



DARLING BUILDING, AN IMPOSING ADDITION TO THE UNIVERSITY, TO BE OPENED ON MONDAY.

The opening of this building by the Chancellor of the University (Sir George Murray) will mark an auspicious occasion for the University of Adelaide. The sum of £15,000 was presented by the family of the late John Darling to perpetuate his memory, and the result is a splendidly constructed addition, which will contain three groups—physiology and bio-chemistry in one department, and zoology and pathology. The building is erected on the site of the old police barracks, at the rear of the Museum, and will be officially opened Monday at 3.30 p.m.

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A VALUABLE GIFT
THE DARLING MEDICAL SCHOOL.
OPENED BY THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.

The splendid structure, to be known as the Darling Building, designed for the use of the Medical School at the University, and named in memory of the late Mr. John Darling, whose family contributed £15,000 towards its erection, was declared open on Monday afternoon by the Chancellor, his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor (Sir George Murray), in the presence of a large and influential gathering. One of the finest of the kind in Australia, the building, with its up-to-date equipment, is a most valuable addition to the University group. It accommodates the laboratories necessary for instruction in the various sciences fundamental to medicine, and will stand in years to come as a further striking example of what the institution has gained from private munificence. As was explained by Sir George Murray, in his address, the equipment of the laboratories was undertaken by the Council of the University, and owing to the continued growth in the number of students that body decided, during the course of building operations, to add another storey to what was originally planned, in order to provide more accommodation for classes in zoology, pathology, and histology. The anatomical section was also extended by the addition of a new lecture theatre. It is understood that the total cost of the building and equipment has been about £30,000.

Description of the Edifice.

The Darling Building is a handsome brick structure, consisting of a central portion, in which are administrative offices and advanced and research laboratories, and of two projecting wings, to be devoted to elementary teaching laboratories, and to the library. These wings project in a southerly direction, and thereby secure

a maximum of the light required for microscopical work. The locality chosen having a regular fall of about 10 ft., a terrace was formed at the level of the intermediate contour to avoid unnecessary outlay in footing walls. The building is thus approached from the front by a flight of steps and a ramp. The floors and stairs are of reinforced concrete carried upon a pier and beam system. The interior color scheme ranges from white, through neutral grey, to the intense black finish of the timber fittings. The roof is covered with tiles of South Australian manufacture, and the ceilings are of fibrous plaster. With the exception of a certain amount of steel and timber most of the ironmongery and piping, and all the glass and glazed sinks, the materials used were of local production. The library, which has a capacity of 24,000 volumes, accommodates the reference works of the British Medical Association, as well as the medical library of the University. It contains at present about 12,000 volumes. When the available shelf space has been exhausted, a gallery may be built above the stacks, and the additional stack space thus rendered available would accommodate another 12,000 volumes. Should this be also filled, the library could overflow into an adjoining room, which would provide a stack capacity, without tables for readers, approximately equal to that of the library itself. The ultimate storage capacity for books is, therefore, about 70,000 volumes. All the laboratories and other rooms give evidence of careful planning, with a view to economising space and facilitating the work of demonstration, research, and experiment in every possible way. In the centrifuge room the necessary electric wiring has been installed for an electro-cardiograph, which, it is hoped, the University may ultimately acquire. This, it is proposed to connect by cable with the Adelaide Hospital, 400 yards distant, so that records may be taken of the heart-beats of patients in the wards. These records will be forwarded to the physicians in charge for diagnosis.

The Lieutenant-Governor was supported at the opening ceremony by the Vice-Chancellor of the University (Professor Mitchell), Colonel W. T. Hayward (Dean of the Faculty of Medicine), and Sir Joseph Verco (Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry). The Darling family was represented by Miss Grace Darling and Mr. Norman Darling. Mr. A. F. Gardiner (a brother-in-law of the late Mr. John Darling), and Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Hill. Among others present were Sir Langdon Bonython, Sir George Brookman, Professor A. J. Perkins, Professor E. H. Rennie, Dr. F. S. Hogg, and

Messrs. W. R. Bayly, W. G. T. Goodman, W. J. Isbister, K.C., W. T. McCoy, and S. Talbot Smith (members of the University Council). Sir William Sowden, Sir Douglas Mawson, Mr. J. W. McGregor (president of the Chamber of Manufactures), Mr. W. Herbert Phillipps, several members of the State Parliament, and members of the professorial staff and lecturers of the University. The ceremony took place in the lecture theatre of the new building.

History of the Medical School.

In declaring the building open Sir George Murray said they owed the possession of it to the family of the late Mr. John Darling. The suggestion had been made to them by Sir Joseph Verco, who was then the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, that they should perpetuate the memory of their father by erecting new laboratories for the medical school of the University, and they had very generously fallen in with the proposal. (Applause.) The plans represented the ideas of Sir Joseph Verco and Professor Brailsford Robertson, and especially (he thought Sir Joseph would wish him to say) of Professor Robertson, who had been able to bring to bear on the many problems involved his store of knowledge gained in the great universities of the United States and Canada, besides a remarkably ingenious mind. (Applause.) The plans had been carried out most ably by the University architect (Mr. Walter Bagot). In its completed form the building provided accommodation for the following sciences fundamental to medicine—physiology, bio-chemistry, zoology, histology, and pathology, and what was of no less importance, for the prosecution of original research in each of those subjects. That the medical school of the University should thus early in its history be so splendidly equipped for its work was an extraordinary achievement. The beginnings of the school were as recent as 1882. In the annual report for that year there was the following paragraph:—"The great importance of establishing in the University a school in which medical students might acquire at least a portion of their professional training and knowledge has often engaged the attention of the council, and they have determined to commence it by creating a lectureship on human physiology. E. C. Stirling, Esq., M.A., M.D., has been appointed first lecturer for a term of two years." In the next annual report it was stated that 57 students attended the lectures during the first and second term, and that so large an attendance had more than justified the foundation of this lectureship. In the third term Dr. (afterwards Sir Edward) Stirling selected 12 of the most promising students, and formed them into a class for practical instruction. Sir Thomas Elder gave prizes for the subject that year, and in the following year made them annual.

In 1884 a great development took place, for it was decided to provide the first two years' training of a complete medical course. This was consequent upon an offer made by Sir Thomas Elder to give £10,000 for the endowment of a professorship in some branch of medicine. The chair created was that of anatomy, and the first occupant was Dr. Archibald Watson, who had held it until two years ago. (Applause.) Dr. Stirling had agreed to continue his classes on physiology, and Professor Rennie was appointed to the chair of chemistry, which was endowed at that time by a gift of £6,000 from Mr. J. H. Angas. In the preparation of the curriculum it was interesting to note that great assistance had been received from Dr. (now Sir Joseph) Verco. The old powder magazine in the corner of the University grounds had been turned into a dissecting-room, and, still standing, it bore the distinction of being the first building specially devoted to the use of the medical school.

Full Course Arranged.

In 1886 it had become possible to arrange for the full course for the bachelor of medicine degree. "This result," said the report for that year, "was accomplished with the assistance of the Government and of Sir Thomas Elder." The Government had diverted £800 a year previously provided for the South Australian scholarship, and Sir Thomas Elder had given £500 a year for two years until the whole income, to be transferred from these scholarships, had become receivable. A medical theatre and biological class-room had been created at a cost of £2,000, of which £950 had been contributed by the Government. The staff appointed included the late Dr. W. L. Cleland, father of Professor J. B. Cleland, the late Drs. John Davies, William Gardner, E. W. Way, A. S. Patterson, and Sir Edward Stirling, and Drs. J. C. Verco, M. J. Symons, A. A. Lendon, W. Anstey Giles, and Archibald Watson, who still survived. (Applause.) The first degrees in the case of students wholly trained in the school were conferred in 1889, the graduates being Messrs. Hope, Goldsmith, Lynch, and C. Magarey. From 1896 to 1901, owing to an unfortunate trouble at the Adelaide Hospital, where adequate clinical instruction could alone be given, it became necessary to abandon the last two years of the course, and advanced students were compelled to migrate to the Universities of Melbourne and Sydney. In 1901 the full course was again restored. An anatomical building and pathological museum were erected in that year, and a legacy of £20,000 under the will of Sir Thomas Elder, who had been so great a benefactor to the University in all departments, added to the resources of the school.