

Adventessen December 1878/84

UNIVERSITY COMMEMORATION.

The commemoration in connection with the University of Adelaide was held in the library on Wednesday, December 17. There was a very large attendance of ladies and gentlemen, many being unable to find sitting room. On the platform were present—His Honor Chief Justice Way (chancellor), Mr. F. Chapple, B.A., B.Sc. (warden of the senate), Mr. J. W. Bakewell, M.A. (dean of the Faculty of Law), Professor Tate, F.G.S. (dean of the professorial board), Professor Lamb, M.A., and Mr. J. Walter Tyas (registrar). The members of the council and senate occupied seats to the right and left of the platform. The Minister of Justice and Education (Hon. R. C. Baker) and Sir Henry Wrenfordale (Chief Justice of Fiji) also occupied prominent positions in the auditorium. Sir Thomas Elder, whose entry was the signal for loud applause, was conducted to a seat on the platform at the right hand of the chancellor.

CONFERMENT OF DEGREES.

The following candidates were presented to the chancellor by the dean of the professorial board, and received their respective degrees:—

Candidate Bachelors of the University—LL.B. Degree: Thomas Hewitson (stow prizeman), James Robert Anderson, Robert William Hall, Clement Egbert Eppes Sabine, William Henderson, and Charles Grant Varley. B.A. Degree: James Westwood Leitch (University Scholar and South Australian Scholar); William Fleming Hopkins (University Scholar and John Howard Clark Scholar); and Frederick William Wilkinson (University Scholar).

Graduates of other Universities admitted *ad eundem gradum*:—Doctor of Medicine—Benjamin Poulten, M.D., of the University of Melbourne. Master of Arts—Edward Vaughan Boulger, M.A. of the University of Dublin. Bachelors of Medicine—H. Sanderson Lloyd, M.B. of the University of Edinburgh; Charles August Altmann, B.A. of the University of Melbourne. Bachelor of Arts—Richard T. Matthews, B.A. of the University of London.

□The South Australian Scholar for 1884 (James Westwood Leitch, B.A.) was then presented to the CHANCELLOR, who said:—Mr. Leitch—I congratulate you on your success in the recent examination. Your name will be presented to the Hon. the Minister of Justice and Education as the South Australian Scholar—the highest academical distinction which can be taken in this University for the present year. I hope we shall have the pleasure of hearing of your successful career in England.

Mr. Charles Ernest Robin (the John Howard Clark Scholar), Mr. Frederick William Gee, and Miss Mary Amelia Joyce (winners of Sir Thos. Elder's prizes for physiology) were also presented. To the latter the CHANCELLOR said:—Mr. Gee and Miss Joyce—I congratulate you most sincerely on your success in the examination for physiology. The presence of a lady and a gentleman side by side as the winners of this scholarship is typical of the audience to which the University addresses itself, and I am sure you will both value the honor you have achieved by this examination all the more because the scholarship is given in the presence of the munificent donor. (Applause)

In receiving Mr. Thos. Hewitson (Stow prizeman, third year) the CHANCELLOR said—I congratulate you on being successful a second time in gaining this prize. It is only your forward position before the establishment of the prize that deprives you of the opportunity of competing with your fellow-students for the greatest honor in the law faculty, that of becoming the Stow scholar of the University.

The names of the successful candidates in the first class of the matriculation examination and junior examination were then read out by the registrar, and the certificates presented to them by the chancellor.

THE CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS.

The CHANCELLOR, who was received with applause, said—The academical year which is now ended will always be an *annus mirabilis* in the history of the University of Adelaide, for it has been marked by the endowment of a chair of music, a school of medicine, and a chair of chemistry. I am sorry that another engagement has deprived us of the presence of His Excellency this afternoon, because we should all have been glad to welcome him in his character not only of a visitor but of a benefactor of the University. To His Excellency belongs the credit of having originated the idea, and giving it practical effect, of founding a chair of music without any cost whatever to the University funds. (Applause.) Early in the year we had the pleasure of receiving from His Excellency a letter enclosing a subscription-list amounting to the sum of £537 annually for a period of five years for the purpose of endowing the chair. Mr. W. R. Cave, of Port Adelaide, who has taken a great interest in the matter, assisted His Excellency in collecting £107 of that amount, and our munificent founder, Sir Thomas Elder's name, stands high on the list for £300 a year for the whole term of five years. (Applause.) In fact the existence of this chair may be traced to the South Australian Scholarship in the Royal College of Music which Sir Thomas endowed, for it was the examination for that scholarship, I believe, which first directed His Excellency's attention to the desirability of erecting a chair of music in this University. But His Excellency's interest in this matter did not stop at collecting the necessary funds for the purpose of endowment. He has cheerfully placed his advice at the disposal of the council for the purpose of framing a curriculum for the degree, and also in the selection of a professor of music. We determined to frame the the curriculum after the Cambridge pattern, and therefore there is a certain appropriateness in the appointment, of which we have been informed by telegram—of Mr. Joshua Ives, a Cambridge graduate, to the position of professor of music in this University. The high musical abilities of Sir George Macfarren and Dr. Stainer, who acted in concert with Sir Arthur Blyth as a committee of selection, are, I am sure, excellent guarantees as to the new professor's qualifications for the chair. The University of Adelaide is the first in these colonies to establish a chair of music, after the pattern of the venerable universities of Europe, and I believe that its foundation will do much towards creating a high tone in musical taste and culture throughout the colony. One of the pleasantest surprises I have ever had in my life happened a few days after the last yearly commemoration, when my friend Sir Thomas Elder waited

upon me during the mid-day adjournment of the Supreme Court with an apologetic air as if he were going to ask instead of to grant a very great favor, and made me the altogether unexpected but very welcome announcement that he intended to endow a School of Medicine in this University with the sum of £10,000. (Cheers.) I could not do justice to my own feelings, and I am sure I should not do justice to yours, if I were not to assure Sir Thomas that we welcome him most heartily for the first time at one of our commemorations. (Cheers.) With characteristic modesty he has hitherto been content to stand apart and watch from a distance, as it were, the ever extending results of his wide liberality; on this occasion, however, he has yielded so far to our wishes as to honor us with his presence. (Applause.) It is unnecessary that I should remind any friend of the University of Adelaide that without Sir Thomas Elder the University would never have had an existence. It was in consequence of the gifts of £20,000 each from Sir Thos. Elder and Sir W. W. Hughes that the University Act was passed, and the charter of our incorporation was granted. The chairs for the advancement of learning which these two great endowments have provided will form imperishable monuments to perpetuate the memory of the patriotism and generosity of the munificent donors. This gift of £10,000, to which I have alluded, was handed over to us, as were Sir Thomas's previous donations, without any conditions whatever, and the University Council is endeavoring to give effect to his wishes, determined, as they have always been, that we must keep up a high standard for our degrees. We were met at the outset by the difficulty that the body for registering medical qualifications in the United Kingdom requires that every or almost every subject of a medical course must be taught by a separate professor or lecturer; so we soon found that, large as the amount was which was placed at our disposal—even with the aid of the Government subsidy—we could not provide for the complete medical curriculum. We therefore determined to confine ourselves for the present to the first two years' study for the medical degree, and if we rest there I am sure you will all agree that a great deal has been accomplished. The first two years of a student's career are the most perilous time for him, to be suddenly emancipated from the control and influence of home, and therefore it is no small thing that students should be able to go through these two years of their course without leaving the colony or their friends. But I will not believe that we have yet reached finality in this matter; rather would I believe that the noble example of Sir Thos. Elder will prove contagious, and that before two years have expired we shall be able to make arrangements for the completion of the whole four years' course for graduation in medicine. For the information of the young ladies and gentlemen who have passed the matriculation examination I may say that we shall be ready to start the medical school in March, at the beginning of next term, and these are the arrangements which we have made for instruction. We had on the spot as one of our professors a native South Australian who has distinguished himself in the universities and medical schools at home, and who possesses precisely the scientific skill and enthusiasm which fit him for the position of lecturer in physiology in the medical school. I am therefore glad to say

that this position has been accepted by Dr. Stirling. (Applause.) He has gone to England for the purpose of seeing the latest improvements that have been made in the medical schools of Europe in the teaching of his own particular study of physiology, and also for the purpose of being present and taking part in the selection of the first Elder professor of anatomy. The lecturer in physiology, the professor of anatomy, the lecturer hereafter to be appointed in Materia Medica, and the professors who will teach chemistry and natural philosophy, complete our teaching arrangements for the first two years of the medical course. When I had last the honor of addressing you from this platform I stated that the greatest want of the University at that moment was a chair of chemistry, and that need was undoubtedly increased by Sir Thos. Elder's munificent gift, because chemistry is a necessary part of a medical as well as of an ordinary scientific course. To-day I have received, much to my regret, a telegram stating that our friend Mr. Angas, who was the founder of the Angas Engineering Scholarship, is unable to be present on this occasion. I knew, however, at the time of the last commemoration that Mr. Angas was turning over in his mind how he could best assist us in this matter, and therefore I was more gratified than surprised when in April I received a letter from him intimating his readiness to endow the chair of chemistry with the noble sum of £6,000, and I look upon this chair and its endowment as complimentary to Sir Thomas's endowment of the School of Medicine, because it enables us to give a completeness which was not otherwise possible to our medical curriculum, as well as giving a similar completeness to our science course in this University. I am also glad to inform you that we found in Australia an accomplished chemist and a superior teacher of science in Dr. Rennie. Like Dr. Stirling, he is a native of Australia, a distinguished graduate of Sydney; and his scientific acquirements are further authenticated by his being the possessor of a degree of doctor of science in the University of London. The number of students we have had during the year just ended has been about the same as in the previous year. We have had during this year 97 non-graduating students, as against 114 last year, but we have had 46 graduating students this year, as against only 43 last year. It continues, as it has always been, a matter of regret to us that there is not a larger number of students graduating in arts and science; but still in a practical, hard-working community like this, where boys and young men have to carve out their own careers in life, it is perhaps not wonderful that those kinds of knowledge which qualify for a profession attract a larger number of scholars than those subjects which are only attractive to those who love learning for its own sake. If I may take advantage of the presence of the Minister of Justice and Education I would throw out the suggestion that he could assist us much by undertaking to appoint the professor of chemistry as Government analyst, and he could still further help us by departmental regulations encouraging candidates for the teaching profession to study for a degree in science or arts. Such an arrangement would benefit

the recipients of the degrees themselves, and also the community at large. A great many friends of the university are of opinion that its usefulness would be signally increased if we could establish evening lectures for the benefit of those students who cannot attend ordinary lectures, but are still anxious to gain a university degree. This is a subject which the Rev. Mr. Fletcher, the late vice-chancellor, has made his own. It has engaged the attention of the council most anxiously during the year, and the proposal has received the approval of the senate. In considering it two points have to be kept in view—the probable number of students and the ways and means. The supporters of the proposal in the senate inform us that over thirty students are willing to take advantage of these evening lectures, and if that were correct I think we are bound to try a beginning—(hear, hear)—and I am sure in a work of this kind we shall have the hearty co-operation of the professors. During the past year Professor Tate, dean of the professorial board, has delivered a course of lectures of the physiography of Australia, which I hope will find its way into a handbook; and Professor Lamb has spoken on acoustics, with special reference to students intending to enter for the course of music. Professor Boulger has given two courses of lectures, one of which, I am sorry to say, received very little support—one course being in elementary French, and the other in French literature; and Professor Kelly proposes to deliver a course in elementary Latin during the ensuing year. As to one thing we may make up our minds—that the teaching in our ordinary lectures, and in these proposed evening classes, whatever assistance we may get from our professors, cannot be undertaken by the same staff. The evening lectures therefore mean an increase of expenditure, and I am sorry to tell you that the finances of the University, with our added responsibilities, are not in such a condition that we can undertake such additional expenditure. We have had to write off the sum of £3,000 for arrears of rent on University endowments during the last year; therefore if these lectures are to be started we can only hope that some generous friend will imitate the admirable example of Sir Thos. Elder and Mr. Angas, or that the enthusiasm of the students of the ^{university} will induce ^{some} to present the council with the sum necessary to defray expenses, after the precedent afforded by the supporters of the chair of music. I have now touched on the main incidents of the past year, and I have taken you frankly into our confidence with respect both to our wants and aspirations. One question I have thought it unnecessary to bring under your notice, and that is the necessity for a larger hall in which to conduct our examinations and to hold these commemorations—a hall of sufficient magnitude not to give those who take part in the proceedings the pain of seeing a number of ladies standing so long and unable to find seats. It is now my pleasant duty to announce that Professor Lamb, as the senior professor of the University, will deliver his address, and I am sure you will allow me to tender him our hearty congratulations on his having been made the recipient of the highest distinction which Great Britain can bestow on a scientific man. (Cheers.) The election to a fellowship in the Royal Society of London is the blue ribbon

among the distinctions of science, and it is highly satisfactory to every one of us that Professor Lamb's investigations in his own department of science have commanded the attention and approval of those best qualified to judge of their value. I am sure the reception of this honor gives the Professor far more than personal gratification, because of the lustre which such a distinction reflects on the University to which he has devoted his talents and his career. (Loud applause.)

PROFESSOR LAMB'S ADDRESS.

The Advertiser

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1884.

EVERY one who recognises in a university a potent instrument in the intellectual and moral culture of a community will read with pride the report we publish in other columns of the proceedings at the Adelaide University yesterday. The ceremony of conferring degrees was conducted with the surroundings usually introduced to give tone and effect to such celebrations, and though the number was small that shared in the distribution of academical honors, the occasion was one which deserves to have a conspicuous place in the records of our progress in higher education. The increase in the teaching staff by the establishment of chairs recently endowed by private munificence, and the efforts that are being made for a wider extension of the facilities for University instruction, give to this particular commemoration a deeper and more practical interest than generally attaches to such pageants, or to the glories associated in the minds of the successful candidates with the official recognition of their triumphs. These circumstances were eloquently explained by the chancellor in an address which indicates the sympathy and earnestness by which he is controlled when speaking of an institution to which he is so attached, and which his wisdom and energy have been employed to guide. Chief Justice Way ably reviewed the history of the University from its humble beginning to its present condition, when though far from perfect it is reasonably flourishing considering the length of its career and the financial and other difficulties with which it has been encompassed, and affords fair promise of a creditable future. A graceful tribute was paid to those liberal benefactors who have by their endowments helped our young seat of learning, and whose noble deeds will be consecrated in the memories of generations of students yet to come. The chancellor is, however, too sagacious an observer of our social system to be unaware that in matters of

education not to advance is to retrograde, and he indicated one or two directions in which the capacity of the University's resources must be enlarged to enable it to hold its ground in comparison with kindred institutions in other parts of the world. While anxious to promote this desirable aim by all legitimate means, His Honor was careful to protect himself from a suspicion of being inclined to weaken the prestige of the University by simplifying the process by which its prizes can be obtained. There may be no danger of this fatal blunder, but the caution given, even if unnecessary, is a very sensible one, and, like an axiom of Euclid, loses none of its force by being frequently repeated.

Spurious degrees, or those equally worthless from the comfortable ease with which they can be acquired would have a blighting influence on the repute and usefulness of the establishment that conferred them. The value of degrees chiefly lies in the difficulties that bar them from the common throng, and which thereby furnish a guarantee of the unquestionable powers and industry of those who possess them. The fitness for admission among graduates can only be tested by positive and unimpeachable standards, and the tendency of modern educational schemes is not to reduce these standards but to intensify their severity.