

TO CENTRAL AUSTRALIA.

Three Parties Departed.

Trips through the centre of Australia, once attempted only by more or less daring tourists, and accompanied by great hardships, are now becoming popular winter excursions. The old days of danger of death from thirst are past. So also are those when all impedimenta had to be packed on horses, with the natural result that progress was slow.

Newadays comfortable railway carriages convey parties as far north as Oodnadatta, and thence motor cars do the remainder of the journey faster, and with much less discomfort than was ever possible with the horse.

On Thursday morning three parties left the Adelaide Railway Station by special train to make the trip to Central Australia. From a public point of view, the most important was that composed of Viljalundur Stefansson, the noted arctic explorer, and the South Australian Government Geologist (Mr. L. Keith Ward). They will be absent for three weeks. The trip is being made at the invitation of the Federal Government, and will penetrate as far as Alice Springs. That place will be the centre from which the party's trips of exploration will radiate. No fixed itinerary has been made, it being intended to investigate whatever attracts interest. This will be more particularly into the latent mineral resources of the area.

On the same train was the Countess of Stradbroke's party. They were beginning an overland trip to Darwin. Accompanying the Countess of Stradbroke are Dr. Herbert Basedow, Mr. Neville Fraser, Capt. Burcham (A.D.C.), and Capt. Keppel Palmer (private secretary). The Earl of Stradbroke (Governor of Victoria) will join the party as soon as he is able to leave Melbourne, where he is at present being detained by the political situation there. The excursionists will be absent for about six weeks. From Darwin they will return through Camooweal, Innamincka, Cloncurry, Broken Hill, and Mildura, to Melbourne. The Countess is not afraid of camping out, as is the intention of the party. Among the baggage is a tent and a fur sleeping bag, which she thinks will be ample for her comfort. She is no stranger to long camping trips, having travelled extensively in Africa and Canada.

The third party which left yesterday was composed of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Dutta and Professor and Mrs. T. G. B. Osborn. They will accompany the viceregal party.

MUSIC IN SYDNEY

While in Sydney Dr. Davies met all the leaders of music of that State at a luncheon given in his honor. He gave an address on the dignity of music.

Referring to the reported remarks of Mr. Arundel Orchard on the subject of jazz music, Dr. Davies said that he had not heard any such crude statement as that attributed to Mr. Orchard, nor any reference to "boiling oil." What he did say with perfect dignity and all justification was that people who defaced musical masterpieces by jazzing them were no better than those who might go into an art gallery and slash a beautiful picture.

While in Sydney he was present at a performance of "Rigoletto," by the Melba Opera Company. It was as near perfection as one could imagine. In his judgment Toti dal Monte was all that Melba had proclaimed, and Grandforte, in the part of the jester, was magnificent. The chorus and the band under Paolantonio were worthy of the finest opera traditions. His regret was that Adelaide might not have an opportunity of hearing so royal a production.

BROADCASTING

"Farmer's," said Dr. Davies, "is the chief centre for listening-in, and there I had the pleasure of listening to a Mozart quartet being played at the Sydney Conservatorium. It came through perfectly."

"Mr. Orchard told me that a week previously he had had a most touching letter from a woodcutter, hundreds of miles away from Sydney, in the far north-west of the State. A commercial traveller who had become "bushed" had been befriended by the woodcutter and his mate, and having a portable receiving set with him, had beguiled the time by setting it up and allowing his hosts to listen to a Beethoven symphony played at the Conservatorium. The letter thanked Mr. Orchard for the rare privilege in his isolated life."

Dr. Davies expressed the opinion that there was a bright future for broadcasting in the cause of education.

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PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD.

A meeting of the board of the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery of South Australia was held on July 18. Present:—The Vice-President (Mr. L. H. Sholl), Professors F. Wood Jones and Coleman Phillipson, Dr. R. S. Rogers, and Messrs. E. Davies, H. D. Gell, W. H. Langham, H. P. Moore, C. M. Reid, B. S. Roach, and S. Talbot Smith, and Mrs. J. F. Young.

The fine arts committee reported that it had received an offer from Mr. W. R. Town, of Shotley Bridge, Durham, of a specimen of Miss Mary Linton's needlework. It had been decided to make further enquiries about the work. A request had been received from the Royal Colonial Institute (S.A. Branch) that it should be permitted to hold a reception in the Art Gallery on an evening in August. It had been decided that the lecture subcommittee should confer with representatives of the Royal Colonial Institute and report to a special meeting of the committee. It was recommended that the next musical evening in the Art Gallery should be held on August 14.—The museum committee reported that it had considered the question of fire protection, and had decided to recommend that a report should be obtained from the fire brigade as to the requisite chemical fire extinguishers for the protection of the Museum, and regarding the safety of the spirit storeroom. The Chairman's action in having authorized the loan to the National Museum, Melbourne, of termites, had been approved. Reports from the museum director stated that the museum library has been checked and found correct, and that the fitting of the ethnological boxes had been completed, and that the transference of specimens from General Court was in hand. The purchase of two collections of New Guinea butterflies had been approved.

The library and archives committee notified that it had postponed consideration of the architect's report regarding the amended special conditions to govern the use of Government House despatches in the archives. It had been decided to recommend that a deputation should be arranged to wait on the Minister of Education to ask for an extra grant. The architect had reported on the scope of the collection of portraits of eminent South Australians.

The subcommittee of the library and archives committee intimated that it had made various inspections of the department. It was recommended that the Adelaide Camera Club should be permitted to erect a fireproof (darkroom) in the western basement room, and to use it during the pleasure of the board, all expenses, including cost of erecting, to be paid by the club.

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The committee of Artists' Week has issued invitations to a concert arranged by Professor Harold Davies, Mus. Doc., in the Elder Hall on Thursday, July 31.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

The monthly meeting of the Royal Society was held on Thursday evening, when the president (Dr. R. H. Pulteney) was in the chair. Four new fellows were elected:—Messrs. C. A. S. Hawker, C. Pearce, A. J. Morrison, and Miss M. Roeper. Papers were read as follows:—"External Characters of Pouch Embryos of Marsupials, No. 2—Phascocolumys tasmaniensis," by Professor F. Wood Jones, and "Some New Records of Fungi for South Australia, Part III," by Mr. Geoffrey Samuel. Exhibits were made by the following:—Dr. T. D. Campbell showed a series of marked stones from Normanville. Previously scratched stones had been found there, and thought by some to be marked by aborigines. The series exhibited showed markings which the exhibitor did not think were due to native work, but probably due to a ploughshare or harrow, the site of the finds being previously a cultivated field. There was also the possibility of some of the markings being due to glacial action as moraine material was present about 150 yards distant. A number of pieces of slate were also shown, these being obtained from a native camp site at Normanville. As these objects had chipped edges they were probably related to the incised objects which had been exhibited at a previous meeting, and described as a new type. Dr. R. H. Pulteney exhibited two stonem from Normanville and one hand axe and three choppers from Tasmania. Dr. A. M. Morgan showed a stone object of slate from Normanville, and a stone axe and rough chopper from near Robe. Mr. Edgar R. Waite on behalf of the Museum, exhibited a series of Australian river tortoises and drew attention to certain peculiarities in their structure; conditions found only in another genus from South America. Attention was also directed to the fact that although the plates of the "tortoise shell" overlying the bony structures were very thin, the impress of their edges in the bone was so deep that their contours could be readily seen; the thinness of the plates, on the other hand, permitted the underlying bony sutures to be easily traced in dried specimens having the epidermis in position. Professor Howchin exhibited the internal cast of a large fossil gastropod shell, probably pleurotomaria, showing that during the life of the mollusc the shell had been riddled by the small boring sponge, Cliona, which was easily recognized from its pin-shaped spicules. On the death of the shellfish not only was the internal cavity of the shell filled with sediment, but also the tunnels and cavities made in the shell itself by the boring sponge were filled with sediment. On the elevation of the sea bed to dry land the shell was removed by solution, leaving a solid cast of the cavities made by the sponge. How a minute and soft sponge could bore into a hard shell was somewhat of a mystery, but it was supposed to do this by its very minute siliceous spicules. The specimen was obtained from the older marine Tertiary of South Australia, but shells similarly bored were known to occur as far back as the Silurian. Professor Howchin also exhibited what were equivalent to money tokens as used in the island of New Guinea. Low values were represented in small perforated circular discs, made from shells. A string of 28 of these discs, according to the Rev. R. Andrew, of Misima, to whom he was indebted for their possession, represent a value of about 7/6 in English money. The highly finished and polished stone implements in circulation in these islands were never used as tools, but had a monetary value for exchange according to size and finish. The one exhibited, Mr. Andrew estimated to have a value equal to 30/- for trading purposes. When a native took a contract from another, as making a canoe, as the work proceeded he was paid with one or more batches of a certain recognised value. That was an interesting example of primitive forms of exchange. It was not barter, which was an exchange of commodities, but a conventional system of exchange based on the equivalent of work represented in the objects used for payment. Tools in practical use were of a much rougher type.

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OFF THE BEATEN TRACK.

Dr. A. A. Lendon's Travels.

Interesting Impressions Abroad.

Among the passengers by the Ulysses which arrived at the Outer Harbour from Liverpool on Wednesday, was Dr. A. A. Lendon, one of Adelaide's best-known and most popular medical men. Dr. Lendon, who looks the picture of health left Australia about eight and a half months ago on a holiday trip, and judging by a brief chat which a representative of The Register had with him on Thursday, he had a most enjoyable trip, putting in most of his time in places well off the beaten track. Dr. Lendon reached London in December, striking the Empire's capital in real English winter weather, when every one any everything appeared cold, wet, and miserable. He was not long in deciding that under such conditions London was not the place in which to spend a holiday, and two days afterwards he was en route for the West Indies, where the winter climate is delightful. He was charmed with the trip, nearly every place he visited recalling some famous story of the Spanish Main, of pirates and buccaners, and sailormen

whose deeds had added to the glory of the British navy, and he made copious notes, mental and otherwise, of daily happenings with which, before long, he may interest his many friends. When he got back to London, having spent two months in the West Indies, he found the weather worse than ever, so he promptly started for the French and Italian Riviera. There the weather was perfect, the mimosa—which Australians call wattle—being in bloom, and the old-time villages, lovely gardens, and glorious views, made life a perpetual delight. Dr. Lendon selected Monaco for his headquarters, and being anxious to see something of the Mediterranean, arranged for three cruises to the most famous spots along its coasts.

Mediterranean Cruises.

The cruises were made in the Meteor—a fine, roomy steamer which formerly belonged to the Germans, and was subsequently captured by the British. The first trip was made along the African coast, Tunis, Algiers, and other places of interest being included in the itinerary. Dr. Lendon found that France was administering Tunisia better than Algeria, but both countries showed evidence of great activity, and trade appeared to be very brisk. The second cruise embraced places at the eastern end of the Mediterranean, which were additionally interesting from the fact that they had figured prominently in the recent world's war. Visits were paid to Crete, Smyrna, Gallipoli, Constantinople, Athens, Corfu, Sicily, and Malta. Although some of these places were stated to be in a condition of great unrest, Dr. Lendon, whose stay was necessarily brief, saw no evidence of it, and the historic interest attaching to the various places mentioned made the sojourn in them additionally attractive. The third, and final, cruise was made around the coasts of Spain and Portugal, and such famous places as Granada, Seville, Lisbon, and Oporto, were called at. During his sojourn in London, which was a brief one, Dr. Lendon visited Wembley, and was much impressed with the Australian court. Regarding the Empire Exhibition itself, he said "it was too wonderful for words." The Australian building was a magnificent one, and was a splendid advertisement for the Commonwealth. A peculiar incident occurred when Dr. Lendon visited the exhibition. He noticed the Commonwealth flag flying at half-mast above the Australian Court, and imagining that "some distinguished Australian had gone west," he at once made enquiries in regard to the matter. No one appeared to know for whom the flag was flying, and it was promptly hauled to the top of the pole. While Dr. Lendon was in London the charges made by the Rev. H. R. Cavalier against the "Barwell Boys" scheme were published in the English newspapers. The Agent-General's office was greatly perturbed by them, and they caused considerable comment. "Although Mr. Cavalier had now retracted those statements," concluded Dr. Lendon, "I am afraid his retractions will never mitigate the damage wrought."

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Rev. A. H. Bell, B.A., B.D.

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AUSTRALIAN MUSIC

Examination System

DR. DAVIES IN SYDNEY

(By "Nuance.")

Dr. E. Harold Davies has just returned from a visit to Brisbane in the interests of Australian examinations in music. Asked for information of the result of his mission, he said that among many points which were fully discussed at largely attended meetings was the question of modern methods of musical education, particularly those relating to the development of musical perception. This would aim at quick and accurate seeing, foster memory, and stimulate mental hearing.

It is hoped that shortly the board will introduce a system of examinations for testing musical appreciation. Such a step would place Australia in the forefront of the new educational movement, and in itself should amply convince music teachers that Australian Universities are fully alive to the most modern trend.

The work of this board is not tentative or experimental, but is a firmly established project for the direction of musical education, as well as for the conduct of examinations in music throughout the Commonwealth by the Universities of Australia, and in the interests of Australian students in music. The standard is just as high as that of overseas Universities, and just as authoritative, a fact of which we are justly proud.

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