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UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

A meeting of the council was held on Friday last. Present—The Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. G. J. R. Murray, Hon. G. Brookman, Mr. S. J. Jacobs, Mr. S. Talbot Smith, Rev. H. Girdlestone, Professors Rennie, Mitchell, and Ennis, Mr. F. Chapple, Mr. F. W. Young, Dr. Hayward, and Dr. Poulton. An amendment of regulation III. of the B.Sc. degree relating to credit for subjects passed in the higher public examination, new statutes providing for the Lowrie scholarships, and the revised statutes of the Hartley studentship, were approved for submission to the senate. The report of the finance committee recommending the acceptance of tenders for library fittings was adopted. The council approved a request under regulation VI. of the B.Sc. degree that final examinations might be held during September in mining, geology, geology part I., and in hydraulics. A letter was received from the School of Mines stating that Mr. F. W. Reid had been recently appointed to its staff, and requesting that his name might be added to the Faculty of Applied Science in place of that of Mr. Higgin, who had resigned. The application of the Esperantists Association for the use of rooms at the University in October next for the purpose of meetings of the Congress of Esperantists was granted. The following dates for the beginning and ending of terms and lectures for 1912 were approved:—First term begins March 12, lectures begin March 18, term ends May 17; second term begins June 3, ends August 16; third term begins September 2, lectures end October 25, term ends December 10. Leave of absence was granted to Dr. C. T. C. de Crespigny for three weeks in the third term.

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Professor Ennis and Mr. I. G. Reimann, of Adelaide, and Mr. W. A. Laver, of Melbourne, have been appointed by the Adelaide University examiners in practice of music at the forthcoming examinations.

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At a meeting of the Council of the Adelaide University on Friday a report was received from the Royal College of Music proposing, on the recommendation of Miss Kleinschmidt's singing professor, to extend the period of her scholarship for a further term of one year with the approval of the University. In view of the excellent reports relating to Miss Kleinschmidt's work and the strong recommendation of the Royal College of Music, the council resolved to approve the extension, and to notify intending competitors by advertisement, that the scholarship had been extended for one year, but that candidates who would have been eligible for competition in the present year will be eligible when the scholarship is offered in 1912.

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UNIVERSITY EXTENSION.

PROGRESS AT OXFORD.

LONDON, August 26.

In connection with the University extension movement, now making such wonderful strides in the cities of England, it is reported that 200 manual workers employed in Oxford meet daily at Balliol College to study social and economic problems, and attend lectures by the professors. The College authorities have permitted 40 of the poorest students to live at the college.

A RHODES SCHOLAR'S HOLIDAYS.

Mr. H. Thomson, formerly a member of "The Advertiser" literary staff and now one of the South Australian Rhodes scholars in London, in a letter received by the last mail writes:—"In England we have been in the middle of a heat wave for some weeks, there has been a riot in the House of Commons, and there have been rumors of a war with Germany. I do not think there is much in the last. Less than a fortnight ago I was in Germany, and the people did not exactly appear to be thirsting for our blood. In fact (and I was off the tourist track) they seem to be fairly well disposed to England and the English, though rather laughing at the French." Mr. Thomson has passed all his preliminary examinations, has one or two minor successes in sports, has been appointed secretary of the University Colonial Club, and has been appointed a member of the Oxford Union Committee. He has made many good friends, and has been able to study at first hand politics, Imperial relations, and the social question. In Oxford itself, he says, there are many sides, Conservative in the University generally, Liberal in one or two colleges—particularly Balliol, where he is in residence, and a cross section of Socialists running right through. There is a strong Fabian Society in Oxford. "At Christmas," Mr. Thomson writes, "I spent two weeks in Scotland and three weeks down by Land's-End. At Easter five weeks I went to France. Two were spent in Paris, two in Brittany, and odd days in various more or less odd towns. Only a month of this long vacation has so far gone, but last year's Victorian Rhodes scholar (Apperly) and myself put in a cycling tour on the Continent. Holland we went practically right through and liked immensely. Then we followed the Rhine up from Cologne to Heidelberg, and revelled in some of the finest river and mountain scenery in the world. From Heidelberg we struck back westward to Belgium by way of Luxemburg, passing through some very provincial out-of-the-way places. All our baggage we carried with us, so we were hampered by no time-tables, and as we put up in all sorts of queer little places we had some very interesting and amusing experiences—particularly as our knowledge of German was almost on a par with our acquaintance with Chinese. So far as Holland and the Rhine are concerned, we are both resolved to repeat our experiment. Belgium is too much a rocket edition of France to be so interesting, and if one wants France one goes to it direct in Paris."

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DR. MAWSON'S EXPEDITION.

Preparing for the Voyage.

Australia Well Represented.

Dr. Douglas Mawson returned on Saturday night from a trip to the radium show he discovered in the Flinders Range, but said he could make no statement regarding the prospects of the mine, as he had to report to the directors of the company. Relative to his approaching voyage to the antarctic regions, he said he was now about to proceed to the other States with a view to obtain the outstanding amount of money required to finance the expedition. There were other preparations necessary, such as the purchase of stores, and the appointments had yet to be made for the remainder of the party. Several hundred applications had been received by the committee, which was presided over by Professor Orme Masson, of the Melbourne University, and these would be considered at a general meeting of the committee in Melbourne within the next fortnight. The applications had been roughly classified, and he did not anticipate any difficulty in making the final selections. He could not state at present who were likely to be chosen, but South Australia would have fair representation in the party. A large public meeting would be convened in Melbourne at an early date by the Lord Mayor, and the Governor-General (Lord Denham) had promised to preside. He was aware that the value of the work to be accomplished by the expedition had not yet been fully grasped by the public, and he hoped the meeting would provide an opportunity to explain away several wrong impressions regarding his intentions.

—The Dash for the Pole.—

Many people, Dr. Mawson said, were of opinion that the aeroplane, which would arrive by the R.M.S. China on September 16 in charge of Lieut. Watkins, would be used in making a final dash for the south pole. This was entirely wrong, as he had no intention of going to the pole. The object of the expedition was to open up the unknown coastline south of Australia, and obtain all scientific information that would come within the scope of its work. The whole scheme really was to pave the way for an economic future for a land which should some day become a part of the Commonwealth. The whaling and sealing industries in these southern lands had proved lucrative, and when a greater knowledge of the coastline in the antarctic was obtained those in the trade would be better able to form depots in the south, and have their headquarters in the Commonwealth. The aeroplane would be used chiefly for reconnoitering from the various bases to be established, as 100 miles could be traversed in three hours, while heavy ice crevices and floes could be negotiated, and plateaus could be searched without difficulty. The extreme radius to be worked by the aeroplane from any given base would be 100 miles, although two days' supply of petrol and two passengers could be carried on the machine he had secured. Had he intended to make a dash to the pole by aeroplane he would have acquired a dozen machines and worked over the distance with relays. The aeroplane was fitted also to a sledge, and he expected the motor would be used as much for hauling over the ice as anything else.

—Composition of the Party.—

The expedition would comprise 27 men, and 21 of the land party would be Australians. Other Australians would be included among the sailors. The only appointments made so far were five specialists, who would arrive from England, and who were:—Mr. Frank Wild, well known for his previous work in the Antarctic. He was with Scott's expedition in 1901, and was one of the four to reach furthest south with Sir Ernest Shackleton. Prior to embarking in Antarctic exploration work Mr. Wild was a petty officer in the Royal Navy. Lieut. Watkins, a well-known flying man in England, was one of the first to take up that work. He had seven years of aeroplaning at Brooklands, where he took up passengers daily. Mr. Biekerton, who would act as assistant, is an expert aeroplane mechanic, as well as a geographer, well known to the Royal Geographical Society of England. When Dr. Mawson decided to engage him he had just returned from an exploration trip to Central America. Lieut. Ninnis, an officer of the Royal Fusiliers, has also been selected. He is a young man, with great enthusiasm and promise. He has gained special distinction in field survey work. Dr. Mertz had a distinguished career at the Universities of Berne and Leipzig, and possesses expert knowledge of mountain climbing and icework. In 1908 he held the championship of Switzerland for ski jumping.

—Medical Men Wanted.—

Dr. Mawson said in polar explorations it was the custom for one member of each sledging party to be a qualified medical officer. As there were to be many sledging parties radiating out from the several winter quarters projected by the Australian expedition the medical staff should be a formidable one. Until the present time, although hundreds of applications had been made to join the expedition in various capacities, only two were from medical men. As special opportunities of studying physiological processes under extreme climatic conditions would be afforded he was surprised that more applications had not been received. Those best fitted for the requirements of an arctic camp were young graduates who had had experience in setting broken limbs and simple surgical operations. It was hoped their professional services would be required as little as possible, and it would be a great advantage if applicants had devoted themselves to biological and other special studies. Burroughs, Wellcome, & Co. had supplied a complete equipment of drugs. Their sledging cases were specially interesting, for in a package weighing only several pounds were contained all the requirements for the emergencies of a five months' journey. To the generosity of Messrs. Allan & Hanbury, who are makers of surgical instruments, the expedition was also indebted for a complete outfit, which left nothing to be desired. The surgical instruments and the tabloid drug equipment have been furnished in several complete units—one for the ship and others for each of the landing parties.