

NORTH TERRACE GARDENS.

"Admittedly" a Great Improvement.

At Monday afternoon's meeting of the Adelaide City Council Cr. Moulden enquired whether the Acting Mayor had any report to make in regard to the cutting down of trees on North terrace. Had any complaints been made?

The Acting Mayor—The Town Clerk has a report.

The Town Clerk said several enquiries had been made regarding what it was proposed to do. He had prepared the following minute on an interview that morning:—"On Monday morning, July 31, the Town Clerk and the City Gardener met Professors Stirling, Henderson, and Chapman, and the Acting Registrar of the University by appointment on North terrace. Professor Stirling asked on behalf of the University authorities that the remaining pinetrees opposite the University be not removed. He spoke in strong terms against the proposed scheme for the improvement of the North terrace plantation, and seemed to be under the impression that rockeries were to be formed along the whole length of the terrace. After discussing the matter with myself and having the plan explained to him, he agreed that the present lawns were in a disgraceful state, and a large number of the trees growing at present in the reserve ought never to have been planted there, as they were the wrong kind of trees. Professor Stirling, in reply to me, admitted that the planting of flowering shrubs and suitable trees, and the laying out of flowerbeds and lawns would be an improvement on the existing reserve. I decided to leave the two pinetrees opposite the University as requested, and at the wish of Professor Stirling, to remove several lagunaria trees which were in his opinion unsightly." Mr. Ellery added that evidently the representatives of the University who met him and the City Gardner had not previously understood what the civic authorities, in conjunction with the Government, intended to do. Afterwards they admitted that what was contemplated would be a great improvement.

Advertiser, August 1/11.

Conservatorium Concert.

The large audience which assembled at the Elder Hall on Monday night had every reason to be pleased with the musical fare provided by the students of the Elder Conservatorium, assisted by Mr. Harold S. Parsons. The director (Professor J. M. Ennis) had arranged a varied and attractive programme, and the applause with which the numbers were greeted gave conclusive evidence of the standard of artistic excellence attained. The concert opened with a quartet in B flat, for strings (1st movement), Op. 18, No. 6 (Beethoven), played by Misses Sylvia Whittington and Hilda Reimann and Messrs. John Meegan and Harold Parsons. Mr. Lionel Clark sang sympathetically "Life's Epitome" (Kenneth Rae) and "Glorious Devon" (Ed. German). In three pianoforte solos students made their first appearance, and each scored a success. The items were:—"Impromptu, Op. 90, No. 2" (Schubert), Miss Muriel Tucker; "Sonata in G Minor, 1st Movement" (Schumann), Miss Alice d'Arcy Irvine; and "Valse Posthous in E Minor" (Chopin), Miss Florence Stephens. Miss Gertrude Primrose James, who sang for the first time in connection with the Conservatorium concerts, created a favorable impression with her rendering of "Ave Maria" (Pastor Cooper). Mr. Henry Brose was specially well received in his pianoforte solos, "L'Alonette" (Balakireff) and "Staccato Caprice" (Vogrich). Miss Mary Roach was unable to appear, through illness, and her place was taken by Mr. Walter Wood, who sang "The Message" (Blumenthal). Mr. John Meegan found favor with the audience in his violin solo, "Adagio and Rondo" (from 7th Concerto in A Minor), as did Miss Gladys Cilento in her song, "When the Tide Comes In" (Barnby). Miss Hilda Reimann played the violin solo, "Romance in G, Op. 40" (Beethoven), in a style that won approbation. The programme concluded with a trio in B flat, and pianoforte, violin, and violoncello (1st movement), by Schubert, in which Misses Winifred Roberts and Hilda Reimann and Mr. Harold Parsons took part.

GOVERNMENT GEOLOGIST'S DEPARTMENT.

The Government are inviting applications from all parts of the Commonwealth for the position of Government Geologist in this State at a salary of £800 a year, and also for the position of Assistant Government Geologist at a salary of £400 a year. Applications must be in by October 15. Only if suitable men cannot be obtained in Australia will the invitation to applicants be extended to other parts of the world. Mr. H. Y. L. Brown, who will retire on November 30 from the position of Government Geologist, had no assistant, and the new position is being created in accordance with the wish of a deputation from the Adelaide University, which recently drew the attention of the Minister to the absence of a detailed survey of South Australia, and the backwardness of this State in that respect compared with the eastern States. It is understood the new officials will be engaged upon the making of a detailed geological survey of South Australia.

Register, August 2nd.

DR. MAWSON'S EXPEDITION.

The Aurora.

A cable message from London which was received during the week advised the departure of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition sailing yacht Aurora from the Thames en route to Hobart, where the chief Australian base will be made. At Sheerness Capt. Chetwynd (the Superintendent of Compasses for the Admiralty) will swing the ship, and adjust the compasses. Capt. J. K. Davis, well known in connection with Sir Ernest Shackleton's expedition, is master of the Aurora, and will take her from Sheerness to Cardiff, where a large supply of coal is to be put on board, sufficient to last to Capetown with the aid of the sails. After leaving Capetown nothing will be heard of the vessel until she arrives at Hobart, where she is expected about the end of October. She will proceed south about a month later. The expedition is fortunate in securing the services of so able a captain as J. K. Davis. He holds an extra master's certificate, and did signal service on the Shackleton Expedition. In the early period of the latter he held the position of chief officer, but was later promoted to captain. He holds a record in that, on the return from Sydney to England, when in search of doubtful islands in the far south, he sailed the Nimrod in a higher southern latitude during the winter than any previous navigator.

The Aurora is about twice the size of the Nimrod, having a deadweight capacity of of about 650 tons, a length of 165 ft., and breadth of 34 ft. She is rigged as a barquentine, and has auxiliary compound engines capable of driving her at 9½ knots per hour. In order to conform to shipping regulations the Aurora has been passed into the Royal Thames Yacht Squadron, and will fly the blue ensign.

—Scientific Work.—

Since her arrival in London extensive improvements have been effected, and she has been properly fitted for a campaign of scientific exploration. The whole lining of the vessel has been stripped, and washed with Jeyes's disinfectant, which was followed by relining and painting. Several new deckhouses for scientific laboratories have been erected. These include rooms in connection with the deep-sea dredging, a charthouse, photographic darkroom, instrument room, and so forth. Deepsea sounding machines of several types have been installed, including one to take seven-ply wire, which is extra safe when delicate instruments are to be sent down. Another important installation, supplied by Messrs. Bullivant & Co., is a deep-ocean dredging cable. This a tapered-wire rope, capable of sustaining a dead weight of 6 tons on the lower end, and 10 tons above. This cable is four miles long, and is mounted on powerful metal bearings. By means of this samples of the bottom and denizens of the deep ocean will be procured. It is expected that almost every specimen taken from the depths of the ocean to the south of Australia will be new to science.

Mr. H. J. Priest, B.Sc., B.A., formerly lecturer on mathematics at the University of Adelaide, who has resided for a year in New South Wales, has returned to Adelaide. He is about to leave for England and Germany, in order to do research work in mathematics and physics at the universities there. Mr. Priest was dux of Prince Alfred College in 1898, and afterwards took first-class honors in mathematics at Adelaide University. He was for some time demonstrator for Professor Bragg, F.R.S., who now occupies the Chair of Physics at Leeds University.

Register, August 3rd.

UNIVERSITY CHAIRS.

In the Legislative Council on Wednesday the Hon. A. W. Styles gave notice that on Tuesday next he would ask the Minister of Agriculture:—"In view of the work of the royal commission on the Adelaide University, is it the intention of the hon. the Minister to await its recommendation before sanctioning professional appointments to the Chairs of Agriculture, Botany, and Geology?"

Register, August 5th.

OUR ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

Geographical exploration has always strongly appealed to the sympathetic imaginations of South Australians. The possession of this vast continent by the British race is primarily attributable to the Viking spirit which prompted adventurous British mariners to steer their ships through unknown wastes of ocean in search of new territories. Following the acquisition by England of countries discovered, explorers of another type came to the front—hardy, brave, patient, and resourceful men—to open pathways through trackless wildernesses, and to bring to light the hidden mysteries of plains, mountain ranges, and water-courses. The records of the achievements, trials, and sufferings of the noble band of explorers in Australia will ever remain gratefully enshrined among the most sacred memories of the Commonwealth. In view of their indebtedness to such men, and their justifiable pride in South Australia's honourable performances in forwarding their missions, the people of this State are naturally much interested in all daring geographical enterprises which promise to yield useful results, and are among the warmest admirers and well-wishers of those who engage in them. An irresistible claim upon their practical goodwill is now made by Dr. Douglas Mawson, whose connection with the University of Adelaide constitutes him for the time being one of themselves. The exploring expedition which Dr. Mawson will direct in the antarctic regions will be the first of the kind initiated and prosecuted from Australasia; and, taking all the circumstances into account, it is desirable that the States Governments, in addition to the Commonwealth administration, should give to it substantial encouragement. Leading Australian statesmen and private citizens have heartily approved of the project, and the public have signified in various ways their hope that it may be provided with the funds necessary to ensure, if possible, the complete success of the enterprise. This State, therefore, should make a reasonable contribution towards the expenses of the expedition, and thus set a worthy example to its neighbours.