

UNIVERSITY BUILDING

New Physics Department

OPENING CEREMONY

To give students in South Australia a thorough education the Government has borne the cost of £50,000 for the erection of a new physics building at the University.

It was officially opened by the Hon. J. Gunn (Premier) this morning.

The ceremony was held inside the new building. Sir George Murray (Chancellor) presided. On his right were the Premier and Prof. R. W. Chapman and on the left the Hon. L. L. Hill (Minister of Education) and Prof. Kerr Grant.

Among the large audience were many distinguished scientific men. The Hon. J. Jelley (Chief Secretary) and Mr. W. T. McCoy (Director of Education) were also present.

Sir George Murray in introducing the Premier outlined the work achieved by the University throughout its long and proud career, and detailed the increases which had led up to the insistent need for special training in applied sciences. He paid a special tribute to the work of Mr. A. E. Simpson (Architect-in-Chief) in the erection of the building.

At the conclusion he handed the Premier a key contained in a handsome case as a memento of the occasion.

In declaring the building open the Premier said there was a time when universities would have little to do with such practical subjects as engineering and commerce. It was interesting to know that the first engineering classes held in connection with the Adelaide University were evening classes in electrical engineering. These were started about 1890.

At first the University did not have the power to grant degrees in engineering and the authorities had to be content to give the men who qualified in engineering the degree of Bachelor of Science. This state of affairs was rectified in 1911 when Parliament amended the Adelaide University Act, which authorised the granting of the degree of Bachelor of Engineering.

DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY

"It will thus be seen," said the Premier, "that the engineering graduates are comparatively young men, but many have already shown evidence of their ability and hold important positions in various States. Of the earlier students many were mining men. Some of these played an important part in the development of Broken Hill."

He said that the engineering school catered for the various branches, such as civil, mechanical, mining, and electrical engineering. Up to date 137 students had obtained engineering degrees. At present there were about 100 students. The Adelaide University and its students were indeed fortunate in having at the head of the engineering school such an able teacher as Prof. Chapman, who had been connected with the subject of engineering at the Adelaide University from the beginning.

COST £50,000

Designs for the building were prepared by the Architect-in-Chief and his staff in consultation with the professors of the two departments. The cost, including fittings, was £50,000. The University now had an addition to its laboratories which would bear comparison with those of any other University in Australia.

The structure was two-storeyed, and the main block had a frontage of 311 ft. by a depth of 52 ft. It was built of brick with reinforced concrete floors and staircases, and the top of the walls carried a cornice finished in light color and topped with a roof of red tiles, so as to be in harmony with the adjacent Darling Building.

In the physics department provision had been made for a large lecture theatre to accommodate approximately 300 persons. This had been equipped with fireproof bioscope room and lantern screen.

There were also laboratories, apparatus, preparation, and research rooms and workshops. In the engineering department two lecture rooms, laboratories, workshop, surveying room and metallography room, drawing rooms, and a museum had all been provided.

DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY

"The importance of engineering to the development of South Australia is obvious," went on the Premier. "We cover 380,000 square miles, but unfortunately about 80 per cent. of that area has a rainfall of only 10 inches or less. The importance of water conservation, saving every gallon of water that we possibly can, is fundamental to our progress. We cannot possibly make use of the country without it."

"We must have railways and good roads and efficient means of transit and communication. We have large areas of country yet to be drained and thousands of

acres that may possibly be irrigated.

"Although we have not yet succeeded in finding good coal we have large deposits of brown coal that must be utilised in the future, and the problem of providing power at a cheaper rate for our growing industries is of first importance.

"We hope that there are yet many mines to be developed. There are certainly mineral deposits that are likely to be a source of wealth if worked under the guidance of competent men. We have ample work for structural engineers able to design and construct the bridges, wharves, and buildings of all kinds required by a growing population.

"There are also problems to be faced in electrical engineering. For all these purposes we should be training our own men. In providing these buildings it is the object of the Government to provide facilities for the young men of South Australia who have the energy and inclination to enable them to obtain an engineering education in their own State that will fit them to take leading parts in the great works of engineering required for the development of their own country." (Applause.)

IMPROVED TEACHING STATUS

Mr. Hill, as Minister of Education, said that he was convinced that South Australia was making great strides, and he wished to thank publicly the council of the University for the assistance it had offered in the way of giving night lectures to teachers. The Government proposed to spend £3,000 for this purpose, and he was satisfied that it would improve the status of the teacher and bring about more efficiency.

He referred to the work being done for education, particularly in the building of the Teachers' College and the Technical Apprentices' College. These buildings would cost about £60,000, and he felt that they would fill a long felt want.

Touching on the various sciences of the University Mr. Hill said that physics was the mother of all the sciences. It had gained in value and wonder, and there was never a time when it was so ablaze with brilliant discoveries. In these great discoveries students of the Australian Universities had played no mean part. They could claim as their own Prof. Sir William Bragg and his illustrious son, Prof. W. L. Bragg.

The University of Adelaide, said Mr. Hill, had turned out many capable engineers under Prof. Chapman. With the new school and equipment they could look forward to a more brilliant future. It was one of the most important forward movements recorded in the history of the University. (Applause.) The sum of £5,000 would be set aside for equipment.

USE OF RADIUM

Prof. Chapman in moving a vote of thanks to the Premier and Minister of Education praised the Government for having shouldered the responsibility in building the new addition.

Prof. Kerr Grant in seconding referred to the lack of accommodation before the present building as being almost intolerable and certainly exasperating. As a result of the new structure four men were now studying post graduate work. (Applause.)

Referring to the use of radium, he said that he hoped eventually to see installed at the University apparatus for treatment of diseases with that valuable discovery, although it would cost about £10,000 for the apparatus. However, he would some day take a trip and learn all about it, and then appeal to the citizens of Adelaide.

He was also hopeful that some day a machine to discover the inside of an atom would be invented with a high voltage of about 10,000,000. When that was discovered he would ask the Adelaide people to buy it for the University. (Laughter.)

After the motion was carried and Mr. Gunn had replied the visitors were entertained at morning tea.

REG. 18.8.26.

THE UNIVERSITY AND THE STATE.

The official opening by the Premier (Hon. John Gunn) on Tuesday of the fine and well-equipped block of buildings erected at the State's expense for the use of students in engineering and physics, was the occasion for much justifiable self-gratulation by Ministers of the Crown and politicians generally on the assistance rendered by the State to the cause of higher learning, particularly in relation to valuable scientific knowledge. The Premier and the Minister for Education (Hon. L. L. Hill) indicated a clear realization of the great benefits which had already accrued and which will continue to accrue to the public from studies in physics and kindred subjects, and the wisdom of making use, so far as practicable, of locally trained talent for engineering undertakings. Appropriately, Professor Chapman emphasised the advice he has previously

given that, not only should the Government seek to retain the services of capable young men who have won degrees in engineering, but it should require that youths who enter the engineering departments of the Civil Service shall have gained a certain amount of proficiency in engineering at the University. A considerable number of our own Bachelors of Engineering are doing highly creditable work in the State—a son of Professor Chapman has earned enviable fame in connection with the huge new railway bridge which crosses the Murray—but it is desirable that many more shall be employed on developmental schemes inside the State's boundaries.

At the commemorative University banquet, over which the Chancellor (Sir George Murray) presided in the Town Hall on Tuesday evening, and at which His Excellency the Governor delivered a felicitous address, much of the oratory pleasingly illustrated the ability of the University to soften political party asperities, and to induce unity of educational aim, by its presentation of the urgent need for post graduate labour in the advancement of knowledge and investigations in pure science. The Vice-Chancellor (Professor Mitchell) gave illuminating information concerning the extraordinary growth of the universities of the United States—growth which largely accounts for the exceptionally high degree of efficiency which now characterizes American industrial processes; and Sir Munro MacCallum (Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney), while extolling the financial assistance given to Australian universities by State Governments and generous private individuals, impressively asserted that neither the politician nor the average well-to-do citizen in Australia had yet awakened to the enormous importance of the universities as the source of branches of scientific knowledge and training upon which the future greatness and strength of Australia would depend. No doubt our University will share the experience of older Australian seats of learning, and make a much more rapid advance in the immediate future than it has done during its first 50 years of life. The jubilee celebrations are doing much towards ensuring increased practical sympathy with and better understanding of the province of the University in enhancing the happiness and prosperity of the community. That further claims await the gifts of wealthy South Australians for improving the facilities for higher learning in Adelaide was made evident by Professor E. H. Rennie in the description he gave of the difficulties and inconveniences which still beset the study and teaching of chemistry in the University. An optimistic forward policy wisely directed, is the natural outcome of past gratifying achievements.

ADV. 20.8.26

THE UNIVERSITY JUBILEE.

From "J.D." Adelaide:—There are many worthy citizens who love our fount of education and all it stands for and have a deep-rooted admiration for men of science, art, and letters. Hundreds would appreciate the privilege which has been accorded to a comparatively few of seeing inside the University and hearing the cultured voices of its professors, whom to hear would be an education in the proper expression of language. Some of us have been small contributors to the upkeep of the University and have not sought publicity, yet we do not seem to be allowed any chance to visit this admirable seat of learning. It may be remarked that the great majority of those who enjoy the right of entry have known Universities from their youth up, and so it is no new thing for them to see the appointments of this "power-house of the mind," as the Governor aptly put it. May I suggest that there be a "people's day" held at some convenient season so that those with a predilection for culture and science who have never been to a real University, save perhaps "with a load of sand," may have an opportunity of inspecting what the erudite call their "Alma Mater." Such a privilege would be immensely valued by a big portion of thinking citizens.

he would express was that it might remain a university of pure culture, high and honoured, and that it should not be tempted by the Philistine to convert itself into a mere technical or professional institution. (Applause.) A second wish, was that the movement inaugurated by St. Mark's College would be continued. His experience had enabled him to realize what a powerful influence was exerted on the intellectual and social life of a university by residential colleges. In behalf of the sister university of Melbourne he proffered expressions of goodwill and affection, with all pleasure and sincerity. (Applause.)

MORE DEGREES.

Additional ad eundem degrees were conferred upon the following visitors:—Doctor of Laws.—Sir William Cullen (Sydney), Sir Munro MacCallum (Glasgow), and Sir John MacFarland (Ireland). Doctor of Science.—Horatio Scott Carslaw (Cantab.), Alfred James Ewart (Oxon.), Abercrombie Anstruther Lawson (Glasgow), Sir Thomas Ranken Lyle (Cantab.), Henry Caselli Richards (Melbourne), and Alexander David Ross (Glasgow). Master of Arts.—John Alexander Gunn (Liverpool), John Richard Kay-Mouat (Oxon.), Alfred Reginald Radcliffe Brown (Cantab.), and Robert Strachan Wallace (Oxon.). Bachelor of Arts.—James Bristock Bridgen, B.A. (Oxon.). Master of Surgery.—Joseph Lexden Shellshear, M.B., Ch.M. (Sydney). Master of Engineering.—Sir Henry Egerton Barraclough, K.B.E., M.M.E. (Cornell).

ELDER HALL CONCERT.

There was a large gathering at the Elder Hall on Monday evening, when a special concert was given by members of the staff of the Elder Conservatorium in honour of the visiting delegates. Arranged by the Director (Professor Harold Davies, Mus. Doc.), the programme was one, as he explained in his very brief introductory remarks, mainly recreational and brief enough to permit conversation between the various numbers.

Mozart's beautiful string quartet "Minuet in E flat," happily chosen as the introductory number, was presented by Mr. Charles Schilsky, Miss Kathleen Meegan, Miss Sylvia Whittington, and Mr. Harold Parsons, with a delicacy and finish which brought out to the full the delightful old-world daintiness of the writing. The transition from the first theme, with its marked dance rhythm, to the more song-like quality of the second, and then back to the more robust treatment towards the close, was delightful, and the whole composition was handled with the artistic finish for which the Conservatorium String Quartet is so well known. Mrs. Smedley Palmer won well-deserved applause for her singing of a particularly charming group of songs. The "Blackbird song," by Cyril Scott, was followed by the beautiful "Lullaby," by the same composer, but most warmly received of the bracket was Massenet's charming "Ouvrez les yeux bleus." Mr. George Pearce acted as accompanist.

Another piano-forte number was Schumann's "Andante and variations in B flat," for two pianos, delightfully played by Miss Maude T. Lidy and Mr. William Silver. The interweaving of the themes, and the interplay of the instruments were remarkably happy, the touch of the musicians bringing out the changing moods of the music admirably.

Miss Sylvia Whittington and Mr. George Pearce gave a characteristically artistic and effective interpretation of Rubenstein's "Sonata for violin and piano, Op 13" (the first movement, con moto). Miss Whittington brought out the lilting rhythm and singing tone of the opening theme, and also the brilliant passages that followed most happily, and Mr. Pearce gave just the right value to the piano part throughout. Emphatic and continued applause marked the appreciation of the audience. Mr. Clive Carey had chosen an interesting and varied group of songs. First came "The monkey's carol," by Stanford, which was given with really wonderful expression, bringing out the pathos of the words with perfect enunciation. "Blue bell from clearings," by Ernest Walker, also won appreciation. "Sweet Suffolk owl" and "The oellman's song," by Elizabeth Poston, concluded an effective group. Miss Maude Puddy acted as accompanist. Mr. Harold Parsons interpreted in his accustomed musicianly manner Cesar Cui's Violoncello solo "Cantabile in D major," accompanied by Professor Harold Davies at the organ, the two instruments sounding admirably, the rich singing tone of the cello telling with great expressiveness. The concert closed with two organ numbers by Wolsterholme, played by Professor Harold Davies:—"Canzona," finely dignified and restrained, was followed by the elaborate and exacting "Minuet and t."

ADV. 21.8.26

Mr. W. J. Isbister, K.C., leaves England on his return to Adelaide in the Blue Funnel steamer Ulysses on the 25th of next month.