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The Australian Universities are to be favored with the presence of a distinguished visitor from overseas. The Rev. W. Temple, M.A., a son of the late Archbishop of Canterbury, will make a tour of the Universities of Adelaide, Sydney, and Melbourne, under the auspices of the World's Student Christian Federation, and spending about twelve days in each centre, will deliver a series of lectures and addresses upon Christian apologetic and social subjects. That Mr. Temple is qualified, as are few other men, to impress his personality upon the University life of our land is evident from the following facts concerning his career:—Besides being a fellow and lecturer at Queen's College, Oxford, he is president of the Workers' Educational Association of Great Britain, an association consisting of about 1,000 trades unions and clubs in affiliation for educational purposes; secretary to the council of the Oxford House Settlement, in Bethnal Green, London; and chaplain to the present Archbishop of Canterbury. During his student days he was a scholar at Rugby and an exhibitor at Balliol. While at Oxford he was president of the union, the highest distinction which can come to an undergraduate. He was captain of the college Rugby football team. Mr. J. R. Mott, secretary of the World's Student Christian Federation, in choosing Mr. Temple, has secured a man who, from the very first, should gain the attention of University men. The lectures and addresses will for the most part be delivered under the auspices of the Australasian Student Christian Union, but certain of them will be given under the direct control of the councils or extension lecture boards of the Universities. Adelaide University has already arranged for two lectures on "The Workers' Educational Association of Great Britain; what the British Universities are doing to reach the working man," and a similar series is under consideration in the other centres. Mr. Temple arrives by the mail steamer on Saturday next.

SCIENCE IN RELATION TO THE NATIONAL WELFARE.

Professor E. C. Stirling, who was last evening elected president of the newly-formed South Australian branch of the British Science Guild, delivered a suggestive address on the importance of scientific research in relation to national well-being. What would be the commercial value, he asked, of a discovery of a cure, or, better still, of a means of prevention of the various parasitic diseases that were liable to affect their flocks and herds and their crops or of some means of adding a couple of bushels an acre to the yield of their chief cereal? What might be done in the almost wholly undeveloped field of their fisheries and fish culture? Had they not rather seen the official want of scientific knowledge and provision that had led to the practical extinction of their once profitable oyster beds? That should act as a warning that, if they adopted or persisted in a policy which made the claims of the present paramount over the necessities of the future, the same would be the ultimate fate of their only river fishery. The solution of those and other problems would not drop like the gentle rain from heaven, but it lay only in the prosecution of systematic research by men trained to, and with the leisure for, work of such a kind. That was just the kind of service they should expect from their universities. In the University of Adelaide they saw an institution striving to do its manifest duty, but hampered by want of space, want of funds, want of men with inadequate laboratories, and inadequate access to literature, and by a great many regarded unsympathetically as an expensive educational luxury designed only for the rich. Yet that was just the work that was expected of and obtained from the Universities of America and Germany, and of some other Continental countries.

THE GUILD OF SCIENCE.

The newly-formed South Australian branch of the British Science Guild will have achieved a great deal if it does no more than awaken popular interest in some at least of the many subjects to which its attention will be given. To Mr. Foster Fraser we are indebted for the description of Adelaide as a city of culture, but while we may plume ourselves on the extent of the homage paid by our educated classes to the fine arts, notably music, it may be feared that there is still a good deal to be done before any general interest is created in science or in its application to daily life. In this respect we must plead guilty to the charge which scientists for years have been bringing against the inhabitants of other parts of the Empire, that it is difficult not merely to inspire in them a devotion to scientific research, but even to get them to see that science is not a mere academic abstraction having no relation to practical affairs, but something that imperatively demands the attention of practical men. The almost total ignorance of the man in the street as to the scope and aim of science never fails to strike the scientist as remarkable. There may be a good deal of ignorance with regard to music, painting, and literature, but there is at least a widespread taste for them, whereas what is called the "scientific spirit" is confined to very few.

The failing, as his Excellency the Governor pointed out in inaugurating the South Australian branch, is common to the British people, and distinguishes them to their own disadvantage from the peoples of the Continent and of America. If the defect in the British temperament did not exist there would be less call for the Guild of Science. For while, as defined by his Excellency, the functions of the Guild include the promotion and extension of the application of scientific principles to industrial and general purposes, they include also the diffusion of popular enlightenment as to the necessity of making such application. No great reflection is needed to show that unless popular interest in scientific processes and conclusions is aroused, there can be no hope of that public support, financial and other, without which very little can be done in extending the bounds of exact knowledge. The absence of such interest is the more serious because in any discussion of efficiency and Empire it soon comes to be seen that trade follows not so much the flag as brains, and hardly need it be remarked that science is nothing more than the application of brains to the pursuit and utilisation of knowledge. If the Guild answers its various purposes, as it doubtless will do, all parts of the Empire will be bound to one another in an organisation whose aim will be a more systematic cultivation of science than has ever yet been attempted. Foreign countries have leaped ahead because the development of their mental resources has been taken in hand by their Governments. History gives the stimulating examples of Prussia after Jena and of France after Sedan, whilst even more wonderful than these was the intellectual effort made by Japan to raise herself to a footing of equality with the most progressive of European countries. Here are cases where schools and workshops, universities and laboratories, have sprung into existence at the fiat, sometimes of Governments, and at other times of those captains of industry who have grasped the significance of the truth that knowledge is power, and have enlisted in their enterprises the energies of the savants.

What the scientists of the day can see clearly enough is that if the public purse is to be opened to the needs of scientific investigation the interest of the masses must be enlisted. Is there any reason why the democracy should not prove itself as generous a patron of science and the arts as French and Russian autocrats have been, or aristocrats like the Medicis in

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Professor E. C. Stirling, F.R.S., was on Monday evening elected President of the newly formed South Australian branch of the British Science Guild. Sir Samuel Way, in proposing him for the position, said the members wanted as their head a distinguished man of science, one who was practical in his thoughts, and who had the confidence of the scientists of the State and the whole community—a man with force of character and patriotic ardour. If any one stood out as the possessor of those qualities it was Professor Stirling. The Premier (Hon. J. Verran) referred to the professor as a learned man, who had done much for the community in which he resided, because he had not been selfish in his efforts, and instead of conserving his knowledge had been ready to give out of the abundance of his intellect. The Rev. Dr. Bevan said Professor Stirling's fame had gone far beyond South Australia, and the higher service he had rendered toward the intelligent and cultured advance of the science to which he was devoted was widely recognised. The branch could not do better than entrust its leadership to one so distinguished and so capable of filling the position.

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SCIENTISTS IN CONFERENCE.

Preliminary arrangements are now being made for the next meetings of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, which will be held at the Sydney University in January, 1911, and it is anticipated that a large company of members of the various scientific societies in Adelaide and representatives of the University will visit the New South Wales capital on the occasion. Mr. W. Howchin, the lecturer in geology and palaeontology in the Adelaide University, is the South Australian secretary. Professor Orme Masson, professor of chemistry in the University of Melbourne, is the president this year, and will deliver the annual address at the opening meeting on January 9. In addition to the meetings of the different sections, members of the association will have the opportunity of attending various evening lectures and entertainments that are being arranged, and there will also be a number of excursions to places of interest. In past years concessions have been granted in regard to the cost of travelling by the Railway Commissioners of all the States and the inter-State shipping companies, and similar arrangements will be made this year, so that members of the association will be able to visit Sydney at a small expenditure.

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Many in Adelaide will be glad to hear about the doings at Cambridge of Mr. Willie Bragg, son of Professor Bragg. Last March he gained a £100 scholarship for three years at Trinity College, although at the time of examination he was ill and had to do his papers in his own rooms. Last month he went in for part I. of the mathematical tripos, and obtained a first class.