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The Rev. A. C. Hill, B.A., the incoming President of the Baptist Union, the annual meetings of which open at the Flinders-street Church on Wednesday, is a native of Victoria. He studied at Angas College, and subsequently at the Baptist College, and at the Adelaide University, where he graduated B.A. In 1910 he accepted the pastorate of the Jamestown Church, and from the first gave signs of leadership, and showed that



The Rev. A. T. Hill.

he possessed the qualities of a teacher and preacher. He went to the church at Goodwood in 1914, where he rendered valuable service until 1920. During the last two years he has been in charge of the church at Semaphore. Recently he accepted a call to Norwood. During the war he took office as a chaplain, and was proceeding to the front when the armistice was signed. Mr. Hill is one of the tutors of the Baptist College, conducted under the auspices of Parkin College.

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM
Advertiser 12.9.22.
A STUDENTS' CONCERT.

One of the most ambitious efforts of the Conservatorium students was the production of Dvorak's "Stabat Mater" and portion of Mendelssohn's unfinished opera, "Loreley," in the Elder Hall on Monday evening. His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor (Sir George Murray) and Miss Murray were present.

The "Stabat Mater" called for the full resources of the University Choral Class and full orchestra, the latter under the leadership of Miss Sylvia Whittington, A.M.U.A. The organ accompaniment to the "Stabat Mater" by Mr. Harold Wyld, lent an impressive dignity to the performance. Mr. Frederick Bevan conducted, and he has every reason to be proud of the response given him by the big choir, which was under perfect control. The opening quartet, with full chorus, "Stabat Mater Dolorosa" was rendered by the Misses Eileen Hancock and Dorothy Reed and Messrs. Sydney Coombe and Walter Wood. The singers entered thoroughly into the devotional spirit of the theme, and the number was an impressive one. The plaintive "Quis est homo?" was also well sung by the quartet. The full beauty of the chorus was not heard until the "Eia, Mater" was sung, and then the splendid balance achieved by the conductor was noticeable. Mr. Ewart Lock was responsible for the bass solo, "Fac ut ardeat." To Mr. Walter Wood fell the chief share of the singing, and in all his numbers he acquitted himself well. In the duet with Miss Sylvia Thomas, A.M.U.A., "Fac ut portem Christi mortem," his voice was heard to splendid advantage. Miss Thomas sang with deep feeling and expression, as did Mrs. E. Langford in the great contralto solo, "Inflammatus et accensus." The beautiful chorus, "Virgo, virginum proclara," was notable for the fine declamatory power exhibited by the choir, and the final quartet and chorus, "Quando corpus morietur," by Miss Thomas and Mrs. Langford and Messrs. Walter Wood and Ewart Lock, was particularly fine.

"Loreley," the unfinished opera by Mendelssohn, abounds in fine lyric passages, and no greater contrast could be imagined to the impressive grandeur of the "Stabat Mater" than this, the last work of Mendelssohn. Miss Sylvia Thomas realized the full charm of the "Ave Maria," and Miss Ada Wordie, A.M.U.A., in the finale of the first act, brought out all the lyric beauty of the music. There are fine declamatory passages also, and in these the singer displayed fitting dramatic force. The chorus again did excellent work in this selection, as did the orchestra, under Miss Whittington's capable leadership. The two productions on the one evening made an ambitious attempt, and it is tribute to Mr. Bevan's leadership that his ideals were so nearly realised.

RELATIVITY TEST.

EINSTEIN AND THE ECLIPSE.

The scientists from overseas now on their way to Western Australia all agree that, apart from the wonderful sight of the total eclipse, the main interest will centre in the testing of Einstein's theory, that there is no absolute time or absolute space (writes The Sydney Morning Herald). The main observation points on which the astronomers are now concentrating are Wollal (Western Australia), Goondiwindi (Queensland), Maldive Island (skirting the East Indies), and Christmas Island (Indian Ocean). The eclipse, commencing on September 21 on the north-east coast of Africa, will cut through the points indicated, and will terminate to the north of the North Island of New Zealand, where, however, only a partial eclipse may be seen. The scientists at Wollal will include Dr. Campbell (Lick Observatory, who is now on his way to Australia; Professor A. Chant (Toronto University); and Dr. R. K. Young (Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, Victoria, B.C.).

—Other Astronomers.—

Dr. John Evershed, Director of Kodaikanal and Madras Observatories, will be at Maldive Island. Dr. Evershed discovered radial movement in the sunspots in 1909. He selected the site of the Cawthorn Observatory in New Zealand, in 1914. The chief assistant to the British Astronomer Royal, Mr. H. Spencer Jones, and Mr. P. J. M. Melotte (astronomical photo-



PROFESSOR EINSTEIN.

grapher), of Greenwich Observatory, are already on Christmas Island, but the observers in Western Australia will be in a better position. Christmas Island will have only a totality of three minutes 42 seconds, while the totality at Wollal, which has the clearest skies and the lowest rainfall, will be five minutes 18 seconds. To the many definitions of Einstein's theory, Professor Chant, who was a passenger by the Makura as far as Auckland, has contributed his interesting quota. "In the ordinary accepted principles of mechanics, as stated by Newton," he explained, "time, space, and mass have independent, separate, objective reality. Einstein states there is no absolute time or absolute space, but that they depend on each other, and that the mass of a body depends upon the speed with which it is moving. Working from this theory, he predicts that the stars will be displaced from their position as observed when the sun is not in that part of the sky. It is our object to test if they really are or not. It is undoubtedly the most important unsolved problem in physical science to-day. It is purely a theoretical thing, but it strikes at the fundamental meaning of time, space, and mass."

—At Christmas Island.—

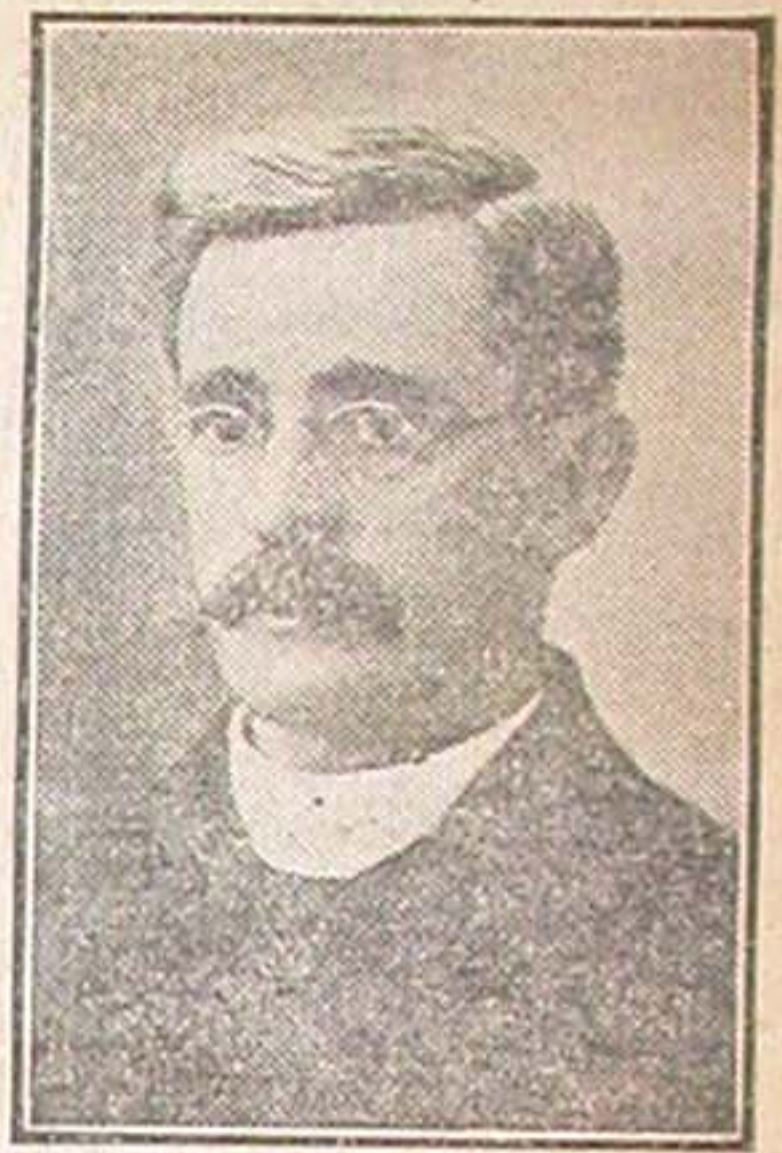
Particular interest attaches to the work of the British observers at Christmas Island, where it is expected Professor Einstein will join them as a member of the Dutch expedition. Mr. H. Spencer Jones, with Mr. Melotte, of Greenwich, arrived there on March 9 last from Singapore (a journey of about 800 miles), on the Phosphate Company's steamer, which at intervals of about a month conveys stores and mails to the island, on which there is no cable or wireless station. Two large object glasses for the double telescope were carried in hampers on the ship's bridge from London to Singapore. The chronometers which they took with them for providing the expedition with time while on Christmas Island were carefully selected before hand for their accurate time-keeping

qualities. On the island the errors of the chronometers will be determined from time to time from astronomical observations. Mr. Spencer Jones emphasizes the point that the effect to be measured is extremely minute, and observations of the greatest precision and highest refinement are necessary to be of any value. It is upon the measurement of small displacements that Einstein's theory hangs or falls. "One of the predictions of Einstein's theory, which has attracted attention since the end of 1919," he states, "was that when a ray of light passes near matter its path becomes bent; the amount of the bending is so small that the only body which can be used to test the prediction is the sun, whose mass is 333,000 times that of our earth. A ray of light from a star passing near the edge of the sun is bent, and this bending is revealed as an apparent displacement of the star away from the edge of the sun. But the light from the sun is so intense compared with that from the stars that it is hopeless to attempt to photograph stars near the sun in full daylight; this only becomes possible when the light of the sun is obscured by the moon during an eclipse of the sun."

—Standards of Reference.—

Sir Oliver Lodge touches upon an important phase. "If our world is moving through a stationary universal medium, it would be natural to refer all movements to that medium as the absolute standard," he comments. "Our usual standards of reference depend on where we are, and what we are doing. On a ship, we refer all our movements to the ship, and leave to the captain the settling of its position on the sea. In a house we go from one room to another, and leave to astronomers its motion, with enormous speed round the sun, as part of the earth. Or, if we are thinking of the motion of the earth, we can use the sun as a standard of reference. But it is known that the sun is far from stationary, and what exact standard to refer the sun's motion to is not obvious." His own view is that "we have thus obtained, from the work of Einstein, independent and unexpected, and perhaps as yet unrecognized, confirmation of the thesis that every sort of phenomenon, however simple, will be affected by the electric connection which exists between matter and the medium in which it moves." The controversy which has raged round this subject among scientists in the old and new worlds no doubt will be vigorously revived after September 21, whatever the results of the observations, but, as Professor Mitchell, of Adelaide, aptly put the position:—"The new knowledge has destroyed none of the old. It simply rises to a new height, and can look down upon the old, giving it a new reading, and making intelligible the parts of it that were obscure before."

The Rev. Brian Wibberley, Mus. Bac., of Victoria, who is to be one of the speakers at the Methodist Missionary demonstration in the Pirie-street Church this evening, is well known in this State. Prior to Methodist Union he was a minister of the Primitive Methodist Church, and succeeded the Rev. J. Day Thompson at the Wellington-square Church, North Adelaide, which had previously been made famous by the brilliant ministry of the Rev. Hugh Gilmore. After Union, Mr. Wibberley continued his pastorate at Wellington-square for some years, and subsequently was appointed to Moonta, and later to the Kenilworth circuit. His many gifts and his wide



The Rev. Brian Wibberley.

culture attracted large congregations, and his genial personality won for him many friends. On leaving the State he found a congenial sphere for his energies in Western Australia. At the Central Methodist Mission, Perth, he did excellent work for his church, and when he left for Victoria he took with him the good wishes, not only of the Methodists, but of the community generally. His literary gifts and his musical talents have been widely recognised. Mr. Wibberley's many Adelaide friends will be glad of an opportunity of meeting him again in the historic centre of South Australian Methodism.

Advertiser 14.9.22.
THE ROME CONFERENCE.

LECTURE BY MRS. G. F. DODWELL.

Professor R. W. Chapman presided at a meeting of the Astronomical Society at the Institute Building, North-terrace, on Wednesday evening, when Mrs. G. F. Dodwell delivered a lecture on her recent trip in connection with the Rome Conference, which she attended with her husband.

Mrs. Dodwell said they had been astounded by the huge telescopes and up-to-date astronomical instruments they had seen. There was an interesting observatory at Milan, and it was notable that it was from this observatory that the peculiar markings on Mars had first been seen. Great honor was paid to Galileo throughout Italy, and one of the most cherished possessions of the Milan Observatory was a picture depicting the meeting of John Milton with the famous astronomer in his old age. It was characteristic of the Italians and French that they honored foreign men of letters and science equally with those of their own country. The birthplace of Galileo was pointed out to them at Pisa, at which city they saw the wonderful leaning tower. Near by was the cathedral where the wonderful bronze lamp from which Galileo first obtained the idea of the pendulum, still hung from the central dome. The Italian people were kindness itself, and every conceivable arrangement had been made for the comfort of the delegates. The opening ceremony of the Conference was held at the Capitol in Rome on May 2, and on that occasion the King of Italy and the Crown Prince were present. All the delegates were invited to the Vatican by the Pope, who received them most graciously. There were 32 committees at the Conference, and a tremendous amount of detailed work was done. It had been of inestimable value to the science of astronomy to have the representatives of so many nations arranging for the co-ordination of the work undertaken. Before the conclusion of the Conference permanent committees were appointed to carry on the work. Dr. Baldwin, Professor Cook, and Mr. Dodwell were among the Australian representatives appointed to such com-

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THE LATE SIR EDWARD STIRLING.

A bronze tablet has been erected in the Museum to commemorate the services of the late Sir Edward C. Stirling to that institution. It is placed on the wall of the stairway at the entrance to "the Stirling gallery." The medallion portrait and the inscription are cast in bronze, and framed in oak. The name of "the Stirling gallery" was decided upon by the Board of Governors of the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery in 1919, when the following resolution was adopted:—"That, in consideration of the important and valuable scientific services of the late hon. curator of ethnology (Sir Edward Stirling) in obtaining and artistically displaying the extensive ethnological collection in the Australian court, the upper gallery of that court, which is entirely devoted to the exhibition of this collection, shall be known in future as 'the Stirling gallery.'"

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AWAITING THE ECLIPSE.

The Cameras Built In.

WALLAL, September 12.

The eclipse observing camps are rapidly assuming a businesslike form. The Lick Observatory and Canadian parties' huge cameras for the investigation of the Einstein effect have been enclosed in sheds formed of jarrah framework, covered with white canvas. These now appear quite imposing buildings. Work is daily being carried on well into the night time, as the adjustment of the cameras and spectrographs requires observations after dark. The English party—consisting of Messrs. Hargreaves and Maxwell—have excavated a cellar to contain self-recording magnetic apparatus, and observation will be continued there for about a fortnight.