

UNIVERSITY CLUB.

SUCCESSFUL INAUGURAL SOCIAL.

A representative gathering of Adelaide professional men was present at the rooms of the newly-formed University Club, sixth floor, Liberal Club Buildings, North terrace, on Friday evening of the occasion of the inaugural smoke social of that organization.

The President (Professor T. Brailsford Robertson) welcomed the members, and in a short address, explained the rules governing membership. He said that the committee of the club was naturally desirous of extending its facilities, but that, of course, would depend on membership and finance. From next Monday the club would be open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily.

An enjoyable evening was spent at the inaugural social. The artists who added to the pleasure were Messrs. George Pearce (piano solos and accompaniments), Olive Carey (art and folk songs), Charles Schilsky (violin solos), and R. F. Newman (elocution).

Membership and Club Facilities.

The membership of the club is now 170. The organization was formed on December 11, 1923, and exists for the purpose of maintaining friendship between former and present students and tutors of the Adelaide University. Prior to the completion of the Liberal Club, meetings were held in the Queen's Hall, Grenfell street, Adelaide. The officers of the club are:—

President (Professor T. Brailsford Robertson); Vice-President, Professor A. T. Strang; Committee, Mr. C. A. Edmunds, Dr. H. C. Nott, Dr. S. L. Dawkins, Mr. N. M. G. Gratton, and Mr. C. T. Madigan; Secretary, Mr. N. L. Hargrave; and Treasurer, Mr. R. M. Steele. The club meets a long-felt want. Melbourne and Sydney have had similar clubs for years but Adelaide has had nothing of the kind. The rooms are equipped with billiard tables, reading-room, lounges, a liquor bar and a fine balcony commanding a picturesque view of North Adelaide. Facilities are provided for meals at all hours.

The regulations of the club allow the admission of any past or present member of the Council of the University; any past or present member of the teaching staff of the university; any person who has been admitted to a degree in the university or to any degree recognized by the university; undergraduates who shall have matriculated and who shall have completed a course of studies and passed examinations therein equivalent to two-thirds of the course of studies prescribed for any degree offered by the university; holders of diplomas granted by the university; holders of any final certificate in law granted by the university; any member of the British Medical Association, the Law Society of South Australia, the South Australian Institute of Architects, the Australian Corporation of Public Accountants, the Institution of Engineers, Australia; any commissioned officer of His Majesty's Air, Naval, or Military Forces; any donor to the university; any person who has contributed to the advancement of art, science, or literature; and any person who may be recommended for membership by a two-third majority of the committee of the club.

Mr. L. J. C. Wigan, B.E., A.I.E.E., will return to Adelaide this month by the Mongolia, after a two years' stay in Great Britain, where he has been gaining valuable and varied experience in electrical engineering. Eight months were spent in testing turbo alternators at the British Thomson Houston Electric Company Rugby, and various power station throughout the country. One of the most interesting tests was that of the large turbine running in the British Isles—30,000 k.w. He also visited a South Wales colliery, among the deepest in the country, and saw the underground workings. He was in London for the first three months of the British Exhibition, whose exhibits he found invaluable from an engineer's standpoint, and in London he worked at one of the most scientifically operated power stations in the United Kingdom. Mr. Wigan also spent more than three months in Manchester, with the Metropolitan Vickers Electrical Company, gaining experience in erecting and testing steam turbines, and three months in the Glasgow power station (Dalmarloch), which is recognised as one of the most efficient in the world. On his return he will resume his duties with the Adelaide Electric Supply Company. Mr. Wigan, who is a son of the late Mr. E. C. Wigan, had a distinguished career at St. Peter's College and the Adelaide University.

THE TRAMWAYS BAND.

To the Editor.

Sir—The value of a civilization may be measured by pre-eminence in athletics, science, literature, and art. The first is important, but far less important than the others; for in the first the lowest races may achieve the highest standard; they can never do so in the other three. Athens was great because she was pre-eminent in all four; Sparta fell far behind because she cared for the first only. I have always been rather proud of my South Australian citizenship. We are not content merely to produce distinguished exponents of cricket, football, rowing, tennis, and swimming; we are not even satisfied merely to share with other States the craze for racing and "two-up." We feel, and rightly feel, that these things do not by themselves make a great people. That we encourage science and the arts is proved by the munificent benefactions bestowed on the University from its inception, and by the generous support which various Governments have given during the last 15 years. It has been said that Australian poetry and prose may remain imitative only, that our paintings may be a monotonous repetition of wide plains, sheep, and gum trees. But there is one art, the art of music, which is less influenced by geographical conditions, and this art can be developed in Australia with every hope of great achievement; for we admit into our country not only the inartistic Nordic, but also the dreamy Alpine and the emotional Mediterranean.

South Australia has been fortunate. We have the energy and enthusiasm of Professor Harold Davies, and we possess in Mr. Foote a really gifted conductor. It is no exaggeration to say that the community is deeply indebted to both these gentlemen for having raised the standard of musical appreciation to a point not surpassed elsewhere in Australia. We have now an opportunity of showing our gratitude by rescuing from the danger of dispersal a band of exceptional excellence. Those who have listened to the magnificent band that plays in the Piazza San Marco at Venice inevitably feel that the Italian people, in this department at least, are far away superior to ourselves. If under the stranny of a Mussolini such encouragement of music is possible, it ought to be possible also in an enlightened democracy. I am told that a farthing added to our municipal rates would provide a permanent band of first-class quality and enable it to give 120 concerts in the year. If this is true, our duty is plain. Let us pay the farthing, and thereby retain our just pride in being accounted a cultured people. We have the conductor, we have the band, and we have a climate peculiarly suited to open-air music. If our young people are tempted outside to listen to "the food of love," instead of injuring their eyesight by an overdose of cinemas, a great boon will have been conferred upon them, and that art which suffers none of the limitations imposed by language and racial prejudice may save Australia from the peril of self-used parochialism.—I am, Sir, &c.

H. DARNLEY NAYLOR.

ASTRONOMICAL ADVANCEMENT.

Progress in America.

Mr. Dodwell's Experiences.

Highly enthusiastic about the fascinating scenery of the Sierra Madre and the snow-capped mountain peaks of Sierra Nevada and the new fields of scientific discovery, Mr. G. F. Dodwell (Government Astronomer), who has been on special leave, returned to Adelaide on Sunday from a four months' sojourn in America and Canada.

On Monday Mr. Dodwell spoke of some of the astronomical and scientific wonders of the North American continent. He first visited California, saw Mount Hamilton and Mount Wilson, the famous Lick Observatory being situated on the former, and the Mount Wilson Observatory on the latter. At Mount Hamilton he had been presented with a copy of Mr. Wright's beautiful photograph of the Sierra Nevada from 186 to 200 miles distant. The photograph was obtained by the use of infra-red rays and special plates sensitised with cryptocyanine dye. By those means details invisible to the naked eye had been brought out, and this was the greatest distance from which any terrestrial object had ever been photographed. Mr. Wright thereby obtained the gold medal of the Royal Photographic Society of England. He (Mr. Dodwell) said he intended to hand over the copy of the photo to the Royal Geographical Society at Adelaide. The astronomical significance of the infra-red rays in photography was shown by the details of the planetary surveys which were brought out much more distinctly than hitherto by Mr. Wright, with this selective method. At Berkeley University he met Dr. W. W. Campbell, director of the Lick Observatory, and President of the University of California, and who would be remembered as having led the successful American eclipse expedition to Wal Lal, in north-western Australia, in September, 1922, when the Einstein prediction of the displacement of light at the edge of the sun during a total solar eclipse was verified.

Dr. Campbell's Work.

Dr. Campbell's work in reorganizing the administration of the finances of the university since he took office is spoken of most appreciatively in California. The University of California, Dr. Campbell had informed him, had 17,000 students annually, and its yearly income was £2,000,000. Two-thirds of that sum was provided by the State Government and the remainder by gifts, endowments, and fees. The fees were very small, tuition being free, and a small charge of only 20 dollars (less than £5) a year being charged students for registration and other incidentals. The effect of that enlightened policy in the encouragement of learning must inevitably be very marked among the American people during the course of a few generations. That was indeed manifested at the present time in the wonderful progress visible at every turn, and in the great enterprises which are being constantly carried on throughout the country. One instance of that foresight was the construction and maintenance of splendid highways, which facilitated transport greatly. Bitumen was freely used. Moreover the roads were uniformly good. In order further to develop the roads a tax on gasoline was imposed, so that the people who used the roads most paid the greatest share of their upkeep.

Mr. Dodwell added that he spent an interesting and profitable time in the Mount Wilson Observatory, where modern problems of space, time, and constitution of matter were being investigated by the best observatory and laboratory equipment collected in any one place in the world. That equipment was made possible through the financial assistance given by the Carnegie Institute and wealthy Americans, who liberally supported the advancement of science in their country. Many of these men had their names placed upon a contribution roster, and they, if not called upon in their turn to share the cost, felt aggrieved.

American Scientific Progress.

In close alliance with the Mount Wilson Observatory was the California Institute of Technology, which was the most up-to-date and best-equipped physical laboratory in the world. He had also had the privilege of meeting Dr. Millikan, the director, and hearing him address an assemblage of scientists on the subject of

divisibility of the ultimate electric charge—the electron. He was shown through 16 departments where highly technical investigations on radio activity and allied subjects were in progress. Both the Mount Wilson Observatory and the California Institute were situated in the beautiful town of Pasadena, a suburb of Los Angeles. They owed their existence to the untiring efforts of Dr. Hale, honorary director of the Mount Wilson Observatory. Pasadena was also enriched by the Huntington Library—a most valuable collection of scientific and general literature presented to the town by Mr. Huntington. It was one of the finest collections in the western world. Those collections enhanced the probability of Pasadena being selected in the near future as the home of the University of Southern California.

From Pasadena, said Mr. Dodwell, he went to Victoria (B.C.) and visited the observatory there, where the great 72 in. reflector had been installed and in operation for several years. Important work on stellar spectra and the velocity of movement of the stars in the line of sight had been carried out. Canada, generally, did not appear in a very prosperous state. Young Canadians were crossing the border into the United States in large numbers. That was a serious matter for Canada. Nevertheless it was beneficial to the United States, as many of the young men, on leaving positions there, and their influence was felt in the establishment of good feeling towards Great Britain and her dominions.

More Public Support Desired.

Mr. Dodwell concluded by stating that he had been greatly impressed by the greater private initiative displayed not only in science but in commerce and in other directions in America. People there did not leave everything to the Government. They initiated things themselves. So far as astronomical research and equipment were concerned, even making due allowance for the fact that America was a much older country, Australia was rather behindhand. There was a vast field of usefulness for Australasian activity, as the whole of the southern celestial hemisphere was in charge of South Africa, South America, and Australasia. Greater public support was needed if Australasia were to carry out her responsibilities in this direction.

Ado. 11/3/25

DR. H. HEATON RETURNS.

Dr. H. Heaton, director of the tutorial classes of the Workers' Educational Association of the Adelaide University, arrived from London by the Moreton Bay on Tuesday. He has been away from this State since 1923, and has spent his time in studying economics and educational conditions in England and North America. His travels in all have taken him over 50,000 miles. The lectures he delivered on Australia were always interesting, and the audiences varied considerably. On one occasion he lectured to 1,500 school children in a Yorkshire town hall.

During the voyage Dr. Heaton gave four interesting lectures to the passengers. In England his chief concern was to discover how the country was facing the post-war problem, and to look into recent education developments. The Labor experiment in government, he said, was fascinating, and the results were admittedly mixed. He was somewhat surprised to find how the war-time attitude towards Central Europe had been abandoned. Manufacturers were realising that indemnity goods would be unwelcome arrivals on the market. Even the miners rebelled against the Labor Premier, when they realised that the indemnity, if paid, would be paid partly in German coal. Educationally England had a great struggle against the lack of money, and the universities were starved. The teaching staffs were much worse off than before the war, and the overcrowded classrooms put a great tax on university resources. In Canada there was widespread interest in Australia, but little knowledge of Australian conditions. It amused him to find that, in regard to the immigration policy, they quoted Australia as a shining example of "how to do it." They were much interested in the "White Australia" policy, and systems of land settlement, and State enterprises; particularly advances by settlers.

Canada's policy of granting free land, and then leaving the selector to sink or swim had had very unsatisfactory results. The land was got for nothing, so that the settlers either gave it up lightly or had adequate capital to work it.

The farmers did well during the war, but afterwards many were stranded hopelessly in debt. They began to study the question of State rural credits, and they wanted to know how Australia did these things. The Canadian Universities were wonderful institutions, and, although Australians could learn a lot from their efforts, they had no need to be afraid of comparison. Racially, Canada had a very difficult problem to face. Men who were far from being pessimists, wondered why if Canada was wise in opening her doors to all the races of Europe. There was strong feeling that it would be difficult to assimilate all these Europeans into a Canadian nation. Much influence was exerted in Canada by the United States. England's influence was still more powerful.

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ADELAIDE HOSPITAL SUPERINTENDENT.

Dr. J. G. Hislop, Superintendent of the Perth Children's Hospital, who was recently notified of his appointment as Medical Superintendent of the Adelaide Hospital, has now intimated to the South Australian Government that he will be unable to accept the position. The Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick stated on Monday that further applications would not be called, but another superintendent would be chosen from among the former applicants. Four local doctors have applied for the position, in addition to those from other States, and the Public Service Commissioner's recommendation is now before the Government. This, it is understood, will result in an appointment being made from beyond the borders of this State.