ADV. 31-10-27

WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

THE ANNUAL BREAK-UP.

The annual break up of students of the Workers' Educational Association was held in Stow Lecture Hall on Saturday night.

The president (Mr. C. H. Dicker), who occupied the chair, said the number of members had been increased, although the monetary assistance had not been so great. He predicted greater success for next year, when a new programme would be drawn up. Members could spread the influence of the association throughout the Commonwealth.

The Minister of Education (Hon. M. McHenry) and the fine work done by the association had not been realised properly by the community. The aim of the association was the imparting of knowledge, the propounding of character, and the making of good citizens. The object was the production of a better educated and a workaday men and working women by arousing the interest of the workers, and by directing their attention to the facilities already existing, by enquiring into the educational needs of the workers and by representing such needs to the proper authorities, by providing, in conjunction with the Education Department of the University, and other educational bodies or societies, courses of lectures for studies of interest to the workers, and such matters have been hitherto overlooked; by organising and by providing for the preparation of such reports, pamphlets, books, and lectures as may be deemed necessary, and by providing or arranging for the supervision of lectures. With such aims and objects, it was a pleasant occasion to be properly organised, advertised, and controlled should provide wonderful opportunities for giving helpful instruction and inspiration to adult members of the community. The association consisted of working class organisations, such as trade unions, co-operative societies, co-operative and friendly societies, social, educational, and other bodies in addition to individual members, and they sex more than 16 years of age. It was non-sectarian and non-party political. The association, which began its existence in 1915, had been fortunate in being guided by capable hands. The present president (Mr. C. H. Dicker), and general secretary (Mr. H. McKittrie) were giving loyal service in the cause of education. The tutorial classes since their inception, had been controlled in turn by enthusiastic and talented men in Dr. H. Heaton, Professor Darnley Naylor, and the present capable director, Mr. A. B. G. MacKay. The association was first founded in New South Wales in 1913, followed a few years later by Victoria. Then came Tasmania and Queensland, and in 1917 a start was made in South Australia by the formation of five classes with an enrolment of 231 students. By 1920 the enrolment had grown to 313, by 1924 to 772, and last year it reached 1,148. The enrolments in the country areas were practically the same as last year. It would seem that the movement had gradually forged ahead, and was now well established. The association had strong circles and classes at Augaston, Gawler, Riverton, and Murray Bridge. When opportunity occurred lectures were given in various centres throughout the country. What the association meant in the life of the nation could not be estimated in mere figures. It must open to many working men and women a new view on life. It had developed in many a desire, and afforded them an opportunity to pursue knowledge with joy. It had given to them a glimpse of some of the hidden powers of life. The association was as yet only in the infancy of its useful life, and its possibilities were boundless. When its usefulness and benefits were realised more by the community, its ranks would be greatly swelled. Enthusiasm was needed to direct the willing, if latent energy of a majority of the members of the community so the achievement of the desired end. (Applause).

Professor McGregor Stewart said the work of securing tutors for the classes was the most important. The teachers had freedom in their classes and taught without a view to examinations. There was no cramming for the examinations. It was reduced to a minimum in the University because the teacher was free. It obtained from the teachers tutors taught to a syllabus, which they themselves did not prepare, and where the examinations were conducted by experts external to the schools. He had seen, again and again, the results of the cramming effect of the system. The danger was of mass production, of passing every child through the school mill. The influence on the teacher tended to sap his independence, and to make him mechanical in his work. He was not sure that they were following the most fruitful lines of policy. The original idea of the tutorial classes was that students should take up a three-year course of serious study under a qualified tutor of the University standing, and that on reaching something like University standard, students should be allowed to take a further course, stating that the tutorial classes that the members did not show a disposition to pursue serious study. No doubt the critic did not find much of the work of the university courses as he expected. In England the work of tutorial education was reaching far beyond the scope of their tutorial classes. He thought it would be well if they did that in Australia. An expansion was being made in country areas. The tutorial classes were being differentiated from the ordinary lecture courses. There would be no difficulty in getting students for the classes of the University staff. Professor Stewart was looking forward to better days for them. He believed there were some in the country, but there was still much to be done. He had the idea that a large number of the men who made good in the professions and in academic work had got their education in the country somebody should be sent into the country to find men who might conduct tutorial classes. Our country was founded and raised on the fundamental reverences, and perhaps the most fundamental was the reverence of the power of the mind. (Applause).

The Vice-Chancellor (Sir William Mitchell, M.A.) said he was pleased to hear the Minister and Professor Stewart spoke of the extension of the movement in the country by means of study circles. There was a time when there was a demand for lectures in country towns, which had few distractions. There were many distractions in the city, and people had to be organised. The University they were willing to carry on the original idea that students should group themselves together, discovering what they wanted to study. If they did so the tutorial classes would be planned to meet the needs of the students. (Applause).

Professor C. S. Hicks said a movement similar to the Workers' Educational Association had arisen in Germany, and aimed at a spiritual and cultural revival. People's universities were established and were free from Nationalist propaganda, which existed in Germany under the old educational system. The universities conducted evening classes for both sexes over the age of 18 years, and claimed at the teaching of education for its aim was not to give a vocational training or a means to an end. The only sanction Britons had for occupying the world, and the giving fortunate lands, they carried out the kind of stewardship they needed a deep cultural basis for their work. The universities were developing more and more into educational training institutions, some such bodies were needed to keep alive the spirit of the ancient universities which taught education for itself. Being a fortunate country, and having fortunate lands, they should not be lulled into somnolence, but should gird themselves for their stewardship. (Applause).

Community singing was led by Mr. P. J. Gratton, solo items being given by Miss Phyllis Webb, whose accompanist was contributed by Mr. and Mrs. Stacey, members of the W.E.A. Dramatic Society.

THE NEWS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1927

ARCHITECTURE

(By Mr. R. C. Bald, Lecturer in English at Adelaide University)

To those of us who maintain that it is being to be useful that is the more reason why it should be beautiful, architecture seems perhaps the best effort of man to achieve elegance or decorative in his surroundings by the efforts of his own hands and brains. That fire-irons or pottery or printing or postage stamps should be beautiful may seem unnecessary to many people, but most of them will be ready to appreciate a fine church or a charming home.

As Mr. Frank Rutter points out in his book on "The Poetry of Architecture," buildings have a deep effect on the minds of city workers, although they it be unconscious. To walk down long, narrow streets in the slums with crowded and dingy houses on each side is as depressing as it is ennobling to see St. Paul's looming high at the top of Ludgate Hill or to mark the grace of the pillaries which swing into view at each turn of the Grand Canal in Venice.

Exalting Influence

As the title of his book suggests, the aim of Mr. Rutter is to stress the exalting influence of architecture. He shows, too, how the architecture of past ages reveals the ideals of the peoples and centuries that developed different styles of building.

Egyptian architecture belongs to the age of fear. The pyramids with their hidden tombs were the products of a religious age, which kept intact the bodies of the dead, so that they might enjoy the after-life.

Greece produced the age of grace. Its small, exquisitely proportioned temples express refinement, simplicity, and happiness. Later came the age of strength, which found expression no less in "the grandeur that was Rome" than in the massive fortifications of the mediaeval castles.

Meanwhile Christian architecture was developing. At first it was pious in spirit, but it became aspiring as the Gothic style developed. The Gothic style was pious, but it was essentially religious in spirit that it is still more frequently used than any other for ecclesiastical buildings. Its pillars give one the sense of a mysterious forest. Its large windows and lofty spaces provide space for gorgeous stained glass through which the light filters, and its high pointed arches gently but powerfully draw the soul up with them to heaven.

Modern Period

The Renaissance brought in periods of elegance and refinement—ages of which the most characteristic products are the Georgian and the Queen Anne of Sir Christopher Wren in London. But since then, Mr. Rutter sadly recognises, we have been passing through an age of mediocrity—erecting buildings on the classical style or in the Gothic style, but without any creation of a characteristic or individual style which is the natural outcome of the age.

At this point the lecture was cut by another little book called "Balbus or the Future of Architecture," in the one familiar "Today and Tomorrow" series. Balbus has brought face to face with a series of facts that are changing the character of our largest and most important buildings with tremendous rapidity.

"The author of "Balbus" maintains that until recently it was the interior effect of a building that was always considered, the shape and height of a church or the arrangement of the rooms of a house. The external appearance of a building came second and was determined by the nature of the interior.

But the modern architect no longer thinks first of interiors, for in designing a draper's shop all he has to do is to insert a large unbroken expanse without any form at all—a mere "floor" which holds counters to display the goods on sale. So, too, with suites of offices the "floor" is broken only by wood and glass partitions into a number of square cells—nothing more. The interior is now of minor interest.

Found To Be Unhealthy

Another influence is also determining the external appearance of the skyscrapers of America. The abrupt height of the earliest skyscrapers was found to be unhealthy, for they excluded too much light, and they brought traffic congestion by increasing so greatly the number of people who used the streets in which they were situated.

These factors were responsible for "zoning" as it is called. If a building goes up beyond a certain number of stories it is not allowed to go straight up all the way, and the higher stories have to be set back a certain distance from the street.

Whether, by means of bays or courts, it has to reduce its frontage to carry efficiently the number of vehicles that its population attracts.

These latest developments in the architecture of large city buildings are certainly the outcome of the modern spirit. The emporium and the office are the product of modern business methods, while the skyscraper is the result of the enormous growth of the populations of the large cities during the last century.

"Zoning" is the result of municipal control of building. All these forces give the architect new problems to face—intricate and interesting, we can hope but not so ennobling as the contention of the interior of some great hall or church which would have given him his initial stimulus some three or four hundred years ago.

REG. 4-11-27

Miss Kathleen Moore, who was injured from a fall from a window at the Adelaide City last week, although still in a critical condition, has improved sufficiently to explain to her friends how the accident occurred. Miss Moore was leaning out of the window to look at an object, when she slipped, and was unable to recover herself. The Minister of Education (Hon. M. McIntosh) asked for notice.

MAIL 29.10.27

At the students' concert, given at the Conservatorium on Monday evening, Miss Isabel Burton, a young soprano, gave a conditionally good rendering of Gounod's aria "Mi Chiama No Mimi," from "Bohème." Her singing created from the outset the quality of tone, evenness of technique and artistic interpretation displayed. Miss Burton made a typical Mimi, both in appearance and in the artistic of her work, and it is continuous progress upon the same lines, she should become one of Adelaide's first sopranos. The sympathetic quality of her voice is one of its chief charms.

At the same concert Miss Beryl Counter gave a fine rendering of an arrangement of a novel number in Michael Disck's "All in the April Evening." Through the whole atmosphere of the song there was a religious suggestion of great beauty. This was further emphasised by the fine organ accompaniment played by Mr. Arnold Farley. Miss Counter's diction and vocal work were extremely good, though the song would offer better scope for a big contralto voice in its lower register.

Miss Katherine Cook introduced many promising piano students at a recital held at Lady Colton Hall on Friday evening, and with these were also associated the pupils of Miss Marjorie Alderman, whose singing students of Mrs. Smedley Palmer. Some attractive numbers were presented with skill and artistry in both the instrumental and vocal sections.

ADV. 4-11-27

Messrs. Alan McKechnie and Howard Barnard, who gained their B.A. degrees at the Adelaide University, have been gaining further experience with the General Electric Company in England. They are sailing by the R.M.S. Aquitania, from Adelaide on December 3, and, after a few days in the city, will proceed to positions in Sydney at the head office of the company in Australia.

REG. 5-11-27

The design of the new Adelaide Bridge by the City Engineer (Mr. R. M. Scott)

MR. R. M. SCOTT, B.E.
City Engineer.

has been approved by the Adelaide City Council. An illustration of the structure will be found on page 10 of this issue.

REG. 9-11-27

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Accident at University.

The Minister of Education told Dr. Basedow that enquiries had been made into the accident to a young lady at the Adelaide University, and it was not intended to take any further action.

NEWS 8-11-27

NEXT RHODES' SCHOLAR

Several Names Submitted

Several names have been submitted to the University for selection as the South Australian Rhodes scholar for 1928. It is probable that the selection will be made toward the end of this month.

The Rhodes Scholar Selection Committee for South Australia is comprised of Sir Tom Bridges (Governor), Sir George Murray (Chief Justice), Profs. R. W. Chapman and W. K. Hancock, and Messrs. R. E. Foster, R. J. Rudall, C. J. Madigan, and H. Thomson.