

TEACHERS' GUILD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The members and friends of the Teachers' Guild of South Australia met at the University on Tuesday evening at the invitation of Professor Bragg to hear from him an address on the teaching of practical physics in schools. This has evidently been a favorite subject with the professor, and owing to the enthusiastic way in which he has advocated its claims he has succeeded in making it one of the subjects in the first year's course, instead of, as it was some time ago, a third year subject, and now he is anxious that a step further should be taking by inducing teachers to introduce it into the ordinary curriculum of our schools and colleges. Among the advantages which practical physics possesses over other science subjects Professor Bragg explained that it might be regarded as the quantitative science as in no other were students set to measure; and it is of importance, also from the use which is made of it in various industries, such as electric-engineering. There need be no practical difficulties, it was pointed out, to prevent boys learning it at school, as it involved a very slight knowledge of mathematics and ability to use one's fingers. Concise and thoroughly practical information was given as to the kind of room in which a class could work the various experiments in a course of physics, and the professor gave the results of his experience about the best way of arranging for blinds, gas, water, &c. The University class in practical physics, conducted by Professor Bragg, was modelled on one which was started at Clifton College, England, a few years ago, and the apparatus used was similar to that of the latter. The apparatus, however, was of course the all-important point to consider, and would cost for a class of sixteen, working in pairs, about £60, though this amount might be considerably reduced by dispensing with duplicate sets of apparatus, and by purchasing the materials and getting some of the ingenious members of the class to make what was necessary. Professor Bragg explained at length his method of conducting such a class, laying great stress on the students being required to enter in a book after each lesson the results of their experiments. These books being inspected, no one is allowed to pass an experiment until he has secured a reasonable amount of accuracy in it, which is best estimated by the teacher having himself worked the same experiment previously, so as to be in a position to judge. The best textbooks on the subject were mentioned by the professor, some of which were best kept as works of reference, and others might be purchased by the boys. The lecture was greatly enjoyed by all present, and from its clearness and practical nature was admirably adapted for the object in view, viz., securing the sympathy of the teachers in our principal schools with the teaching of practical physics. At the close of his address a hearty vote of thanks to Professor Bragg was carried by acclamation, and an adjournment was then made to the physical laboratory and workshop, where interesting experiments were performed by several of the third year science students. The workshop seemed to be a most attractive spot, as Professor and Mrs. Bragg had kindly provided refreshments for them.

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UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

A meeting of the council of the University of Adelaide was held on Friday afternoon, August 28, there being present—The Vice-Chancellor (Dr. Barlow), the Rev. Dr. Paton, the Rev. Canon Poole, Mr. F. Ayers, Mr. Boothby, Mr. Todd, Mr. Hartley, and Mr. Henderson.

Dr. Stirling applied for leave of absence. Leave was granted from December 1, 1891, to March 31, 1892.

Mr. R. H. A. Braddock, of Clare, wrote concerning the arrangements for holding a preliminary examination at Clare on September 8 and 9. The council considered the arrangements satisfactory, and appointed Dr. Bain and Messrs. M. Badger and W. Kelly to be supervisors for the examination.

Mr. Thos. Worsnop wrote requesting the council to accept certain books for the University library. It was resolved that Mr. Worsnop be thanked for his valuable gift.

The Minister of Education wrote asking whether the medical fees could be paid per term instead of annually. To be informed that in order to comply with the request a regulation approved by his Excellency the Governor will have to be repealed, but that if any special reason can be urged in favor of the change the council will consider it.

Major-General Downes reported on a dispatch from the Imperial War Office in London concerning military cadetships. It was ordered that the report be sent back to the Minister of Education, and that he be informed that the council have nothing to add to General Downes's letter, and see no objection to the proposal contained in Lord Knutsford's dispatch.

The Chancellor of the University of Melbourne and the Chancellor of the University of Sydney wrote stating that they would be happy to confer with the Vice-Chancellor and the Venerable Archdeacon Farr concerning regulations, &c., for the degree of doctor of science.

Dr. Way wrote stating that he had finished his lectures for the year, and asking for leave of absence until the end of the year on the ground of illhealth. It was resolved that the request be granted.

The report of the faculty of medicine submitting details of subjects for the M.B. and Ch.B. courses for 1892 was adopted.

The reports of the education committee, recommending examiners and supervisors and a board of examiners for the preliminary examination, were adopted.

The reports of the faculties of arts and science, submitting details of subjects for the B.A. and B. Sc. courses for 1892, were approved.

The joint report of the faculties of arts and science, submitting details of subjects for the junior public, senior public, University scholarships, and John Howard Clark scholarship examinations in November, 1892, and March, 1893, were approved after a few amendments. The council adopted the reports on the details of subjects for the various courses and examinations, but ordered them to remain on the table until the next meeting.

The report of the board of musical studies on the details of subjects for the Mus. Bac. course and for public examinations in music for 1892 was adopted.

The council ordered the reports from Professor Ives on the establishment of a diploma of musical associate to be printed and sent to the members of the council.

The council appointed Wednesday, December 16, to be the day on which the annual commemoration should be held.

A warrant authorising the payment of sums amounting to £200 15s. 1d. was passed and signed by the chairman.

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RETURN OF PROFESSOR PENNEFATHER.

Professor Pennefather, of the Adelaide University, who has been on a visit to England, returned by the P. & O. liner *Massilia* on Thursday afternoon. The professor in conversation with one of our representatives said he had been much benefited in every way by his eight months' trip. Leaving South Australia at the end of last year Mr. Pennefather journeyed as far as Colombo, where he disembarked, and in company with Chief Justice Way visited all the principal sights in India. He was much struck with what he saw in that country, and gained much interesting information regarding the habits and condition of the people. On resuming the voyage the professor decided to go as far as Naples and then travel to England overland. The object of his trip, he said, was mainly pleasure, but of course he devoted a portion of his time to enquiring into matters connected with his professional duties. He took the L.L.D. degree at Cambridge University, choosing as the subject of his treatise the development of the law relating to real property in New Zealand. He also interested himself in the matter of the affiliation of the Adelaide University with Cambridge, and had the satisfaction of seeing this accomplished, while Chief Justice Way obtained the same result at Oxford. Professor Pennefather at the last commemoration in connection with the Adelaide University delivered an address on the study of law, and therein spoke upon this topic, strongly urging the desirability of such an affiliation as speedily as possible. "Now," said the professor, "students belonging to the South Australian University who have been studying for a couple of years will be able to take degrees after a two years' residence at home instead of three as was previously required." Questioned as to the proceedings of the Chief Justice, he said he had not seen a very great deal of that gentleman in England, but he was really making very hard work of his holiday, attending no end of public functions of all descriptions, and undoubtedly representing this colony in a very able manner. The only thing he regretted was that he was doing almost more than one man should do, and would not consequently obtain such benefit from the relaxation from his ordinary duties as he otherwise might. At the time of his departure from England the Chief Justice was in excellent health. With regard to the Science scholarships of £150, tenable for two years, which had been offered by the permanent commission in connection with the first International Exhibition in England, for Adelaide and New Zealand students, Professor Pennefather said he had heard nothing of the matter, and received the first intimation from one of the Australian newspapers. Among those whom he met while away was Professor Lamb, formerly of Adelaide. He also saw two Australian students — Messrs. Bonnin and Marryat, one of whom is studying law. Professor Pennefather came ashore shortly after the vessel's arrival, and without delay proceeded to Adelaide by train.

The first working meeting of the "Statutory Ninth International Congress of Orientalists" was held yesterday morning in the hall of the Inner Temple, which, with the adjoining rooms, had been placed at their disposal by the Benchers of that society. The chair was taken by the Master of St. John's College, Cambridge, in the absence of Lord Dufferin, who was prevented from being present to deliver the inaugural address. There were also present the Bishop of Worcester, Lord Stratheden and Campbell, the Italian Ambassador (Count Tornielli), the Greek Minister, M. John Gennadius, M. E. Aymonier, representing the French Government, Professor Carolides, representing the Government of Greece, Senator Don P. de Gayangos, Spanish delegate, Baron Tentor de Ravisi, of the French National Committee, Dr. G. C. Naranyo de Palmas, Vice-President of the Education Department of Spain, and Professor Simonet, also representing Spain, the Abbé Graffin, Monseigneur Lamy, the Hon. S. J. Way, Chief Justice and Lieutenant-Governor of South Australia, Mr. Fuller, of the Colonial Office, on behalf of Lord Knutsford, Professor Montet, of Geneva, Professor Abel, M. Clain, of the *Athenée Oriental*, Paris, Rev. Dr. Val d'Eremao, Rigakhusi Tsuboi, of Japan, Mr. Stuart Glennie, Mr. Corbett, of Ceylon, Dr. G. W. Leitner, secretary of the congress, and Mr. Henry Leitner.

The CHAIRMAN, having declared the congress open, delivered a brief address. He welcomed those gentlemen who had come from distant quarters of the globe to attend the congress, and expressed the thanks of the congress to the Treasurer and Benchers of the Inner Temple for placing their hall at the disposal of the congress. He said that no more suitable place could have been found, for the name and antecedents of the Temple carried the thoughts back to the middle ages and to the great movement which brought all Europe into contact with the East. Though the Crusaders only met with transient successes in their wars, they brought back from the East many new ideas which in after ages proved to have the germ of civilization. The Arabic speaking races had very distinct claims upon the western world in the region of science. In geometry they had preserved for the world in an Arabic translation the profound researches of the great Greek geometer Apollonius—researches which would otherwise have been lost. In algebra their researches had marked the science for their own. If through the hostile concourse of East and West in past ages these great results had been achieved, what might not be hoped for from the peaceful association of East and West in congresses such as the present? The West was now teaching much to the East, but nevertheless it still continued to learn from the East, and would have to do so for many ages. It was the combination of the treasures and learning of the East and of the West which afforded the true secret of strength and of all assured progress among the nations of the world. Every one would regret the absence of the Lord Chancellor, who was himself a member of the congress, and there was another name which he could not pass over without mention. It was the name of one, now dead, to whom the congress might be said to owe its existence—the eminent linguist and jurist, Sir Patrick Colquhoun, a former Bencher and Treasurer of the Middle Temple. The present congress was the ninth statutory international congress, and it was called statutory because it was summoned in accordance with the statutes of the original congress of Paris. They had as patrons his Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught and his Imperial Highness the Archduke Rainer of Austria, and included among their members the representatives of 37 nationalities, the ambassadors of foreign Governments, the representatives of foreign Ministers of Instruction, and the representatives of foreign learned societies. The attendance at the various congresses had varied from time to time. At Paris, the first, there were 1,064 members; at Florence, the fourth, there were 127; and at Stockholm, the eighth, there were 713. The proceedings at Stockholm were admitted to have been not all that they should have been. It was difficult to hold the balance even between the two elements of these congresses—the scientific and the social. There was a tendency for the social element to become too prominent; and this had been the case at Stockholm, where there had been too much entertainment and lavish expenditure. In consequence of this a slight difference of opinion arose. One party urged that the remedy was to be found in the institution of a committee which would regulate admission to the congresses; while the other party maintained that admission to the congresses should be perfectly free and open. In order to give due prominence to the real scientific work of the congress, a very wide range of subjects, of practical as well as of technical interest, had been chosen; and it was hoped that new discoveries and researches of the most varied kind would be announced. Attention had been paid to the commercial genius of Great Britain, and the adherence to the congress of the London Chamber of Commerce and of several prominent firms engaged in the Oriental trade had been secured. (Cheers.)

Dr. LEITNER said that if anything could make up for the absence of Lord Dufferin at their opening meeting it was the valuable speech which had just been delivered by the Master of St. John's College, who, by the happy suggestion of Lord Halsbury and the concurrence of the committee, as well as by the signatures given on behalf of the various countries there represented, had been designated their chairman. The congress had an overwhelming mass of material

before it, and they would endeavour to do justice to the various papers which would be read. He would ask the indulgence of the congress, inasmuch as the papers were in many languages, and those not all of them European. One paper had reached him which was in the Malay language. He desired to say, in the first instance, that his Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught had taken much more than a formal interest in their proceedings, and was well known to have much at heart the progress of Oriental learning. He had received the following letter from his Royal Highness, who had fully intended to be present among them :—

“ Government-house, Portsmouth, Aug. 26.

“ Dear Sir,—I am desired by the Duke of Connaught to express his most sincere regret that it will be impossible for his Royal Highness to attend the meeting of the ninth International Congress of Orientalists on August 31 and September 1, as both days are occupied by inspections in his district, which cannot possibly be postponed. It would have afforded his Royal Highness otherwise the greatest pleasure to have been present, and to have taken part in this interesting and important meeting.

“ I am, Sir, yours very truly,

“ ALFRED EGERTON.”

He had also received a letter from the chamberlain of the Archduke Rainer of Austria expressing regret at his inability to attend. The Archduke was at present officially occupied in the military manœuvres now being held, and was consequently unable to leave Austria. His Imperial Highness had been president of the seventh International Congress, and was himself an Oriental scholar, in the department of Egyptology, of no mean attainments. It was expected that the next congress would be held in Spain, and the Archduke had expressed his earnest hope that it would be successful and would lead to valuable results. Lord Dufferin had telegraphed his regret at his inability to be present, and expressed his good wishes for the success of their meeting. Lord Halsbury had also written from Scotland saying that he was sorry that his engagements would prevent his presence among them. The Lord Chancellor was a proficient in Arabic, and took a scholarly interest in Egyptology. He was glad that the Italian Ambassador was present to express the desire of the Italian Government to further the aims of the congress ; and they had also among them the Greek Minister, M. Gennadius, with whose eloquence many of them were familiar. The function of Greece was unique in respect of Oriental learning, standing as she did between the East and the West. She illustrated the maxim, *ex oriente lux, ex occidente lex*. He was glad also to welcome Professor Carolides to the congress. He had also received much encouragement from the Bishop of Worcester, himself an eminent Arabic scholar, who had come among them at considerable inconvenience to preside over the Arabic section. The Bishop was some 30 years ago reader in Arabic at King's College, and on his own succession to the chair the Bishop had given him valuable assistance. The Government of Spain had been most generous in its equipment of delegates to the congress ; and Professor Aymonier had been sent by the French Government, and would furnish them with interesting accounts of the progress of French civilization in the East. Valuable discoveries had been made, which in due time would be communicated to the congress. Professor Montet, who occupied the chair of Oriental languages at Geneva, would contribute papers of great importance ; and he had been fortunate enough to secure the hearty concurrence of the Batavian, German, and Portuguese Governments. Germany had not deserted them, for they had among them Professor Schlegel, and the diligence and research of Germans would be supplemented by the genius of Frenchmen and the scholarship of Spain, Scotland, and other countries. M. Clain would give them the result of his ethnological investigations in Sumatra, and would prove the existence in that island of a considerable medical literature, which had to a great extent anticipated modern theories, particularly in respect of the attributing disease to living germs. Mr. Sewell, of the Madras Council, would explain the ancient hieroglyphics of that portion of India, and exhibit copies of drawings of a very remote date, illustrative of animal life in India. Mr. Leland would tell them of forms of worship in Italy similar to those of India, and Mr. Flinders Petrie would anticipate on their behalf some of his latest discoveries in Egypt. They were glad also to welcome Chief Justice Way, of Adelaide, and to hear of the learning of Japan from Rigakhusi Tsuboi. He had to thank the Clothworkers' Company and Mr. Mond for generous subscriptions in aid of their efforts, and also the Government of Baden for the gift of 192 volumes and pamphlets bearing upon Oriental learning. (Cheers.)

The ITALIAN AMBASSADOR, speaking in Italian, said that his Government, in commissioning him to represent it at the congress, were actuated by the conviction that their labours would prove to be not only of speculative interest, but of profound practical importance and of material benefit. (Cheers.)

M. GENNADIUS, the Greek Minister, said,—Greece is the one country and the Greek nation is the people which from prehistoric times to this day serves as an indispensable bridge between the East and the West. Having had their cradle in the East, and still retaining in their language, their traditions,

and their philosophy an Oriental background, they are nevertheless the soul and embodiment of Western thought—of that European genius which blossomed forth in them first in its most captivating beauty—that ever new and irresistible impulse which is called progress. From the moment that Greece appears on the stage of the world's history, this mighty force comes into play, activated by the two chief traits of the Greek mind—by the sense of individuality and by the love of freedom—qualities hitherto unknown, which seem to emerge from the very soil of Greece, as the Greeks considered themselves to have sprung from the earth. Thus armed, the Greeks at once come in contact and join issue with Asia. They are the first who venture to fathom her mysteries, to unravel her symbolism, and to grapple with her learning. Greece encounters Asia already mature in the development of its Eastern civilization, and finds herself face to face with the huge power of Asiatic despotism, its barbaric glitter, and its dumb and apathetic inertness. The Eastern mind generally loves to grope about in a region of dimness, is content with doubts, and is mystified by religious contemplations, deeming it impious to inquire into the relations of God and man, and is filled with awe at the consideration of nature. The Greek, with the open-eyed delight of a child, faces nature boldly, and seeks to wrest her secrets from her; nature has no mystic terrors for him; he breaks her silence; and it is in Asiatic Ionia that the Greek mind first conceives the idea—diametrically opposed as it is to Eastern thought—that there are fixed laws which govern nature. Therefore "Know thyself" is the first law in life which the Greek—in opposition to the Asiatic—sets to himself; and to this law, literature, arts, politics, religion itself conform. It is the watchword of a fearless intellect, the first step towards knowing the world rightly. This love of inquiry and of positive knowledge, as opposed to the contemplation, the doubt, and sluggish indifferentism of Asia, is personified by Odysseus, that truly typical Greek, who "had seen the abodes and had learned the minds of many men," who loved to wander over the world, and who delighted in his own adventures. Odysseus was the earliest of great travellers, and the boldest of explorers. Herodotus, himself an Asiatic Greek, first reveals to the world, by scientific inquiry and in a systematic history, the religious, political, and artistic life of Asia and Egypt. His nine books have remained, and will remain, the most reliable and most complete storehouse of Oriental lore. They are the imperishable monument of the victory of the genius of Greece over that of Asia. This is not the place to refer to the struggle which Greece, from her first appearance as a nation, has continued to wage against the East, doing service as a bulwark to the West. But, when we look to the field of the arts, of politics, and of religion, we find the genius of Greece takes its start from Oriental sources, only to transform its prototypes completely and soar up to all but unattainable heights. The art of Egypt, having been the outcome of a priestly domination, was an art of the dead, stillborn and conventional; size, not grace and symmetry, being its merit. That of Assyria, on the other hand, laboured under the crushing weight of a secular despotism which kept its tone low, and narrowed down its horizon. Greek art, emerging from the thralldom of Asia, was guided by the idea that reason should not be divorced from beauty, but that the beautiful should also be true to nature. With a bold yet measured grace the Greek modelled his gods, not after beasts and monsters, but after an idealized human form. In political life, again, the East had not then known a medium condition between despotism and anarchy. But the pliant genius of Greece first made the effort to reconcile the rights and the duties of the State to those of the individual. With regard to religion, the priesthood in the East overmastered every phase of social and intellectual life; the art of writing itself was a hieratic secret, and the study of literature and science belonged to the priestly office. The Greeks, having received with the alphabet their earliest mythology from Asia, soon threw off sacerdotal influence, and priesthood never constituted a caste in Greece. Although polytheism was the religion of Greece, yet her earliest poetry clearly pointed to higher religious conceptions, while her philosophy, ruthlessly overturning every mythological fiction, produced the teaching of Socrates, which falls but little short of that of Christ. Thus purged and prepared, by the application

of a clear and fearless intellect to every branch of human knowledge, Greek genius was ready to render its greatest service to the world by receiving again from the East and interpreting to the West the Revelation of Christ. The Jews, the only Asiatic race which escaped despotism by adopting theocracy, were the people amongst whom the teaching of Christ could first be promulgated. But the Greek language was alone able, by reason of its inimitable subtlety, to give adequate expression to the noblest thoughts of the Christian faith. The Apostles, starting from Asia, wrote the New Testament in Greek; and the Greek Fathers, versed in the philosophy of Plato and Aristotle, expounded in an abiding manner the dogmas of Christianity. Such is the rich and imperishable legacy which the contact of Greece with the East has left to humanity, and so overspanning, universal, and continuous are the benefits derived from it that we may well say with Shelley, "We are all Greeks; our laws, our literature, our religion, our art, have their roots in Greece." The consideration of these questions—of the transmutation, through the agency of Greece, of Asiatic into European civilization—forms part of the labours of this important congress, which now befittingly meets in this home and temple of the law; in this great and hospitable capital of the Empress of the Seas, whose possessions reach from pole to pole, and extend from one hemisphere to the other; who is the noble mother of many nations and the founder of flourishing States all over the East; whose mighty Asiatic empire far exceeds

in extent, riches, and power the fondest dreams of Eastern potentates; and whose benign and beneficent rule confers on the world blessings even as great as those still derived from the undimmed brightness of the glory of Greece herself. (Cheers.)

CHIEF JUSTICE WAY said he appeared among them, not in his judicial capacity or on the part of the Government of which he was a member, but as Chancellor of the University of Adelaide, the youngest of our Australasian Universities. From its geographical position Australia naturally took a deep interest in Oriental studies, and he hoped that branch of learning would hereafter be zealously prosecuted in the colony, and also in the University about to be established in Tasmania. Australian scholarship was represented by Sir Charles Nicholson, who was an Egyptologist of high reputation, and by Mr. Harper in the department of Hebrew and its cognate languages. (Cheers.) He hoped, therefore, that he had vindicated his right to be present at a congress of Orientalists. (Cheers.)

Dr. G. C. NARANYO DE PALMAS said that owing to the course of history, which had brought Spain into such intimate contact with an Arabic-speaking people, that country beyond all others of Europe now possessed the means of studying the Arabic language and literature. The Spanish delegates had done everything in their power to secure that the next congress should be held in Spain.

Mr. FULLER, of the Colonial Office, and BARON DE RAVISI having also spoken,

The following resolutions of the Organizing Committee were passed unanimously:—

“ 1. That the Statutory Ninth International Congress of Orientalists express its profound homage and gratitude to her Majesty the Queen-Empress, herself a student of an Oriental language, for the reception afforded within her realm to a gathering of Orientalists and friends of Oriental studies, representing 37 different countries.

“ 2. That the existing general and sectional officeholders be confirmed in their appointments, with the addition, in the sections, of such distinguished foreign scholars as these sections may elect, and that the Master of St. John's, Cambridge, officiate during the absence of Lord Halsbury.

“ 3. That the various recommendations for the promotion of Oriental studies already made by several of the sections, notably Section B 1, and confirmed by the fifth general meeting of signatories, be accepted and acted on.

“ 4. That all books presented to the congress be deposited at the Oriental University Institute, so as to form the nucleus of a library for a national Oriental congress, which it is the object of the International Congress to establish in every country that it visits.

“ 5. That all the members of the congress of 1891, who have subscribed their names to the declaration in favour of the preservation of the original statutes of 1873, and of the principle of a congress open to all schools and nationalities, or who may yet do so, receive the founders' diploma, entitling them to vote at all future meetings of the Statutory Congress, of which they may become members, thus insuring the successful continuance of the series established in Paris in 1873.”

This terminated the proceedings at the opening general meeting.

SECTIONAL MEETINGS.

In the afternoon the congress resolved itself into its various sections, and papers were contributed on Indian theogony by PROFESSOR GUSTAVE OPPERT, and on Syriac Diacritical Points by the ABBÉ GRAFFIN, and a summary of research in Hebrew and Aramaic was read in French by PROFESSOR E. MONTET. A further paper, on “The Aid given by Arabic to the Study of the Bible,” was read by PROFESSOR T. WITTON-DAVIES.

A discussion followed, and

The congress then adjourned till 10 o'clock this morning.

Hospitality has been extended to members of the congress by the Incorporated Law Society, which has placed at the disposal of members its reading room, library, and strangers' room, and by the Law Club, the St. George's Club, Hanover-square, and the German Athenæum, which have admitted them to honorary membership.

THE MARK MASONS.—The quarterly communication of the English Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons was held last night at Mark Masons'-hall, Great Queen-street. In the unavoidable absence of the Grand Master, the Prince of Wales, and of the pro-Grand Master, the Marquis of Hertford, the Earl of Euston, Deputy Grand Master, presided, Brothers Frank Richardson and Colonel A. B. Cook acting as grand wardens. The brethren unanimously adopted the report of the General Board, which stated that during the three months ending June 30, 1891, 413 mark certificates had been issued, and warrants for three new mark lodges had been granted by the Prince of Wales. In the same period 84 Royal Ark marine certificates were issued. The Prince of Wales had appointed Brother Charles Roper Martin to succeed the late Brother Henry Wallace Lowry as District Grand Master for Victoria, Australia; and the Hon. Judge Donald Grant MacLeod to be District Grand Master for Burmah. The confirmation of this report was followed by the formal closing of Grand Mark Lodge.

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INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ORIENTALISTS.

The opening meeting of the statutory ninth International Congress of Orientalists took place yesterday in the hall of the Inner Temple. There was a fair attendance at the morning sitting, when it was hoped that the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava would preside, and deliver an opening address. He was, however, unable to be present, and in his absence the Rev. Dr. Taylor, Master of St. John's College, Cambridge, presided. Among those present were the Bishop of Worcester, Count Tornielli, the Italian Ambassador, M. Gennadius, the Greek Minister, Baron Textor de Ravisi, M. Aumonier, Senor Gayangos, Chief Justice Way, Abbé Graffin, Professor Donadiu, Professor Hagopian, Mr. Hyde Clarke, and Dr. Leitner (organising secretary).

The Rev. Dr. TAYLOR, in opening the proceedings, extended a cordial welcome to the many eminent Orientalists and friends of Oriental learning who had assembled from all parts of the world as members of the Congress. They were indebted to the public spirit of the treasurer and benchers of the Inner Temple for meeting in their noble hall. (Cheers.) No place could have been found elsewhere so suitable by the association for a gathering of Orientalists, for the name and the antecedents of the place carried their thoughts back to the remote mediaval ages—(hear, hear)—to the time of that great movement which brought all Europe into contact with the East. Although the gallant Templars and the other Crusaders met with but transient success in their wars they brought back from the East new ideas, which gave a new life to the West and proved the germ of the civilisation of subsequent ages. As an example of the claim that the Arabs had upon them in the matter, he mentioned the twofold service they had rendered to mathematics. They had preserved in an Arabic translation what would otherwise have been lost, the most profound researches of Apolonius, the great Greek geometer, and they also followed out the researches and by Arabic expression of "algebra" marked that science as their own. (Hear, hear.) If through the hostile intercourse of East and West in past ages such great results had been achieved, what ought they not to hope for from the peaceful intercourse of Congresses such as that now assembled. The West was again overrunning the East, and leaving its mark upon it, and the West had much to give back in return for what it had received. (Cheers.) But the West still continued to learn from the East, and would for many ages have to learn from it. (Hear, hear.) It was the combination of the treasures of the East and the West, the learning of the East and West, which was the true secret of strength and the foundation of all sure progress. (Cheers.) He had to regret the absence of the Lord Chancellor, who had done so much for the Congress, and also of another to whom the Congress might be said to owe its existence—the distinguished linguist Sir Patrick Colquhoun. (Cheers.) They were welcoming to their ninth Congress delegates from 37 nationalities, ambassadors from foreign Governments, and representatives of Ministers of Instruction and foreign learned societies. The number of the members had varied from time to time. In Paris they had 1,064 delegates, and at the Congress in Florence only 127, while the number rose to 713 at Stockholm last year. They had to fully recognise two elements in a Congress such as theirs—the scientific and the social, and it was very difficult to hold the balance between the two, as there was a tendency sometimes for the social element to become much more prominent than for the sake of science it ought to be. Some remedy had to be applied, and one proposition was that admission to their deliberations should be regulated; but the view taken by the majority of those he was addressing was that they should be free and open. (Hear, hear.) They had secured a very wide range of subjects, including not only the technical and limited, but those of practical interests to the whole community. They had papers ranging from Sanskrit, music, and geometry, with

theories on the origin of civilisation and the Gospels, to a disquisition in Persian on the matter of shawls. The programme was therefore very varied, and they hoped to have laid before them new discoveries and researches of the most profound and diverse character. At the same time, with the assistance of the London Chamber of Commerce, matters of commercial interest would not be neglected. (Applause.)

Dr. LEITNER (organising secretary), after acknowledging the indebtedness of the Congress to the President for his interesting address, said the conductors of the Congress hoped for every indulgence from the members. Most of the papers had come to hand in manuscript and some in languages that would puzzle the most learned assembly. One, for instance, was written in the extremely little-known Malayan language. Several letters of regret had been received from distinguished persons who were unable to attend. His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught wrote to say it would have given him the greatest pleasure to have been present but for his military duties. Much of the success which the Congress had attained was due to the interest taken in it by the Duke of Connaught, who was the first Englishman to accept the office of patron. The Archduke Rainer of Austria had also written to say that he should have liked to be present and contribute a paper but for his duties in connection with the military manœuvres. Lord Dufferin and Lord Halsbury, who took a personal interest in the study of Arabic, had also sent letters of regret. A great feature of the present Congress was the presence of a great number of explorers and men renowned for their original research. It promised, in short, to be one of the most successful meetings resulting from the original Congress held in Paris in 1873. The Congress had not so much support from the scholars of Germany as ought to have been the case, although it was not entirely deserted by them. On the other hand they had been very fortunate in other directions. M. Claine had come to tell them much of the greatest interest, especially to medical science, from Sumatra, where he had made an intrepid journey among the fierce Bataks, who had been hitherto unapproachable. Mr. Fawcett had come straight from the scene of his explorations in obscure Bellary, which scientists, particularly anthropologists, believed would be of the very highest value in the possibilities they open out of extending our knowledge of ethnography and craniology. Mr. C. Leland would relate some curious coincidences between the worship of the Saligrama stone in India and cognate cults in Italy and Northern Europe; and Mr. Flinders Petrie would gratify all Egyptologists by his remarkable discoveries of early Egyptian tombs and buildings at Medum. With regard to philology there was the prospect of making it of more practical use. In future the philologist must also be a linguist, and his teachers would undoubtedly come from the East, where every system of education known to the West had its exemplars, not even expecting that of Fröbel's, the Kindergarten system. (Cheers.)

Count TORNIELLI, on behalf of Italy, briefly expressed in his native tongue the interest felt by many of his countrymen in Oriental studies, and hoped that practical results might attend the labour of the Congress.

M. GENNADIUS, as the representative of Greece, also expressed much interest in the Congress. The Greeks were the one people who from prehistoric times had served as an indispensable bridge between East and West, an unfailing channel through which the language, arts, religion, and commerce of the East had been communicated to the West. They were still the one nation serving as a connecting link between Europe and Asia, and remained the first of Orientalists without being Orientals. (Cheers.)

Mr. Fuller (of the Colonial Office), Baron Textor de Ravisi (France), Senor Gayangos (Spain), M. Aumonier, and Professor Donadiu added their testimony to the value of Oriental studies.

Chief Justice WAY, speaking as Chancellor of the University of Adelaide, said that there were good grounds to hope that Oriental studies would be pursued in Australia, because of the encouraging example of the United States, the nearness of Australia to the East, and her increasing commerce and communication, and the growing interest taken in learning in the colony.

Professor HAGOPIAN moved a resolution expressing gratitude to the Queen, herself a student of an Oriental language, for the reception afforded within her realm to the gathering of Orientalists.

Mr. DADABHOI NAOROJEE seconded the motion, which was agreed to with acclamation.

In the afternoon there was a very small attendance, and only one or two of the numerous sections proceeded to business. The proceedings were delayed for an hour beyond the appointed time, and, on account of the absence of the presidents and readers of papers, the discussions were of a desultory character, and very difficult to follow. It had been arranged that summaries of recent researches should be given in 14 sections, but only one was read, and that in French, by Professor MONTET, of Geneva, relating to Hebrew and Aramaic. Professor Montet was also announced to read a paper on "The Future Life Among the Semitic Races," but it was taken as read, Dr. Leitner stating that 500 copies had been printed and circulated, of which only one remained, and that could not be found. It was understood that the principal theory maintained by the writer was that the doctrine of immortality and a future life was not held by the Semitic races.

In the section devoted to Semitic languages, Dr. Taylor presided over a small gathering, and Professor T. WITTON DAVIES (Wales) gave an abstract of a paper on the aid afforded by Arabic to the study of Hebrew and the Old Testament. He contended that the similarity of forms and sounds in the Arabic and the Hebrew tended to elucidate many knotty points and difficult passages. Arabic also threw light upon the terminations and suffixes of Hebrew words, and enabled them to understand what the Hebrew language was like anterior to the date of existing Hebrew documents. He also held that the study of the Koran would be very useful to the student of Hebrew.

In the discussion that followed, Mr. HYDE CLARKE, Dr. LEITNER, and others took part, and a vote of thanks was passed to the reader of the paper.

The Abbé GRAFFIN read a paper on "Syriac Diacritical Points," which did not provoke much discussion.

In another Section, PANDIT BULAKI RAM STRASTRI read an abstract of a paper by Professor Gustav Oppert on "Indian Theogony" to a very limited audience.

In the evening several of the members visited the British Museum.

The Congress reassembles to-day, and will sit daily until the 10th inst.