the Library of the University to consider the advisability of holding another Medical Congress at some future date in one of the Australian Colonies, and other matters of interest to the medical profession.”

The Hon. J. M. GREED, M.L.C., M.R.C.S., seconded. This Congress could not but be of immense benefit to the profession through the interchange of ideas. The President in his eloquent and learned address had spoken of the difficulties practitioners had to encounter in the bush. He knew of this from experience, for he had been a surgeon on the exploring expedition in North Australia in 1867, and had practised in the country districts of New South Wales, when residing 100 miles from any other practitioner.

The motion was carried.

Archdeacon FARR moved a vote of thanks to the President for his able address, to which both the members of the Congress and the visitors had listened with such great interest. (Hear, hear).

The CHIEF JUSTICE seconded. He felt it was a source of great satisfaction to South Australians to know that they were so well and ably represented on this occasion.

The vote was carried with loud applause.

Dr. VERCO thanked the audience, and adjourned the sittings of the Congress until this afternoon.

#### CONVERSAZIONE AT THE UNIVERSITY.

The day had a pleasant ending at the University, where the Chancellor (His Honor the Chief Justice) offered the visitors and their friends a graceful and hospitable welcome, and provided, as far as space and opportunity would permit, a delightful and varied entertainment for them. The idea of prefacing the practical work which will be gone through within the building by a conversazione, at which the medical gentlemen who are visiting the city might come into friendly contact with our leading citizens, was a happy one, and its successful realization will do much to increase the general interest in the important work of the Congress. The arrangements made were worthy of the donor, who, however, slightly overestimated the accommodation which the building affords. Still, there was but little inconvenience, and that was cheerfully borne. The invitations issued numbered 800, and the acceptances 750. Those who attended included His Excellency the Governor, the Judges, members of the Ministry (with the exception of the Premier, who was unable to attend owing to official duties), several members of the Houses of Legislature, and the leading Executive Commissioners of the Exhibition. The medical profession and their private friends were, of course, in the ascendant, and there were also present heads of Government departments and prominent citizens in various walks of life. Precisely at 8 o'clock the Chief Justice began to receive the visitors at the entrance of the spacious library. For three quarters of an hour the guests streamed in. Many of the visitors, after being received, inspected the various rooms; but still the library was so crowded that it was difficult to pass from one end of it to the other. Many were the varieties of ladies' costumes, and the spectacle presented by their hues and textures

was a pretty study. A few gentlemen appeared in military dress, and their uniforms showed out well amongst the quieter apparel of their fellows and the gay costumes of the ladies. Seats were arranged in front of and around the hall, and were soon occupied by those who were intent on hearing the musical portion of the programme.

Over the entrance to the building on the outside a powerful electric light, supplied by wire from the Exhibition dynamos, illumined the grounds, and greatly facilitated the movements of the numerous carriages that lined the way during the evening. Entering the doorway the visitors were shown to the cloakrooms at the sides. At the top of the first flight of steps leading to the library, and in view of the entrance to the building, was a splendid collection of camellias, pelargoniums, palms, and foliage plants, grouped with much effect. In the rooms adjoining the library light refreshments were provided during the evening, and on the ground floor after half-past 9 a luxurious table was open to all in the rooms known as the Museum and Physical Laboratory. These apartments were transformed for the purpose. Beautiful bouquets adorned the tables, and in one of the rooms fairy lamps were dotted about everywhere.

On the main landing, opposite the entrance to the library, was arranged a most artistic and tastefully designed miniature fountain. This pretty contrivance consisted of a glass basin with a jet in the middle throwing up perfumed water. The basin, which was lighted from beneath, was surrounded by delicate ferns and foliage plants, the light shining through the crystal and making the fern leaves and other foliage almost transparent. Red camellias were placed amongst the leaves in such a way as to add to the effect by their brilliant colour. The whole was most charming. The mechanical apparatus was worked by a tiny steam-engine, which obtained its motive power from the heat of a spirit-lamp.

To add to the variety and general success of what was a well-arranged and artistic conversation the lecture-halls were thrown open to the guests, who were thus afforded the opportunity of revelling in the wonders of the world of chemistry, the marvels of physiology, the surprising effects of electricity, and the strange revelations of the microscope. They were enabled to inspect the beautiful and intricate instruments employed by the professors in explaining and experimenting before the students of the University; and there is no doubt that many of the several hundred guests who responded to the invitation went away with a clearer idea of some of the uses and purposes of the University than they could have gathered from the ablest descriptions of its objects. In the Chemical Lecture-room Professor Rennie, D.Sc., entertained and instructed a crowded audience in the theory and peculiarities of the spectrum analysis illustrated by the electric lamp; albeit the crowd was so great that many heard more than they saw. In the chemical laboratory miscellaneous experiments were shown, and numerous beautiful ingenious instruments were exhibited. Amongst these were a beautiful microphone, a saccharometer, and a singular instrument called the heliostat, for keeping

the sun's rays fixed upon an object to be examined. Then there were a number of delicate instruments invented by Sir William Thompson for various scientific purposes, such as a quadrant electroscope for measuring the difference of tension between electric currents, a reflecting galvanometer, a mirror-galvanometer, and other appliances of a scientific character. Models of a suction force-pump, a dynamo, and also a curious model of Watts' steam-engine were shown. Photographs of geological strata, &c., were displayed upon a table, and altogether the visitors found ample material for study and reflection. In the Pathological Museum there was plenty of scope for instruction, but the greatest attraction was an instrument for examining the eye, and called the ophthalmoscope. This consisted of an arrangement of mirrors and lenses, by the aid of which, with an electric light, the delicate organ of vision could be examined and all the nerves and vessels made plainly visible. In the same room were cases containing models of human limbs, osteological specimens and other exhibits of a similar nature. Dr. Symon and an assistant gave demonstrations with the ophthalmoscope. In the Physical Lecture-room, the department of Professor Bragg, B.A., demonstrations of the mutual influence of sounds and jets were given. All the lecture-halls were so crowded that late-comers had to listen afar off. The Museum contained interesting specimens of many kinds, and—what chiefly attracted visitors—an ample supply of refreshments. In the Physiological Laboratory Dr. Stirling and his pupils were busy explaining the many wonderful and delicate instruments in connection with the science. One of the most interesting subjects was a practical illustration of human sight. By the adjustment of lenses in an oblong box containing water it was shown how perfect sight is obtained, and what are known as long and short sight were explained. Microscopes were provided for the visitors and varied objects examined. The instruments, specimens, diagrams, &c., were innumerable, and Dr. Stirling and his pupils were thoroughly successful in imparting instruction as well as pleasure to the many people who visited their laboratory.

One of the special attractions of the evening was a concert given in the library, admirably arranged by Professor Ives. In accordance with the Professor's custom special prominence was given to local talent, the greater portion of the programme being selected from the works of University students, who evidently have derived much benefit from their studies. Indeed, the compositions rendered on this occasion were of such excellence as to bespeak in some instances a future of great promise. The concert was opened by a trio for piano and organ, a "Military March" by Mendelssohn played by Miss Püttmann and Messrs. T. N. Stephens and T. H. Jones. Miss R. Schomburgk sang a song, "Lullaby" written by Miss Whittell, with violin obligato played by Mrs. Alderman. This composition is marked by originality. It is somewhat sad in style as befits the words, and the accompaniment is marked by a pretty rippling arpeggio. The vocalist was well chosen to give effect to the composer's skill. Four part-songs by local composers, Sir W. C. F. Robinson, Miss Püttmann, and Messrs. Stephens and Sharp, were amongst the most pleasing items.

most pleasing items on the programme. Of these probably Mr. Stephens's writing found most favour. It is entitled "Song of May," and is characterized by flowing cadences, correctly arranged harmonies, and throughout is marked by an elegance of style which should recommend it as suitable to the repertoire of any Glee Society. Miss Püttmann's composition, though highly creditable to the young lady's genius, would be heard probably with better effect if arranged for male voices, and if sung by a company who had more opportunity for practice, so as to exhibit the beauties of the composition. His Excellency's part-song "Shall I compare thee" was very well sung, and proved one of the most interesting features of the concert. It is written in a style that requires much skill for its successful rendering. By simply singing the parts, without due attention to the *nuances*, the beauties of the composition would be unobserved. The effect, however, was splendidly displayed by the tasteful singing of the choir, which had evidently been well trained. Mr. C. J. Sharp's humorous part-song, an adaptation of nursery rhymes to really good music, exhibited his skill in an eminent degree. His "Tarantelle," played by himself, also shows that he inclines to the humorous style in his writing, but he nevertheless couples with the funny element a strict observance of the feeling of a true musician. Thus, although in the nursery rhymes there is much to provoke laughter there are still numberless evidences of good taste and long study as well as a close adherence to the grammar of music. Mrs. Alderman contributed one of her always-pleasing violin solos, an arrangement of airs from "Il Trovatore," and was perhaps the recipient of greater applause than any of the other performers, for at the close of each movement the appreciation of her skill was loudly manifested. Of the compositions of the University students, the most noteworthy was Mr. T. H. Jones's song, "I Think on Thee," sung by Mrs. J. James, to whom it is dedicated. The song is decidedly original in style, and is one which should become popular amongst those who aspire to the position of capable vocalists. It includes several really pretty turns of melody with a few dramatic passages. A pretty effect is noticeable where the subject is occasionally repeated by the piano after the voice, indicating most plainly the school in which the composer first studied. This is by no means a defect but rather enhances the beauty of the song. So frequently have we most favourably commented upon Miss Püttmann's performances as a pianist that it is only necessary to mention here that her playing of Kalkbrenner's "Homage a Chopin," was a still further evidence of her remarkable skill, not only in the matter of execution and technical ability but also as an artist competent to exhibit the spirit of music. A song, "Remembrance," composed by Miss Cave, was excellently sung by Miss Hack, a lady who is destined to assume a prominent position on the concert platform. Her voice is decidedly of good quality, and her style has evidently been acquired in a good school. With more confidence and the ease which comes from experience this young lady will doubtless take a leading position in our musical circles. The song is one of those simple ballads which are always pleasing.

which are always pleasing when well sung, and though the composer has not aimed at anything specially uncommon her writings, if still in the same style, are not likely to pass unnoticed. The part-songs were generally well sung by a choir consisting principally of the St. Peter's Cathedral Choristers, assisted by a few ladies, who kindly gave their services, under the skilful conduct of Mr. A. Boult, to whom much credit is due for the careful observance of the expression marks, without which the singing would not have been nearly so pleasing. Throughout the evening the library was absolutely crowded by the guests, whose presence in such large numbers and with special attractions in other parts of the building must be taken as a special compliment to Professor Ives as well as to those who assisted in the concert.

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