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SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

The Government of New Zealand are setting an example in the encouragement of scientific research in respect to subjects of the highest economic value which it would be well for South Australia and the other States of the Commonwealth to follow. The Dominion Executive have decided to offer each year four research scholarships of £100 each, and tenable for two years, to graduates and diploma students who have qualified themselves to engage in advanced study and given evidence of capacity to do original work. The appointments are to be made between the beginning of March and the end of May, and the persons eligible are those who have rendered themselves proficient in physics, chemistry, biology, geology, or physiology, or who have secured degrees or diplomas in science, engineering, agriculture, medicine, or veterinary science. It is provided that in the event of special aptitude being shown the Government may extend the scholarship for another year.

In addition to the money allowance to the scholar the Government will pay the college laboratory fees and the cost of special apparatus or special books required, as well as the actual travelling fares or cost of transit while the holder is engaged in his work. In return the scholar is required to devote his whole time to the work of research in the subjects selected by him from an approved list likely to be of economical value to the industries of the country. All the results of the investigations carried on under the terms of the scholarship are to be the property of the Government, who will thus have working for them under proper scientific conditions a small army of thoroughly trained, enthusiastic, and capable young men. The gain both to the individual and the community should be very great, while the annual cost will not be large. By the means adopted not only will New Zealand give help of incalculable benefit to advanced students who are ambitious to qualify themselves thoroughly to do useful and remunerative work in their various professions, but the scheme is designed to develop skilled scientists, and also to open up avenues of knowledge which may be of incalculable value to science and industry. Professor Rutherford, whose name is world-famous in connection with investigation of the nature and properties of radium, was once a New Zealand student, and Mr. R. D. Kleemann, who has done excellent work both in Adelaide and at Cambridge in respect to the same subject, made his first attempts in this city. Both were enabled to rise higher by the help of science research scholarships, conferred by English authorities, which took them to the other side of the world. In comparatively new countries there is a large field for investigation which is as yet unexploited, and this in itself furnishes one reason why the New Zealand scheme might well be extended to the Commonwealth.

THE ANDREW SCOTT PRIZE.

At a meeting of the committee of the Andrew Scott Prize Fund held recently Professor Henderson reported that the council of the University had consented to award an annual prize in that institution. It was decided to give the prize for Latin in each year. The committee arranged to place £105 in the hands of the council at once, and to increase that amount as funds come in. The treasurer (Mr. Pavia) was instructed to close accounts as soon as the promises had been met. Professor Henderson and Messrs. Pavia and Harry were appointed to arrange for the completion of the affairs of the fund.

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STRATHALBYN, May 8.—The University extension lectures have taken a strong hold in this district, a fact exemplified by the large attendance in the institute hall last evening, when Professor Darnley Naylor began his series of lectures on "Life in Rome, A.D. 100." Sir Lancelot Stirling congratulated the district on so decidedly showing appreciation of these extension lectures. It was most inspiring to find each lecture more largely attended than its predecessor. Professor Naylor, by his charming personality and occasional flashes of dry humour kept his audience spellbound. The next lecture will be given a week hence.

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FROM ANTARCTIC REGIONS.

The following letter has been sent by Mr. Douglas Mawson, a member of the Shackleton expedition, to a friend in Adelaide:—"Cape Royds, Western Teland, of Mount Erebus, Antarctica, February 14. Our ink has frozen, so I am driven to using a lead pencil to convey messages from this remote spot to civilization. We failed to reach King Edward VII. Land, some 600 miles east of here, on account of the density of the pack ice, and have been made to take up winter quarters here. Our hut is in course of erection, and most of the stores ashore. As it is now summer time we should be little inconvenienced by the cold, though it is severe enough to freeze one's extremities if not very carefully cared for. One lot of skin has come off my hands and feet already. How different it must be now in South Australia. Expect to be back about April, 1909."

Advertiser May 11th 06

The Bequest to the University.

At the meeting of the education committee of the University of Adelaide, held on Friday, the Chancellor reported having received the legacy of £2,000 left by Mr. Murray to the University, to be applied to the scholarship fund. A committee was appointed to consider the best method of dealing with the scholarships, and prepare a scheme for consideration at the next meeting of the council.

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"THE TEACHING OF HAMLET."

At the Victoria Hall on Monday evening Professor Henderson delivered the last of a series of three lectures, under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association. There was a large audience. The theory of the lecturer was that human suffering was not necessarily the result of sin on the part of the sufferer, and that suffering was not always proportionate to or commensurate with wrong-doing. By way of illustration he compared the punishment in this life of King Claudius with that of Ophelia, whose character he defended.

Professor Franklin Peterson and Mr. H. A. Thomson, of the Melbourne Conservatorium, are in Adelaide in connection with a conference which has extended over Saturday and Monday, and will be concluded to-day. Many questions of importance to professional teachers and musicians generally have been and are to be dealt with. The visitors will return to Victoria to-day.

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SCIENCE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS.

In "The Advertiser" last week an article was published in respect to the offer by the New Zealand Government of four science research scholarships yearly, with the object of encouraging the investigation of various subjects of economic industrial value for the benefit of the State. The scholarships are to be of the annual value of £100, with free books, appliances, and railway fares, and are to be tenable for two years, with the right of renewal for a further term in the case of special merit, the conditions being that the research work shall be carried out in the Dominion, and that the results shall be the property of the community. The list of subjects in which the scholarships are offered, which were not previously enumerated, shows that they all are of practical value, and come completely within the scope of an institutions like the School of Mines and Industries, which has already splendid laboratories available for science research work in certain departments, and which could easily be equipped with further facilities of a similar kind if the money were forthcoming. The eight branches of investigation, each one of which has many sub-heads, as set forth in the New Zealand scheme, are economic entomology, plant pests, diseases of farm and domestic animals, economic botany, food fishes, chemistry of soils, mineral oils, and minerals. Under each division there is infinite scope for valuable investigations by students who have qualified themselves by obtaining diplomas covering a knowledge of chemistry, physics, botany, geology, and mineralogy, and who have evinced a capacity and aptitude for research work. One of the subjects mentioned—that of food fishes—comes home very nearly to the practical life of the people of Adelaide, where, unfortunately, fish is scarce and much dearer than it ought to be. In respect to this matter, Mr. G. M. Thomson, a well-known authority on New Zealand fisheries, has written to the Under-Secretary of Education in the Dominion, stating that there is an immense field for research in working out the life histories of food fishes, crustaceans, and molluscs of Australasian seas. The Commonwealth has just appointed a superintendent of fisheries (Mr. Damevig) at a big salary, and he would be available to give advice if in this matter of fish culture and research South Australia decided to place itself on a level with some of the eastern States, Tasmania, or New Zealand. In regard to all the other subjects of research enumerated, facilities for advanced study are available in Adelaide already.

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DAVID MURRAY SCHOLARSHIPS.

At the meeting of the education committee of the University of Adelaide held on Friday the Chancellor reported having received the legacy of £2,000 left by the late Mr. David Murray to the University of South Australia, to be applied to the scholarship fund of the University. A committee was appointed to consider the best method of dealing with the scholarships and prepare a scheme for consideration at the next meeting of the council.