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Register, April 2nd. 09.

THE SOUTH POLE EXPEDITION.

WELCOME TO PROFESSOR DAVID.

PRAISE FOR MR. MAWSON.

SYDNEY, April 1.

The Lord Mayor extended a general invitation to citizens to welcome Professor David at the Town Hall to-night, and they attended in such numbers that thousands could not obtain admission. The resolution "That this meeting extends its cordial and glad welcome to Professor David on his safe and happy return home" was carried with great cheering. Mr. Maiden (secretary of the Federated Scientific Society of Australasia) presented the Mueller Medal to Professor David. The latter, in reply, said Antarctica was a country that abounded in economic minerals, and he predicted that it was possible for Australia to work these minerals, just as Canadians worked gold in the Klondyke, and as minerals were worked in Greenland. He would not be surprised if in the future excursion steamers were run to the antarctic. With much satisfaction he pointed out that the magnetic pole was not located by him, but by that great scientific man, Mr. Douglas Mawson. (Applause.) The result of the expedition, in a few words, was that with Lieut. Shackleton for Britain and Mr. Douglas Mawson for Greater Britain one need have no fear for the British Empire. (Applause.)

Register, April 5th. 09.

UNIVERSITY ARTS ASSOCIATION.

The second annual meeting of the Adelaide University Arts Association was held in the Union Room on the evening of Friday, April 2. Professor Mitchell presided over a large assembly, which included several of the professors. The secretary's and the treasurer's reports were adopted. In the course of his report the secretary stated:—"The second year of the Adelaide University Arts Association has been largely experimental, and has given the society an opportunity to justify its claim to existence. Meetings have been held during the year on the first Friday evening in April, May, June, and July, and the second annual dinner was held on August 1. The form of the meetings appears to have given general satisfaction. Discussions, ranging from 'Robert Browning's Philosophy of Life' to 'Ethics of Empire,' have supplied the business of the evenings, and the social side has been provided for by a short interval for refreshments. The Arts Association, however, has found its province extending far beyond the limits of its monthly gatherings, and evidences of its best work are to be found in the steady growth of an arts school feeling, in the disappearance of the patronising air of other schools, in the greater solidarity of the Arts School in sports and on committees, and in the nobler place taken by arts men in the general life of the University." Mr. W. Twiss proposed and Mr. G. Elton Mayo seconded a vote of thanks to Mr. T. G. Robertson, the retiring secretary. Mr. Robertson has removed to Sydney University, and keen regret is felt in all University circles at his departure. The acting secretary was instructed to convey to him the appreciation of the society for his excellent work in the past year. Officers elected:—President, Professor Mitchell, D.Sc.; Vice-Presidents, Professors G. C. Henderson, M.A., and H. Darnley Naylor, M.A.; Secretary, Mr. O. Rischbieth; Treasurer, Mr. A. J. Hannan; Auditors, Messrs. F. W. Eardley and W. Twiss. The following nominations were received for members of the committee:—Messrs. W. H. Hould, J. L. Rossiter, A. S. Ferguson, F. K. Barton, R. Barbour. The business part of the programme was followed by a discussion on the subject "In practical politics expediency must be considered before principle." Mr. G. Elton Mayo led on the affirmative and Mr. J. L. Rossiter on the negative side. After a short interval for coffee the discussion was resumed, when eight other gentlemen spoke. Professor Jethro Brown summed up the situation with judicial and professional acuteness, and upon the motion of the President it was decided not to put the question to the vote. Student songs were sung at intervals, and the meeting closed with "Gaudeamus."

Advertiser, April 8th. 09.

AN AUSTRALIAN SCIENTIST.

During his lecture on solar physics at the meeting of the Adelaide University Scientific Society on Wednesday, Dr. G. Duffield expressed regret that he was not able to screen some photographs of the sun and sun-spots stereoscopically. He believed that the idea of examining the sun as through a stereoscope originated with Mr. A. W. Dobbie, of Adelaide. Mr. Dobbie's idea was to take views of the sun at stated intervals, and to inspect a consecutive pair of these stereoscopically. He calculated the time between each photo so that the revolutionary action of the sun would cause such deviation in the position of the various spots and other marks of identification as would coincide with the difference as seen by the right and left eyes respectively. When viewed through a stereoscope the photographs then stood out in relief. This result was a "startler." Apparently one could see clearly what the sun-spots were, and they appeared to be gaping holes in the surface of the sun. Mr. Maunder, head of the Greenwich Observatory, when shown the results of Mr. Dobbie's experiments, considered that it was a kind of optical illusion. The holes looked real enough, but he could hardly credit the veracity of the appearances. Mr. Dobbie himself is incredulous that such can be the true appearance of the spots. Whether the photographs are illusions or not, the results are undoubtedly of inestimable value to scientists as a basis to work from, and Mr. Dobbie must be congratulated on his work.

Advertiser, April 6th. 09.

CONFERRING UNIVERSITY DEGREES.

A special congregation of the University of Adelaide was held in the Prince of Wales' Theatre on Monday afternoon for the purpose of conferring degrees upon graduates of the State University and of the University of Melbourne. The Chancellor (Sir S. J. Way) presided, and invested the following graduates with the degrees mentioned:—Bachelor of Arts—Annie Frances Burgess, Clive Runnals Davies, Dora Ingamells. Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (ad eundem gradum)—Michael Henry Downey, M.B., B.S., University of Melbourne. Bachelor of Science—William Arthur Hargreaves, M.A., B.C.E., University of Melbourne. Diploma in Applied Science—Leslie Frank Burgess, B.Sc. (electrical engineering).

Register, April 8th. 09.

SOLAR PHYSICS.

UNIVERSITY SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

The inaugural address in connection with the Adelaide University Scientific Society was delivered on Wednesday evening before a good audience by Dr. W. Geoffrey Duffield. The chair was occupied by Professor Rennie. The lecturer, with the aid of electric lanterns and a prism, explained the spectroscopic determination of metallic substances in the sun, and the various appearances of the sun's disc in an eclipse. At the conclusion he urged that Australasia should take its part in the international solar research work now being carried on in the observatories of Western Europe, America, and India. Each could do about six hours' observation daily, and an up-to-date solar observatory in the Southern Hemisphere would complete the 24 hours' circuit. Moreover, the Commonwealth was climatically suited for continuous observation all the year round, while European observatories had to remain idle during the winter months. The work that could be done might prove of utility incidentally in weather and drought prediction. They could not promise anything on those lines, however. No great discoveries had been made by looking for them, but many important ones by chance when conducting investigations in the interests of pure science. They asked, therefore, that they should be enabled to study sunspots and the natural solar phenomena. Mr. Abbott, of the Smithsonian Institution, had published an optimistic report that the differences in radiation from the sun were measurable, and had said that if more stations were established it would help in investigation on that line which might prove of great advantage. Sir Howard Grant and Mr. Wilson had offered a telescope; Mr. Oddy, of Ballarat, had promised £2,000 worth of apparatus if they could guarantee to house it almost immediately, and other gifts had been promised, while the Commonwealth Government had intimated that it would subsidise private donations pound for pound. A committee had been appointed, and he thought that in the near future Australasia would have an observatory which, by combining with other universities, would assume international importance in solar research work.

Professor Chapman said it was up to Australia to do something in pure scientific work in the way suggested. He hoped that the Commonwealth would be able to keep Dr. Duffield from leaving Australia, as other Angas scholars had done, and preferably that he might be made the director of the proposed observatory.

Register, April 6/09.

CELESTIAL STEREOGRAPHS.

Dr. W. Geoffrey Duffield, an Angas scholar, who lately returned to Australia with honours gained at Cambridge and Manchester Universities—he is a Research Fellow of the latter institution—in the the course of a lecture on "International Solar Physics," delivered at the Adelaide University on Wednesday evening, said that Mr. A. W. Dobbie, of Adelaide, had discovered what appeared to be a mode of spectroscopical examination of photographs of sunspots. The pictures were made by combining spectroscopically photographs of the solar disc taken through the telescope at short intervals, so that the motion of the sun should itself give the variation represented in a terrestrial stereoscopic picture by the distance apart of the lenses. When seen afterwards Mr. Dobbie, who was in the audience, said that he was unaware that Dr. Duffield knew of the pictures, and had brought some to the meeting to show them. They had been submitted by him to the Sydney meeting of the Australasian Association for the advancement of Science, and members of that body had sent some to English and European observers. He had received letters from several of these. He did not claim to have discovered a method of celestial stereoscopy, but only that the pictures certainly presentetd a stereoscopic appearance. Whether this was real or due to some outside cause he could not decide, and the gentlemen referred to were also perplexed on the question. At any rate he intended to persevere with the subject.

Register, April 3rd, 09.

ANTARCTIC EXPLORATION.

MR. MAWSON'S "SPLENDID ACHIEVEMENTS."

SYDNEY AND ADELAIDE EXCHANGE CONGRATULATIONS.

The Chancellor of the University of Adelaide (Right Hon. Sir Samuel Way) has received a telegram as follows from the Lord Mayor of Sydney:—"Lord Mayor of Sydney, for citizens assembled in the town hall, desires to send hearty congratulations through you to Mr. Douglas Mawson, whose splendid achievements for science have brought world-wide honour to Adelaide and Sydney Universities."

The Chancellor has replied as follows:—"Your Lordship's message to Mr. Mawson shall be transmitted at once. We are very proud in Adelaide, and especially at the University, of Mr. Mawson's brilliant achievement and Professor David's generous tribute to his colleague. We also highly appreciate your congratulatory message from the citizens of Sydney. I did not know of your meeting in time to send a message from this University, but will you convey to Professor David our hearty congratulations on his safe return, and on his having placed himself in the front rank of antarctic explorers? We share his fellow-citizens' admiration of his courageous devotion to science, and of the valuable additions he has made to our knowledge of the southern continent."