

Register Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> 07.

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**BOTANY AND THE UNIVERSITY.**

As a result of the prominence given in The Register to the letter addressed to the Premier by Mr. Leavitt, of the Ames Botanical Laboratory, Harvard University, America, and of Professor Stirling's report thereon, one citizen has expressed a desire to do something to encourage the study of botany in South Australia. Upon reading the information published Miss J. A. Stuckey, of Unley Park, wrote to Professor Stirling for further particulars, and expressed a desire to give a sum of money to enable the University to encourage the study of this subject. As a result of the correspondence Miss Stuckey has generously forwarded to the University £500, and immediate steps will be taken to utilize this gift in the direction indicated by her. It will, no doubt, be of interest to shortly recapitulate the points of Mr. Leavitt's letter and Professor Stirling's report. Mr. Leavitt pointed out that there was no chair of botany in the University, that the Government in South Australia had not given any encouragement to the cultivation of botanical interests, while at Harvard there were four professors, two assistant professors, and several assistants engaged in teaching and discovery, and that the subject was considered of national importance. Professor Stirling emphasized these points, and called attention to the fact that there is no authority in this State to whom plants may be sent for identification, such as those suspected to be poisonous or injurious to stock, and that there is no one capable of undertaking the extremely difficult problems of the investigation of the nature, life history, and possible cure of that large class of disease due to vegetable parasites, of which rust in wheat and the various blights are familiar examples. Professor Stirling further suggested the appointment of a Government Botanist in this State, in which agriculture, horticulture, and viticulture are of such primary importance. At the University there is a valuable herbarium, the result of the work of the late Professor Tate. This was added to last year by a splendid collection of plants which the Government purchased from Mr. Oscar Menzel and presented to the University. The University Council has employed Miss E. I. Benham, B.Sc., to carefully prepare, mount, and classify this collection with a view to make the whole collection available, not only to students, but to others interested in the study of botany. Miss Stuckey's opportune gift will now enable the University to provide a laboratory for practical work, and a suitable home for the herbarium with which it has been suggested the donor's name should be associated in some visible way. If other citizens interested in this important subject will emulate the example of Miss Stuckey it will assist the University in creating a chair, or at least a lectureship, on botany. Following the example of Melbourne University the University teacher might also hold the position of Government Botanist, by which arrangement the reproach contained in Mr. Leavitt's indictment would to some extent be removed, and the systematic teaching and study of this subject would, no doubt, prove a valuable asset to the State.

**UNIVERSITY ARTS ASSOCIATION.**

**FIRST ANNUAL DINNER.**

The newly formed Arts Association in connection with the University of Adelaide held its first annual dinner at the York Hotel on Saturday evening. There was a creditable attendance of more than 50 members, and the President (Professor Mitchell) presided. Justice having been done to an excellent menu, the loyal toast was honoured at the instance of the Chairman, who afterwards expressed thanks—which was cordially endorsed by those present—to Mr. T. Gordon Robinson for the able manner in which he had carried out the secretarial duties.

Mr. Andrew Scott proposed "The University of Adelaide." Though not a real son of that University, he regarded it as a sort of stepmother—not the proverbial stepmother who was spoken of slightly, but one of the most honourable exceptions to that rule. When he went to Grote Street Training College in 1880, one room had emblazoned on its door, "The Adelaide University." It seemed then that the University was comprised in that college. Things had changed, the institution had developed greatly, and the University had taken the Training College into its heart. That accounted for his presence there that evening. The two essential departments of the University were firstly the professional staff, and secondly the students. Those present knew the ability of the professors. One grand feature was the large amount of original work which was being done by them. (Applause.) They, however, were able to take a part in the field also, and the two gentlemen who had been left to fight out the Adelaide Golf Club championship were professors of the University. (Applause.) The number of students had increased so greatly that the building which at first was expected to meet requirements, for many years had ceased to prove adequate. The institution had to be judged by the men trained there. He was glad that a high ideal was set before the students, and trusted that the prosperity of the institution would be as marked in the future as it had been in the past, and that theirs would become the premier University of Australia. (Cheers.)

Professor Henderson, in acknowledging the toast, said he regarded the students as the all-important body in the University. The institution was becoming a power in this country, and he felt that it was destined to become a much greater power in future. A half a dozen men could not make that power. It remained with those who went out and impressed their individuality and influence upon the people with whom they came into contact. There was no greater force than the influence of one soul upon another. If the University sent out people with ideals, individuality, grit, and go in them, it would be doing something to stimulate the life and develop the resources of the State. People in the country needed to be stirred up and made conscious of the resources within themselves. He looked to the Arts Association to do much for the University as well as for the State. It would move a lever that would mean a great force in the University and outside. He desired to see a healthy rivalry between the different schools of the University, not the rivalry which engendered bitterness, but that which urged men to exert their best efforts. (Cheers.)

Mr. C. R. Hodges, in the absence of Professor Rennie through illness, proposed "The Arts Association." A few years ago the students of the Arts School could be counted on the fingers of one hand. Now that school had become a power. While such capable men occupied the professorial chairs, the University of Adelaide would be second to none in Australia. An Adelaide graduate was never found looking for work. There were more positions waiting than could be filled. Applications from the other States always came to Adelaide first. That was a proud distinction for this city, and spoke well for the training the men received. He had been associated with the institution for nearly a quarter of a century, and had witnessed many changes, but never had the University been so prosperous as it was at present. The only difficulty confronting the council was to provide accommodation and all the courses needed. If any one present became a millionaire he might remember the University. There were other professorial chairs to fill. (Applause.)

Professor Darnley Naylor, in responding, rejoiced that the Arts Association had at last been formed. The associations they were engaged in launching, were only interim bodies, but they were to lead some day to far greater things than they could hope for in their generation. The great thing to be inculcated was that they were sowing and planting for the benefit of those who would come after them. Whenever he spoke he intended to urge the establishment of colleges in the University until he obtained them. (Applause.) Some of those present would make money—it would not be made by teaching—(laughter)—and it must come back to the University. An association like theirs enabled the authorities to deal more satisfactorily with the will of Cecil Rhodes. How could they send men of strong public spirit to Oxford unless they had this association to distinguish and foster them, and provide the material for them to work upon. Professor Naylor also outlined the syllabus of the association for the ensuing 12 months. The feast list was interspersed with songs "The foreword" and "The little Irish girl" by Mr. J. T. Barnes; "Plymouth Sound," Mr. G. Oram; "My little polka," by Professor Naylor; and recitation, "Dagobert the jester," by Mr. W. H. Ifould. The company joined in singing several choruses, among which was "The students' song."

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**ARTS AND SPORT.**

At the Adelaide University Arts Association's first annual dinner on Saturday evening Professor Darnley Naylor outlined the syllabus for the ensuing 12 months. "We hope to receive original contributions at all meetings," he said, "and also songs, which we trust will be ultimately published. This is an excellent idea. Some time ago the University of Sydney wrote asking for the Adelaide University's song, and we could not find one. I trust that the Arts Association will prevent this stigma being placed on the University again. (Hear, hear.) In the end we managed to secure a song, and it will appear in the Australasian songbook. I hope our meetings will be of a social character, and that we will be allowed to smoke. (Applause.) I would like the meetings held in the University. There are quite enough smells in Professor Rennie's room to justify smoking. (Laughter.) In the main the syllabus will comprise papers and discussions, and the dinner will be held in July. I heard by a side wind that there is every reason to believe we will get a cricket ground. (Applause.) If we get it this year, as I hope we will, I trust somebody will come along and finance it. We want to compete on equal terms with Melbourne and Sydney, and we cannot do that without first-class cricket and football teams, and a good boat. (Applause.) When we get them we shall make Sydney and Melbourne uncommonly sorry for themselves." (Laughter and applause.)

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Dr. J. M. Ennis, director of the Elder Conservatorium of Music, who has been on a short visit to Western Australia in connection with musical examinations, returned by the Victoria.