

Arrived Melbourne
June 5th 07.

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UNIVERSITY LECTURES.

The first of the series of University extension lectures, "Life in Classic Times in Ancient Rome and Greece," was given yesterday evening by Professor Darnley Naylor, M.A., of the Adelaide University, who chose for his subject "Day by Day Life in Rome 100 A.D." The lecture was delivered at the Technical College. Mr. O. von Rieben presided over a satisfactorily large attendance and introduced the lecturer.

After quoting from Dr. Johnson to the effect that few things could be taught by lectures, the Professor said if he could entertain and interest those present he would achieve his ambition. There is no doubt that he did so, and the lecture was attentively listened to throughout. The lecturer proceeded to describe life in 100 A.D. as if he were actually in Imperial Rome and visiting the house of Marcus Aurelius Martialis. The Roman system or nomenclature was touched on, also the plan of the houses. Passing through the vestibulum into the atrium, and thence to the peristylum, he found Martial wrestling with a rhyme, in a room the walls of which to a height of 6ft. were covered with pigeonholes (called nests in Rome) containing rolls of papyrus or parchment, each pigeonhole having perhaps 20 in it, looking like a paperhanger's shop-boxes, with boxes like bonnet-boxes on the floor containing more rolls. Martial's reception of him was cordial, and after some general conversation Martial explained how unknown authors got introduced, influence then, as now, having a great deal to do with it. A letter from Pliny on the subject of authors' recitals was read, and the poor encouragement such recitals gave was referred to. The poet, wishful to hear an opinion on the subject, then read a number of his epigrams to the visitor, who agreed with the opinion of a critic that Martial was the Tom Hood of Roman literature. Martial described how he had spent the earlier portion of the day—rising at 5.30, there was a snack at 6, followed by a walk to see some of his patrons; returning home, some writing was done, and at 11 he lunched; more writing ensued, followed by a siesta, and dinner at 3 p.m. Martial and his visitor spent some time in the exercising room, after which a bath costing about one-sixteenth of a penny was suggested, but on the way there an invitation was received from Pliny to have dinner with him and meet Tacitus. This enabled them to avoid bathing with "the great unwashed." The manner in which the Romans reclined while dining was described, as was also the bill of fare. The latter would scarcely be enjoyed in these days. The lecturer concluded by a eulogy of Pliny and Martial, and said the following epitaph of Eunius was more appropriate of Martial:—

Let no man grace my grave with tears,
Nor will within the tomb to pen
The soul that flies through all the years
Upon the living lips of men.

A vote of thanks was proposed by the chairman and carried by acclamation.

The following is a synopsis of tonight's lecture, "Men you Would Meet in Athens 300 B.C.":—Athenian types as described by Theophrastus (321 B.C.) in his "Character Sketches." Importance of these as illustrating the true meaning of words. Life and times of Theophrastus. His imitators and translators. His 30 sketches—"The Pawky Man," "The Flatterer," "The Garrulous Man," "The Boor," "The Agreeable Man," "The Larrikin," "The Bounder," "The Upstart," etc. Theophrastus's will.

Mr. R. D. Kleeman, recently of the Adelaide University, has been awarded the Bachelor of Arts degree for researches in physics at the Cambridge University. His success is based on sheer merit and grit, and a brilliant career is predicted for him. In 1905 Mr. Kleeman was awarded the science research scholarship granted by the Royal Commissioners of the exhibition in 1851, and he went to Cambridge early in that year to continue the studies during its tenure. He took the honours degree of B.Sc., and was associated with Professor Bragg in radium research. Mr. Kleeman contributed papers to scientific journals, and prior to his departure for England he was evening lecturer and demonstrator in physics. The exhibition scholarship has an annual value of £150, and is tenable for two years, but in exceptional circumstances the period may be extended for an additional 12 months. Mr. Kleeman entered the Adelaide University at an age above that of ordinary students, and he was induced to do so by Professor Bragg, with whom he had corresponded in connection with mathematical questions. Previously he was a mechanic at Tanunda, and he has had neither affluence nor influence to assist him in his academical course. Mr. Kleeman was invited to give a summary of his paper before the meeting of the Royal Society. Both he and Mr. Laby, of Sydney, gave papers. Sir Henry Roscoe, the eminent scientist, made it his special business to attend the meeting, and, after listening to them, expressed his gratification at the efforts of the two Australians, and remarked that students from the antipodes always did well.

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PROFESSOR JORDAN'S LECTURES.

Professor Jordan (President of Leland Stanford Junior University in California) came to Australia a few weeks ago at the invitation of the Extension Lectures Board of the University of Sydney, and has delivered a series of lectures at the university there to large and enthusiastic audiences. President Jordan has accepted an invitation from the Council of the University to lecture in Adelaide next week. On Thursday the professor's subject will be "The methods and ideals of American Universities," and on Friday he will discourse on "Japan." Speaking in Sydney at the close of one of the lectures Professor David, who recently visited California, said:—"There is no one in the United States who is more looked up to as an authority on education than Professor Jordan, and all I have heard of Professor Jordan in America was in his praise."

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The University of Adelaide has taken advantage of the visit to Australia of Professor Jordan, president of the Leland Stanford Junior University in California, to secure from him two lectures, one on "The methods and ideals of American universities," and the other on "Japan." Professor Jordan is one of the greatest authorities on education in the United States of America, and there is little doubt that the Elder Hall will be filled on Thursday evening when President Jordan will give his first lecture. Tickets may be obtained at the University or Wigg's.

A WHITE JAPAN.

In the course of his remarks on "Japan" at the university on Wednesday (says The Sydney Morning Herald), Professor Starr Jordan astonished his hearers by announcing that, if there was to be a cleavage between the white and the coloured races, the Japanese must be classed as white. At the present time one portion of Japan was inhabited by a race that was pure white. These, the aboriginal inhabitants of Japan, who were despised by the Japanese, were undoubtedly of Caucasian origin. Among the Japanese generally there had certainly been an admixture of Chinese and Malay blood; but, in the upper classes, it was slight, and they were of a much lighter colour than the coolies. During his lecture Professor Jordan went to some pains to defend the Japanese from the charges commonly levelled against them, asserting that they were no more immoral or overbearing than other races, while what appeared to be commercial dishonesty to Western eyes was really an inability to realize that the European would be so discourteous as to demand the completion of a contract which had not proved so profitable as the Japanese party to it had expected. The audience was very cordial to Professor Jordan personally, but apparently it had made up its mind on the subject of Japan, for the lecturer's praises were coldly received, while his advice to Australia to preserve peace by preparing for war was loudly applauded.

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ARE EXAMINATIONS NECESSARY?

The statement made by Professor Jordan, who has been delivering a series of lectures in Sydney, that too much importance is attached to examinations, has revived in Sydney and Melbourne educational circles the controversy on cramming for examinations. The distinguished visitor from California also said that the examination system was a "fetishism, from which arises all the evils of cramming, and the outcome of which was the university degree, based on intensity of memory, and not on breadth of view or efficiency in action." Teachers in Sydney and Melbourne generally defend the examination system as being the only practicable test of fitness in a student.