

Register 15th Ap. 07

EXTENSION LECTURES AT COUNTRY CENTRES.

The University of Adelaide has formulated a scheme for the delivery of courses of extension lectures by its professors in country centres during the vacation, and a schedule of lectures and dates within which they may be arranged has been printed, and is available on application at the University. The system of extension lectures has worked successfully in Adelaide for about four years, and it is believed that in the rural centres it will be warmly welcomed by many who have not been able to avail themselves of the facilities previously provided. The proposal will combine the energies of three important agencies—the University, the Education Department, and the institutes; and the professors of the University have willingly consented to give up their short vacation for the purpose of supplying the country districts with the lectures they have so frequently asked for. Mount Gambier has already invited Prof. Henderson to give a course of lectures, and probably Narracoorte, Millicent, and Bordertown, which are in the same extension lecture group (No. 4) will join in the invitation. The other groups are as follow:—Group 1, Port Pirie, Jamestown, Petersburg, and Broken Hill; Group 2, Moonta, Clare, and Laura; Balaklava, though not a centre, may be included; Group 3, Gawler, Burra, and Kapunda; Riverton and Angaston may be included. The following schedule of courses has been submitted for selection from:—Between May 27 and June 8, "The Great Composers Handel, Mozart, and Schumann," Prof. Ennis; "The Underlying Principles of Modern Legislation," Prof. Jethro Brown; "Day by Day Life in Rome," "Athenians You Would Meet in B.C. 300," and "Theatre-going at Athens 2,500 Years Ago," Prof. Naylor. Between August 19 and August 30—The above courses by Profs. Brown and Naylor, and the following by Prof. Henderson—"Leaders of the Puritan Age—Wentworth, Cromwell, and Milton," "Poets of the Nineteenth Century—Wordsworth, Tennyson, and Browning," "Leaders of the Middle Ages—Richard I., Francis of Assisi, Louis IX." and "Hamlet and the Shakspearean Drama." The metropolitan extension course this year will include the series by Profs. Brown and Naylor, Prof. Henderson's three lectures on "Hamlet," and a course by Prof. Rennie on "Low Temperatures," in which the phenomena of liquid air will be dealt with. Prof. Henderson recommends students in the Shakspearean course to read carefully, beforehand, "Hamlet," edited by E. K. Chambers (Warwick Shakspeare, 1/6).

THE UNIVERSITY AND THE COUNTRY.

"If ever there were a people and an age that needed the higher education," said Mr. Augustine Birrell in one of his orations, "we are that people, and we live in that age." His purview was Imperial; but, applied to Australia only, the sentence might have even stronger force. An old country with fairly established conditions—secure in the sense of greatness and power acquired by small continual accretions during centuries of progress, with a dense population and an enormous reserve of clever heads to do its thinking, and brawny arms to perfect its upbuilding—has an incalculable advantage when compared with a newly settled territory. With a mere handful of people on the fringe of its spacious continent, and a history of little more than a single century, Australia had in its earlier years a special need of muscle to break down the forests, to push out tracks through long stretches of unknown country, and to subdue its vast areas to the plough. The land wrested from its native waste mainly by brawn

requires, however, the assistance of brain for its proper development; and to the latter, as to the former, training and special endowment are essential in order to secure a proper grasp of the necessities of local conditions and circumstances.

Even in the pioneer days of the State it was considered important that the primer should follow the plough, and every farmer's child be given at least the rudiments of education. With the growing development of the country's resources there has been witnessed an increasing appreciation of the value of learning, and modern methods of primary instruction are being supplemented by an advanced system of technical training which has, on the whole, been very successful so far as it has gone. It is satisfactory to reflect that in the spread of education the Adelaide University, the highest teaching institution in the State, has worked hand in hand with the Education Department and the Public Library Board through the various country institutes, and has sought to extend its influence and enlist the sympathies of the rural communities in the cause of such training as shall in its outcome demonstrate the infinite benefit of the union of mental power with physical force. In the lower realm of field work the farmer has been compelled to admit the value of the laboratory in providing him with superphosphate, for instance. In the higher mental domain he is beginning to realize the benefit which accrues from such courses of study as the University seeks to make available by means of its Extension Lectures, which lead thought into new avenues, and point the lessons of history and experience where old paths have to be followed.

The University deserves to be congratulated upon its decision to crown the success of its Extension Lectures in the metropolis (where in some of the series last year the audiences numbered as many as 1,000) by an endeavour to supply the wants of country towns in this respect. The scheme proposed includes the grouping of neighbouring centres under local committees, and the delivery of courses of vacation lectures according to the selection made by the districts concerned. The proposal has the enthusiastic support of the Director of Education, and among their many advantages is the fact that the lectures will be of great utility to school teachers who cannot attend the University; and if the addresses were given in the institute halls of country towns they would not only help to invest those places with a more varied interest and usefulness than they now possess, but might even prove a means of financial benefit to the institute subscribers. They would also tend to give solidarity to intellectual and artistic effort, bring the University work into closer touch with the masses, and unite in more intimate relationship all who are interested in the education and the uplifting of the community. The schedule submitted includes courses on "The Great Musical Composers," by Prof. Ennis; "The Underlying Principles of Modern Legislation," by Prof. Jethro Brown;

"Life in Classic Times in Rome and Greece," by Prof. Naylor; and "Leaders of the Puritan Age," "Poets of the Nineteenth Century," "Leaders of the Middle Ages," and "Hamlet and the Shakspearean Drama," by Prof. Henderson, whose series has already been bespoken by Mount Gambier, and who has lectured with such appreciation on kindred subjects in Western Australia that he has been invited to do so again this year. The lectures to be given in Adelaide this winter are the courses of Professors Brown and Naylor indicated above, that on "Hamlet" by Prof. Henderson, and one on "Low Atmospheres" by Prof. Rennie. Prospectuses of the scheme of country lectures are being widely distributed; and the ability and popularity of the lecturers, and the transparent merits of the project, should lead to the immediate appointment of zealous committees determined by all legitimate means to secure the success of the interesting enterprise.

South-Eastern Star.
April 9-07

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE. MOUNT GAMBIER CENTRE. EXTENSION LECTURES ARRANGED FOR.

A well attended meeting of those interested in the scheme of supplying courses of extension lectures at local centres, and for the better working of the Mount Gambier local centre of the Adelaide University was held in the institute on Saturday evening last. Present—Mr. A. Loutit (voted to the chair in the unavoidable absence of the chairman, Mr. F. H. Daniel), Mrs. P. C. Kook, Messrs. C. L. Spehr (hon. secretary), F. Cleave, John Watson, J. Grove, F. Davison, A. E. Wilson, H. T. Ward, J. J. Lawrie, J. Livingston, M. H. R., F. H. Rischbieth, and J. M. Carozzi. Apologies were made for the absence of the Revs. R. A. Caldwell, A. G. King, Very Rev. Dean Ryan, and Mrs. Holtje. The meeting was convened by Mr. C. R. Hodges (registrar of the University), who was present.

The chairman said there had been a local centre here for some time, and it had been doing good work in examinations, but of late the interest had waned somewhat, and an effort was to be made to enlist the sympathies of a number of the leading residents of the town, so that the centre could be put on a better footing. Then there was the matter of extension lectures which had become very popular and were most instructive. As they would see by the circular, the attendance of one or other of the professors could be secured during the vacation.

At the invitation of the chairman, Mr. Hodge then gave a brief address, dealing with the responsibility of all University local centres which, he pointed out, represented the University in that town, and when examinations were being held, members were expected to follow the directions strictly, in order that no hitch might occur. Referring them to the scheme for the extension lectures, he said that for some years past repeated applications had been made to the University by country centres and institutes for courses of extension lectures, but it had only been possible to comply with a very few of the requests. An effort was now being made to supply, as far as practicable, the wants of country towns, and for that purpose permanent University centres had been arranged in groups, and a list of available courses of lectures, with the dates upon which they may be given, had been prepared. The terms at which courses of lectures could be

benefaction in comm...
ties in ~~the~~ countries, notably
Canada. He spoke of the magnificent
generosity of wealthy Canadians like
Lord Strathcona, Lord Mountste-
phen, Magill, Redpath, and Mac-
donald—a generosity prompted by
the enthusiasm of patriotism. We have
greater resources than Canada, but the
translation of potentiality into actuality
demands, as a necessary preliminary,
that we should make the best of our-
selves by every means in our power.
Hence the all-importance of educa-
tion—of the best education. Love
of country can find no worthier ex-
pression than in an endeavour to lessen
ignorance and to widen knowledge.
Trite though the saying be, knowledge
is power—power for good, power to win
toward the noblest ideals of beauty, no
less than power to direct that enthu-
siasm for truth which is the soul of
progress. The possession of wealth
implies a duty to the community which
has rendered its acquisition possible,
a duty which cannot be absent from
the mind of him who has a developed
“social conscience.” The duty of our
wealthy citizens should also be their
worthy ambition. How can a man
~~Better keep his memory~~ green than by
joining the illustrious number of those
whose efforts in the cause of learning
will make their names live while yet
man shall strive—
“To follow knowledge, like a sinking star,
Beyond the utmost bound of human
thought,”
—and that is an eternal quest.
A university education is not bought
by students' fees—it is not the privilege
and monopoly of the rich; indeed, the
state pays more than half the expenses
of the University of Melbourne. The
expenditure in 1905 was about £37,000,
of which £21,000 was met by Government
grant. In the very nature of the case
a university cannot be made to pay
from a financial point of view. Receipts
from students' fees never can and never
should meet the expenditure. Efficiency
demands a highly-trained staff, with
adequate teaching facilities, in suitable
buildings furnished with modern equip-
ment. The necessary means can be
provided only by a substantial and
generous endowment which will make
the University independent of casual
conditions, and enable it to maintain
that constant and progressive develop-
ment which constitutes its very life. For
such assistance we naturally turn in
the first instance to the state, as repre-
senting the community in matters of
public import. The present Government
has to a considerable extent redeemed
our reputation in this respect, though
this assistance will not yet bear com-
parison with the educational grants
made by such countries as Germany and
the United States. But when the state
has done the most that can be expected

ROWDY STUDENTS.

SATURDAY'S DISTURBANCE.

The committees of the University Union and the Medical Students' and Engineering Students' Societies held special meetings yesterday morning for the purpose of considering the behaviour of a section of the students at the Commencement proceedings in the Town-hall on Saturday afternoon.

They carried resolutions condemning the action of certain ringleaders on that occasion, who, unfortunately, obtained a small following from amongst the undergraduates.

As a further expression of their thorough disgust and sorrow at what had taken place, each committeeman sent, through Professor Spencer, an apology to Sir John Madden at the Law Courts. Subsequently, a special meeting of delegates was held, and it was decided to personally offer to Sir John Madden humble apologies for the insulting proceedings of Saturday, at the same time stating that the whole affair came about unexpectedly, and regretting that more stringent measures were not taken to check the trouble. As a matter of fact, it is explained, the students' committee went into the noisy quarter on Saturday, but the annoying interjections were proceeding apace, and the committee had no influence in silencing them.

The committee further decided to ask Sir John Madden if he would honour the students by being present at the Town-hall on Friday evening next, at a reception to be accorded him by the past and present members of the University. Sir John replied during the day as follows:—

"I personally did not, nor do I now, misunderstand at all the goodwill and courtesy of the students towards myself personally, or as Chancellor, but none the less, I am greatly gratified at their spontaneous and general and gracious assurance that the interruptions of Saturday were unpremeditated and of impulse by a few of them. I am gratified, not on my personal account, but because the general poor opinion of us all to which the public might be led, is likely to be much mitigated by the students' generous and becoming view of what unfortunately happened."

Sir John went on to say that he would be pleased to meet University men at the Wilson-hall on Friday afternoon next, at half-past 4, or, after April 21, anywhere they decided upon, and that he would like to speak upon the topics which he had prepared for Saturday last more fully. The frank and generous response of their Chancellor pleased the members of the committee, who anticipate confidently that it will be read with honest pleasure by the students generally. Members of the special committee are requested to meet this morning at 10 o'clock at the Biology School to make arrangements for the reception of Sir John Madden, and for the admission of others interested.

Still further action was considered by the members of the separate committees. They resolved to ask the societies to bring the ringleaders in Saturday's disorder before the committees to be dealt with. Failing satisfaction being obtained in this way, they threaten expulsion from the societies.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ARGUS.

Sir,—In this morning's issue of "The Argus," we notice a letter signed by "Student," in reference to Saturday's gathering in the Town-hall, which throws much discredit on the University students as a whole. No one deplures the silly and ill-timed interruptions heard from a very small section at the rear of the hall more than we. Like the poor, unfortunately, these are always with us. We ask, after all, if "Student" would be satisfied if we followed the manners of Oxford undergrads., who, at a recent meeting, in addition to howling down Mr. Keir Hardie, made the air noxious with malodorous gases.

We, as students of the Melbourne University, deeply respect and venerate our esteemed chancellor, Sir John Madden, and trust to his generosity to overlook any misdemeanour on the part of a negligible percentage of undergrads.—Yours, &c.,

UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT
COMMITTEE.

University, April 8.

Melbourne "Cerques"
8th April, 1907.

UNIVERSITY COMMENCE-
MENT.

CHANCELLOR AND STUDENTS.

A SPEECH UNDER DIFFICULTIES.

The annual commencement ceremony of the Melbourne University was held in the Town-hall on Saturday afternoon, when the building was filled in every part. Amongst those present was ~~the~~ a small group following from amongst the undergraduate class. As a further expression of their thorough