

methods employed. Hence it is with a certain amount of satisfaction that the promptings of those who occupy positions of special responsibility may be noted. There is no trace of a laissez faire spirit to be discovered, and time after time suggestions are made not only as to broad questions of general policy, but entering into matters of minute detail. Our leading educationists show clearly that they realise the importance of maintaining earnest effort through all the ramifications of the department, and do not hesitate to indicate instances where it is lacking, owing to discouragement or some other cause. Common justice, however, compels the acknowledgment that cases where adverse criticism is accounted necessary are comparatively rare, while, on the other hand, abundant reason is supplied for appreciation of the spirit and aims of the teaching staff. The following may almost be taken as a typical summary of the schools in a given district:—"The relations between the teachers and scholars were of a very happy character. The teachers were sympathetic and inspiring in their manner, while the scholars exhibited good mental effort, steady application, and a happy spirit of eagerness to respond. The discipline and tone were in a large proportion of instances in accordance with high ideals, and a gratifying standard of efficiency had been striven for." This pleasant picture is by no means exceptional, and scarcely any single feature is more general than the increased attractiveness of school life to children, which must in turn react on them to their advantage.

It goes without saying that to keep pace with the advance of educational science in our time the broadening and readjustment of our system will be a constant necessity. This is recognised in connection with the new Education Bill, the second reading of which will be moved in the House of Assembly by the Minister of Education to-day, and the subject crops up again and again in the reports of the inspectors. Greater attention will have to be devoted to the question of physical fitness. The result of medical inspection thus far has revealed the necessity for dealing with this matter more thoroughly than heretofore. Defects in eyesight and hearing have been ascertained to be much more general than was commonly suspected, and the importance of their treatment in early life needs no enforcement. The same remarks apply to dental troubles, and insistence on cleanliness is equally urgent. With regard to school buildings and premises, the questions of sanitation and lighting must be dealt with. The Director remarks that the schools must lead the way in dispelling the ignorance and indifference that exists in the general community. How much may be done in this way is suggested by the single instance of excluding flies—which are not only troublesome, but the carriers of disease from schoolrooms. In localities where the nuisance is apathetically regarded as inevitable, a fly-proof schoolroom would be an object-lesson of almost incalculable value. In a similar way the movement for forming school-gardens, which has taken strong hold of different localities, will have a widely beneficial range. As to the widening scope of the system, continuation schools, and centres for the study of domestic arts and economy, will have to be multiplied as far as State resources allow, and a lengthened period of tuition arranged for. With an excellent record for the past, there must be sustained energy and enterprise in providing for the future.

BRITISH SCIENCE GUILD.

IMPORTANT INVESTIGATIONS.

The first annual meeting of the S.A. branch of the British Science Guild was held at the Institute, North-terrace, on Monday evening. Dr. E. C. Stirling (president) occupied the chair, and there was a moderate attendance.

The report presented by the secretary (Mr. J. W. H. Hullett) stated that the guild had been inaugurated at a meeting on July 18, 1910. A number of subjects had been selected for consideration by the executive committee, which in turn appointed special committees to deal with specific subjects. The subjects which had been reported upon were:—"Rules of the guild" and "Physical culture in schools." The reports of the committees had been adopted by the guild, and a reputation had brought the recommendations concerning physical culture under the notice of the Government, who were now dealing with the matter. The subjects under consideration by special committees were:—"The teaching of ethics in schools," "Scientific nutrition," "The fish supply of South Australia—dealing with culture, capture, and marketing, and other matters connected with the industry," "Afforestation," "How far the science of eugenics may be applied to the improvement of social conditions," "The best method of establishing a sound basis of knowledge by extending the teaching of science in schools," "The best method of increasing facilities for acquiring instructions in scientific agriculture throughout the farming areas." There were about 180 members on the books of the guild.

The report was adopted. Mr. B. S. Roach (treasurer) presented the statement of accounts, showing receipts, £27; expenditure, £21; balance, £6. This also was adopted.

The president said after only 12 months it was not possible to report any great achievement, but the number of committees dealing with specific subjects would show that the guild had not been idle. Knowing the character of the subjects he would be sorry to see a conclusion reached too hastily. On the matter of teaching physical culture in the State schools the committee had brought forward a well-considered report, which had met with very favorable consideration by the Premier and Minister of Education, who had certainly been impressed with the importance of the matter, and the substance of the report. They could only await the result of the representations, and hope they would bear fruit. As a physiologist he was almost appalled at the boldness of the subcommittee which had undertaken to make investigations into such a subject as scientific nutrition. There was so much of the world's knowledge on the matter that was in a state of flux, and there were so many theories that if the committee could unravel the intricacies of that department of physiology he would be surprised and pleased. It was of the highest importance that some satisfactory conclusion of the subject should be arrived at, however, and no one would expect a speedy answer on the subject. The matter of the fish supply was constantly before the public, and they had heard of various proposals of the Government, which had for their object the improvement of the supply. There was every reason for desiring to improve the supply. Fish was one of the most valuable articles of diet, and one of the costliest. He hoped it would not be long before a report on the matter of afforestation would be brought forward, as it was of the gravest importance to the State. Lastly, they came to the subject of eugenics. It was easy enough to have hazy views on the matter, and to say there were certain individuals who were undesirable as parents in the community, but the difficulty of saying how far it was advisable to go was very great. It was impossible to expect clear-cut answers to such thorny subjects as the guild had undertaken, and it would be in the last degree undesirable for any ill-considered or crude results to be forthcoming, and that the guild should act upon such recommendations. He hoped the investigations being conducted would reach conclusions that would be of permanent benefit if they could only get them adopted.

The following officers were elected:—Patron, his Excellency the Governor; president, Professor Stirling; vice-presidents, the Premier (Hon. J. Verran), the Treasurer (Hon. C. Vaughan), the Minister of Education (Hon. F. W. Coneybeer), the Chancellor of the University (Sir Samuel Way), the president of the School of Mines Council (Sir Langdon Bonython), the president of the Public Library Board (Mr. W. J. Sowden), the president of the Royal Society (Dr. J. C. Verco), the president of the Royal Geographical Society (Mr. A. W. Piper, K.C.), Archbishop O'Riely, the Bishop of Adelaide, the Railways Commissioner (Mr. A. B. Moncrieff, C.M.G.), Mr. Commissioner Russell, I.S.O., the surveyor (Mr. E. M. Smith), the Director of Education (Mr. A. Williams), the Conservator of Forests (Mr. W. Gill), the president of the Royal Zoological Society (Mr. Simpson Newland); treasurer, Mr. B. S. Roach; assistant treasurer, Dr. A. H. Schulz; secretary, Mr. J. W. H. Hullett; assistant secretary, Mr. R. N. Finlayson; general committee, Professors Chapman, Mitchell, and Rennie, Drs. W. T. Cooke, Mawson, Holtze, and Palleine, Messrs. E. J. Bradley, E. V. Clark, J. Dalby, S. Dixon, G. F. Dodwell, H. W. Gartrell, T. Gill, A. J. Higgins, W. Howchin, W. B. Poole, F. B. Rushton, W. Rutt, G. Stewart, R. J. Hawkes, R. N. Finlayson, P. E. Johnstone, H. Laybourne Smith, and H. Gillespie, and the members of all the sub-committees.

Register, August 1st 11.

UNIVERSITY OVAL.

Cr. Lundie's Grievance.

'Enemies of the Workers.'

An animated debate was introduced at Monday's meeting of the Adelaide City Council regarding a recommendation of the Markets and Parks Committee that the University Sports Association should be granted the use of 32 ft. extra of park lands along the southern boundary of the University Oval.

Ald. Downs moved that the recommendation should be adopted.

Cr. Lundie objected to the proposal, although he was willing to concede sufficient ground to make a space of 13 ft. behind the football goalposts. He understood that that much was necessary to prevent play at each end from being dangerous, but he was totally opposed to handing over any more of the people's rights in the park lands to a body of individuals or a "syndicate." Col. Light intended that the parks should be for the enjoyment of the workers. There were men in the University halls, however, who were enemies of the workers. They had injured them by fruitpicking at "scab" rates during their vacation. Another consideration was that to give away an additional strip of land to the extent proposed by the committee would leave only one chain between the University Oval fence and the river. That would militate against any improvement scheme which might be undertaken on the north bank of the Torrens.

Ald. Isaacs said the extra 32 ft. proposed would not deprive the citizens of any advantage, but would make the University Oval better looking than at present. Cr. Lundie would not see anything objectionable in what was proposed if he could only disassociate from it the fact that students had gone fruitpicking.

Cr. Angus Johnson spoke in entire disagreement with the unfair attitude of Cr. Lundie toward those connected with the University, which, instead of being an exclusive "syndicate," as he implied, was in reality a most democratic institution, and a great leveller. The man with brains went to the top, no matter who he was. He justified the action of those students not in a strong financial position who wanted to earn money by personal exertion during their holidays. He knew a fourth-year "medical"—all honour to him—who lumped wheat during the summer vacation to earn the fees necessary to carry him on in his course.

Cr. Moulden said the whole trouble with Cr. Lundie was that some of the students showed they could pick three cases of fruit for every two picked by U.L.U. men. The council should not penalize a democratic institution like the University because a few of the boys had gone out and done a decent day's work.

Cr. Lundie (warmly)—You are a University man, but I'll give you three hours' start on a day's work at any time.

The amendment was not seconded, and the council—with Cr. Lundie as the only dissentient—adopted the committee's recommendation.

Register, Aug. 3rd, 1911.

NORTH TERRACE PLANTATION.

From Professor E. G. Stirling:—"As a notice in The Register of August 1 gives my name an undesired and undeserved prominence may I state that the whole-hearted approval of the scheme for the reformation of the North terrace plantations, which is therein attributed to me, is too comprehensively expressed? A more complete understanding of the plan in contemplation, which the Town Clerk and the City Gardener courteously explained to some of my colleagues and myself, certainly corrects some misconceptions, and removes some apprehensions which the operations now in progress could not fail to raise. So far as the general scheme, for which it is understood the City Council is responsible, intends to improve the grass and substitute more suitable or more ornamental trees and shrubs for many of those previously existing, to remove the wire fences, and to improve the singularly

stiff and ugly paths crossing the plantation—all this part of the programme should undoubtedly effect a great improvement in one of the finest streets in any town of the Commonwealth. But if the comprehensive approval which is attributed to me is intended to include a blessing on the grotesque and unnatural structures now in course of erection, which I understand are called rockeries, then, whatever little my opinion on the subject may be worth—and I at once admit that I am only an amateur gardener of a sort—I must respectfully state that no approval of that part at least of the council's scheme could possibly have been extracted from my remarks on the occasion referred to, except to the extent of expressions of thankfulness that these amorphous heaps were to be strictly limited in extent. I gathered from Mr. Ellery that this is a cherished part of the scheme; but I am confident that, if he chose to adopt the now favourite political device of a referendum on the subject, he would find about 90 per cent. of the voters against it, whether they were gardeners or whether they viewed the structures from an esthetic point of view only. Why, indeed, waste so much good stone where it is not required when neighbouring roads are so much in need of it? I do not know if the similar constructions that are supposed to adorn the St. Kilda road and some other streets of Melbourne have set the note for North terrace; but, if they have, I am surprised that they should not have stood as an awful example to be severely avoided. Such accumulations will, as one of your correspondents has pointed out, be a refuge for rats with all their undesirable associations with disease, and they will certainly harbour slugs and snails in abundance, as every gardener knows. In any scheme for the laying out of such a plantation in such a street and in such a climate as ours two factors, it seems to me, should be predominant—the restful green of grass and the grateful shade of trees. Nothing can be more appropriate than the comfort of the one and the dignity of the other. Though subordinate to these two factors, it will admittedly be an advantage if brilliancy of colouring can be combined; and why should this not be done by means of the many singularly handsome flowering trees that grow well in this district? It is only necessary to mention the Grevillea robusta, jacaranda, Cape Calodendron, Paulownia, Erythrina, and many of the acacias, to raise visions of what might be effected; and, if the Japanese make such a feature of their cherry trees, why should we not similarly use the almond blossom, which is equally beautiful, for similar effects? No doubt the City Gardener, whose excellent work we must all gratefully recognise, knows more about these trees than I—though I think he has made a mistake in the similar unnatural use of stones by the river bank, where a better effect would have been secured by grass slopes and trees—but the point for which I am contending is that, even so far as colour masses are concerned, you may get better, more conspicuous, and more enduring effects with trees and shrubs than with the ephemeral annuals—which latter moreover do not in Nature grow on heaps of stones. To the inevitable retort that such trees would assuredly be damaged by those who take pleasure in destroying the growth of years, the answer is that it is necessary to make these old and young vandals discover that the game is not worth the

candle. The public in England and America have learned to leave these things alone, and why should not the same lesson be learned here? It would be learned if it were taught. I have seen an unprotected bed of flowering violets close to the pavement in Fifth avenue, New York, which is passed by a million people in the day, and yet left untouched; and a blaze of tulips in an open square in Washington immune from the slightest depredation. Then, why not here? Then, again, what is to be done with those untidy people who eat their luncheon on the grass and leave their abominable litter of paper and superfluous edibles lying about? It may be justly said that the soil of this plantation is bad. It certainly is not good; but well-dug holes, with the addition of half the quantity of soil that now serves as the foundation for the stone heaps would give such trees as have been mentioned a good start; and all of them are hardy in this climate. In conclusion, I desire to make a final acknowledgment of the courteous reception by the Town Clerk of my colleagues and myself when speaking from the point of view of the University, and of his willingness to accept suggestions. The difficulty is that, with the broad features of the scheme al-

ready irrevocably settled, suggestions can only affect details; and, as regards the most obvious suggestion, which would be that the rockwork should be removed, I can have no hope that it would be favourably entertained. And so, I suppose, this horticultural monstrosity must be left, but let us pray that it be not extended."