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ROME AND ART.

INTERESTING ADDRESS BY THE GOVERNOR.

Presiding at a lecture by Dr. Ashby (Director of the British School at Rome) on Wednesday evening, his Excellency the Governor (Sir Henry Galway) said, finding himself within the walls of the Adelaide University, he took that opportunity to congratulate the authorities and members of that important and distinguished institution, first, on the quick return to health of their Chancellor; and, second, on the well-earned honor recently conferred by his Majesty the King on the Vice-Chancellor. He hoped both those distinguished public servants would be spared for many years to continue to adorn with dignity and usefulness their respective offices. He had much pleasure in introducing Dr. Thomas Ashby, the Director of the British School in Rome. He was hopeful that the outcome of that evening's meeting would be that Australian students would compete for the scholarships offered by the school, and that the successful competitors would not only reap the advantage offered to them by the school, but also take their fill of the wonderful and beautiful city of Rome. Wandering through the ruins of ancient Rome they came to the Temple of Peace and War, and he could think of no more appropriate ground on which to meet in spirit that night. In the midst of war they would pause to consider what was eminently the work of peace. The Romans were not only great in their Imperial deeds. No people had left a more glorious and eloquent record of their history in word and in stone. (Applause.) Their conquering legions passed over the face of Europe and left behind them the camp prototype of the walled mediæval city along whose roads generations of soldiers had marched and merchants had carried their goods. They had left, from the Adriatic to the North Sea, and in Great Britain, the foundations of law and order and the seed of higher civilisation. In course of time the stream ceased to flow outwards, and on the contrary invaders poured into Italy through that tempting gateway—the fertile valley of the Po. The middle ages were a period of constant battling against the foe from without and a constant warfare between rival cities. And yet art flourished and put forth manifold blossoms, whilst artists and thinkers were building and beautifying the temple of fame. Florence could think with pride of Michael Angelo defending her walls against Pisa! Centuries passed, and Italy was more and more hard pressed, so much so that the poet sang—

Oh! Italy, to whom the fates did give
That crown of beauty, burden of thy brow,
Would that the gods who wish that thou should'st live,
Grant thee less beauty, or more strength allow.

Finally the hour came. Modern Italy, rejuvenated, had turned a new page, and had written "unity" upon it. Another peaceful mission was taking place. Gifted sons of various nationalities were sent to Italy, and sat in the great school of history, recorded its monuments, the transcripts, and the treasures of Rome, the very name of which was an inspiration. (Applause).

BRITISH SCHOOL AT ROME.

LECTURE BY DR. ASHBY.

On Wednesday evening Dr. Thomas Ashby, F.S.A., director of the British School at Rome, lectured to a large audience at the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Adelaide University, on "The British School at Rome and the relation of the school to arts and letters." His Excellency the Governor (Sir Henry Galway) presided, and in introducing the lecturer referred to the history and art treasures of the eternal city.

Dr. Ashby, who was given a splendid reception, mentioned that the school offered scholarships in architecture, sculpture, and decorative painting of the annual value of £200 each. They were open to British subjects of both sexes under 30 years of age. He explained the aims of the school, and referred to the vast output of work which was awaiting students of all kinds in Rome. The British school was the last in the field, but it was doing much valuable work, and they hoped to induce some Australians to go to Rome, where there was an unending field of interest. The school was founded in 1901, and from the first architectural students had found their way to it. At that time it was a small institution, but early in 1911 a new movement began, and fine arts were included with the object of affording facilities to British students similar to those which were already enjoyed by students of the American and other schools. Architecture, descriptive painting, and sculpture were encouraged. Dr. Ashby explained the method of awarding scholarships, and urged Australian students to avail themselves of the advantage of competing for these. The first stage of the competitions could be conducted at home, but for the final competition it was necessary to go to Europe. To reach this stage was regarded as an honor, and a student who was qualified for this had progressed far enough to make at least one year's residence in Europe, where the best examples of art were to be found, highly desirable. He suggested that local scholarships might with advantage be founded. One such scholarship already existed in South Africa, and the student holding it had done valuable work in attempting to solve some of the problems associated with one of the important ruins in Rome. There was a great intellectual value attached to working along with others in a great centre of art and architecture like Rome. Even apart from the facilities the school had to offer, the work conducted privately in association with others of kindred tastes and aspirations could not fail to be profitable.

The lecturer then showed a number of lantern views dealing with historic building of architectural value, and outlined some of the work which had been done by students in investigating ruins and searching for the key to the original design and the meaning of the ornamentations.

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ECONOMIC HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURE.

At the Adelaide University on Friday afternoon, Acting Professor Portus delivered the second of his lectures on the "Economic history of England." He dealt with the manorial system of medieval England, and in some measure contrasted it with the economic conditions of to-day. The rise of the manorial system, wherein the lord of the land was paramount, was due to political and economic forces working together. The lecturer depicted a manor of the thirteenth century. It was in many respects similar to the estate of a modern English squire, but there were considerable differences. To-day the squire leased his lands, or where he worked them himself, he paid wages to his employes. In the thirteenth century the lord allowed his men to hold strips of land, and in return they worked his land as well as their own. Now wages and rent were determined by the law of supply and demand. In medieval England they were fixed by the custom of the manor, which, in fact, ruled everything. If a man wanted land the squire exacted from him just what the custom demanded. The theory of landholding had entirely changed. It was no longer feudal. There were also extremely marked changes in the economic working of farms. By means of diagrams the Professor explained the changes. Now there were detached farms each worked separately by different farmers. Then there were open fields, inside of which different farmers owned scattered strips of land. The modern agricultural labourer working for wages was practically absent from the medieval scheme. Nor was there any idea of rent in the modern sense. There was little pasture farming, and what pasture lands there were, were worked on what was almost a communal basis. The land cultivators had few horses or cattle, or sheep. They went in for swine. The aims of those who lived on the soil was almost purely agricultural. The economic conditions of those days were also reflected to the social scale. There was the lord of the manor, and below him were freemen, unfreemen, and serfs. The freemen (or socmen, as they were termed) were tenants, who could leave their holdings if they chose, and in them was the very first glimpse of the rise of farming system of modern days. The socmen paid their taxes direct to the King, and gradually, as the use of money succeeded barter they began to pay their lord in money also, instead of compensating him with personal services. The unfreemen could not leave the manor, and their lord paid their taxes. "Unfree" sounded a dreadful word to-day, but it could not have been so bad in the medieval times. Although such a man was tied to his own particular spot of soil, the question had to be asked—did he desire to leave it? There was very little to tempt him from the land. Even if he could have left it where was he to go? There was little town life. As for the serfs, there were not many of them, and the lords found that their labour was not remunerative. The serfs were mostly employed as shepherds and swineherds, and in suchlike directions. They did not receive pay. They may have become serfs (or slaves) through some ill act of their own, or their forebears may have been conquered people, and the condition of slavery had passed down from father to son. Gradually the lords found that it paid them best to let the serfs have land and work it for themselves. Dealing with life on the manor, the lecturer said there was an absence of competition which tended towards stagnation. Custom ruled everything, and clogged individuality and retarded progress. People lived in villages which were entirely self-contained. They lived for themselves alone, and paid no heed to the outside world. Each was independent, with its own little sphere of industry. Each was also isolated. Means of communication were bad, and as the people had no inducements to travel, as custom prevented such a step, they lived and died in the same village, just as their parents before them had done. Labour then was immobile. Where it was there it stayed. It did not, like labour of modern times, flow to where it was most in demand. The evolution of the manorial system had resulted from the pressure of complex forces spread over a very long time, and it would be interesting to study how it altered. The growth of towns had their influence upon it, and in his next lecture he would deal with that phase of the subject.

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A WHITE WORLD

WITH MAWSON IN THE SOUTH

A THRILLING LECTURE.

With the aid of simple narrative and wonderful pictures Sir Douglas Mawson last evening brought the Antarctic to Adelaide. It is a far cry to ice-bound Adelie Land, but with such compelling interest were the multifarious incidents in the life of Sir Douglas and his intrepid band of explorers invested that in mind the great audience in the Town Hall spanned the leagues of ocean and roamed with the lecturer on "opal-tinted icefields," and watched at play the seals and penguins—the only fauna of the vast region. Even if Sir Douglas is not entirely at home on the platform, he is quite capable in his quiet, direct manner of holding an audience enthralled what time he tells of the wealth of scientific knowledge gained by his expedition, and the hairbreadth escapes from death that he and his comrades experienced. Last night he was in turn educational, humorous, and dramatic as he touched on each phase of his sojourn in the south, and at no time was he followed more closely than when he told of those fatalities which robbed him of his two brave companions, Ninnis and Mertz, and his subsequent wanderings alone in a wilderness of ice and snow. The lecture will be repeated this evening, and those who have not yet heard Sir Douglas' story should make it their business to do so.