

BRILLIANT FAMILY

Student Going to America

SCHOOLMATE AS COMPANION

Backed with a brilliant University career, Mr. Sydney Norman Blaskett is ambitious. He will leave for America on Monday to gain practical experience in electrical engineering. He will be accompanied by Mr. Howard Forder, his school companion of many years. Together they will try their luck abroad. They expect to be away at least two years.

Mr. Blaskett, who is only 20 years of age, is the eldest of a family of four boys and two girls, all of whom have displayed an aptitude for learning. Their proud parents are Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Blaskett, of 41 Marian place, Prospect, and they are hopeful of a continuity of brilliance on the part of their son.

Always studious at Adelaide High School, Mr. Sydney Blaskett achieved distinction in the Junior, Senior, and Higher Public examinations at the Uni-



MR. HOWARD FORDER

an old school companion of Mr. Blaskett, who will travel with him and be a partner in search of knowledge.



MR. S. M. BLASKETT

brilliant Adelaide University student, who will leave for America on Monday to gain practical experience in electrical engineering.

versity, and capped his successes by winning a Government bursary, the Angus Engineering Scholarship, and the John Hartley Student Scholarship, but regulations precluded his acceptance of the Government and Angus awards. He thereupon forfeited his right to the latter.

His bursary entitled him to four years' tuition at Adelaide University. That success only whetted his appetite for greater things, and he spent most of his spare hours with his books. His labors were rewarded for in his first year at the University he passed in seven subjects, obtaining credits in five of them.

Passing in a similar number of subjects the following year, he secured credits in each and was awarded first place in three, second in three, and third in the other. He passed in five subjects (each with credit) during his third year. He concluded his University career last year by passing with credit in electrical engineering II. and machine design II.

Opportunities Abroad

Mr. Forder, who is 22 years of age, gained his practical experience with the Adelaide Electric Supply Company Limited during University vacation time. The two have been friends for years and were not willing to separate at this juncture. So they planned to go abroad, where they believe there are greater opportunities to learn than at home.

Mr. Forder, whose home town is Laura, has also had a brilliant career at the University, and last year was awarded his degree of bachelor of engineering.

He began his education at Caltowie Public School and then went to Laura Public School, Gladstone and Adelaide High Schools, and began his career at Adelaide University in 1923.

While at the Adelaide High School he won a Government bursary which entitled him to the full course at the University, where he spent four years.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Forder, of Laura, and his father owns the town electric light plant, so that the son has been in touch with electrical engineering all his life.

Mr. Forder is interested in affairs at Maughan Church, Franklin street, and associated with young men's class and junior and intermediate Christian Endeavor societies.

Interested in sport, Mr. Blaskett has engaged in lacrosse and played for University for a year. His books have been his hobby, and his mother stated that he had spent many hours studying in a wheel-

barrow underneath a peach tree. He is keenly interested in church affairs, and teaches a Sunday school class at Ovingham Methodist Church. He was given a surprise party last night by the Christian Endeavor, and tonight he will be tendered a farewell by the church and Sunday school.

Family Record

Mr. Kenneth Blaskett, a younger member of the family, is following in the footsteps of his brother, and like him topped the Higher Public examination a year ago and secured a four years' course at the University. His course will be mining engineering.

Joyce is 13 years of age and was awarded a silver watch at Prospect Public School last year for topping grade VII. Don is believed to be the youngest child who sat for the qualifying examination last year, which he passed with 573 marks. He was 11 years of age on December 31. Phyllis is the baby of the family. She is nine years of age, but topped grade III last year.

The other member of the family is Albert. He is 15 years of age, and although he did well at school he did not take to lessons and elected to try carpentering, which trade he is following successfully. He has been engaged in it only a few months and during his spare moments has found time to make furniture for the house.

TOMATO WILT

Agricultural Research Work

3,000 BUSHES PLANTED

Three thousand tomato plants! These are not in a back garden, but are growing in prepared ground at the Waite Research Institute at Fullarton.

The bushes have been cultivated for the purpose of observing the disease known as tomato wilt.

Under the direction of Prof. J. A. Prescott (acting director) the plants are being grown under ordinary outdoor conditions. They are closely watched for any sign of wilt. As soon as any is noticed a record is made, and the affected plants observed to see the effect and future extent of the wilt.

Twenty Varieties

When interviewed today Prof. Prescott stated that the work was being undertaken in conjunction with the Commonwealth Bureau of Science and Industry and would extend over a period of three years.

Of the 3,000 plants 2,000 were of the Early Dwarf Red variety, which was common to practically every garden. Altogether there were 20 varieties. The plants were between two and three months old, and had made headway.

"Wilt was noticed in some when quite small," said Prof. Prescott. "In others it has appeared at various stages of growth. It does not attack a whole plot at the same time. There may be one plant only attacked. Again, there may be several bushes affected. The institute is collaborating with prominent tomato growers, market gardeners, and others interested, and much valuable information is being obtained.

"With the grant made by the Federal Government research work will be conducted. Large glasshouses in which the plants can be grown are in course of construction. The work is well in hand. These glasshouses will be divided into 10 compartments. They can be so arranged that the plants will be grown in open-air conditions or at certain temperatures. "The work," concluded Prof. Prescott,

is in its initial stage. The appointment of a plant pathologist will shortly be made. This will enable the research work to be proceeded with on a wider scale."

REG 7-1-27

The Board of Commercial Studies of the University of Adelaide has issued a pamphlet drawing attention to the University Diploma in Commerce course. The particulars outlined will be of interest to those who propose to fit themselves for a wider commercial career. The course is one of four years, but may be extended over five or more years; and the lectures for the diploma total about 270.

REG 7-1-27

The Council of the University of Adelaide has appointed the following lecturers in the Faculty of Law:—Law of Evidence and Procedure, Mr. R. N. Finlayson, LL.B.; Property, Parts I. and II., Mr. E. W. Benham, LL.B.; and Roman law, Mr. C. C. Brebner, LL.B. Following upon the endowment of the chair of law by Sir J. Langdon Bonython, the council has established a separate lectureship in jurisprudence, and Mr. Herbert Mayo, LL.B., has been appointed to the position.

REG 7-1-27

TO STUDY THE ABORIGINES

A Rockfeller Fellow.

SYDNEY, Thursday.

Because they are the only living representatives of a prehistoric stage in man's story, the aborigines of Australia are of great interest to scientists. To prosecute research work among them Dr. William Warner, from the University of California, arrived by the Sierra to-day. He will be in Sydney for the next three or four weeks and will then leave for the Northern Territory. Dr. Warner's work was made possible by the Rockfeller Foundation which granted him a fellowship for one year.

ADV. 10.1.27

THE PASSING OF PROFESSOR RENNIE.

From G. G. NEWMAN:—So recently has the late Professor Rennie been in our midst that his passing seems like the passing of Enoch—"he was not, for God took him." During four decades his light has shone at the University, always with a brilliant, steady, certain glow. His predecessor, the late Ralph Tate, taught not only chemistry, but also geology and botany, and in these latter two his textbooks are still among the standard treatises. The munificent gift of the late John Howard Angus made it possible that the chair of chemistry should remain forever separate and intact. Thus the late Professor Rennie, through the years acquired a remarkable specialised skill in chemistry. Latterly among all students he was "Father" Rennie, or, more affectionately and familiarly, "Dad," and the power which knowledge gave him made him a recognised authority throughout Australia. His slow, stately walk and dignified bearing suggested punctuality and method. He was always ready to help the beginner. He had all a Scotchman's love of learning, and a keen eye for merit in others. In the full possession of all his faculties and powers, he has passed from us and left nearly half a century of "something attempted, something done" as his life's work.

ADV. 5.1.27

PARKSIDE MENTAL HOME.

The Chief Secretary (Hon. J. Jelley) when interviewed on Tuesday with regard to the proposal that the Parkside Mental Hospital grounds should be made available for University purposes, said it would be some years before the new mental institution at Northfield was completed, and until that institution was ready, the Parkside Hospital would be required for its present purpose. The proposal was the result of a resolution passed by Parliament some years ago to the effect that the hospital grounds at Parkside should be dedicated for University purposes.

A VETERAN SCIENTIST.

The late Professor E. H. Rennie, by a lifetime of distinguished service, had fairly earned the title of the "Grand Old Man" of Australian science, though he was "old" only in point of his 74 years, for his energy was that of a much younger man, and his intellectual vigour remained unabated. Those who heard him deliver the Presidential address at the meeting of the Australasian Science Association in Perth last August were impressed by the wide range of his knowledge, and his entire command of his subject, which was the chemical exploitation of Australia. As an Australian native—he was born in Sydney in 1852—Professor Rennie was intensely anxious that the natural resources of the country should be turned to the best account, with the active assistance of science, and, in his Perth address, he deplored the destruction of Australian forests, and urged upon the Governments an active policy of afforestation, in order that the supply, not only of timber, but of valuable forest products should not become exhausted. The late Professor ranked among the foremost chemists of Australia, and he was unsparing in the devotion of his talents to the advancement of the science and to its practical application to industry.

As a teacher Professor Rennie was beloved alike by his associates at the University and by the generations of students who came under his influence. As the doyen of the professorial staff and one of the oldest members of the Council, Professor Rennie filled a notable place in the life of the University during more than 40 years, and the loss which the institution has sustained will be felt with corresponding severity. His scientific attainments won the respect of his colleagues, as his fine personal qualities endeared him to everybody with whom his varied activities brought him in contact—for he found time, in spite of the growth of the work at the University in recent years, to interest himself in the work of the Australian Chemical Institute, of which he was President, the Royal Society, of which he had twice been President, the Advisory Council of Science and Industry, and other bodies. His long life was a splendid record of service to the University, to the State, and to the nation as a whole; and he will be remembered not more for his achievements as a chemist and a teacher, than for his dignified and upright character. Professor Rennie's name will take an honoured place among the growing band of distinguished scientists whom Australia is proud to claim as her sons.