

Reg. 17th Aug. 1904.

'Barrier Miner' 23rd Aug 1904

"THE SELECT COMEDIES OF SHAKSPEARE."

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURE.

At the University on Tuesday evening the Rev. John Reid, M.A., gave the third of his six lectures on "The Select Comedies of Shakspeare." In connection with "The Merchant of Venice" he concluded the study of the story of the bond, leaving off the day before the great trial was to take place in Venice. He then took up the story of the caskets. He showed with what admirable art Shakspeare had interwoven them, and made the author of all the complications in the bond story the means of bringing into view the character by whom their resolution was to be accomplished. By a whimsical device the father of the wealthy heiress had made it a matter of contention among the many as to who should obtain the honour of her hand. Three caskets of gold, silver, and lead, bearing mottoes, were to test the merits of the various candidates. Judging by appearances when one had no reasonable means of arriving at any definite conclusion was a risky thing in the ordinary affairs of daily life—much more risky when it meant getting a wife. Obviously the great lesson Shakspeare had to teach by this casket story—indeed, the all-important lesson of the play—was that in any crisis involving judgment by appearances the reason was far less a safe guide than character. In consequence the Prince of Morocco and the Prince of Arragon came to grief, one by his vainglorious pride, and the other by pride in his long descent. Bassanio, the impecunious Venetian gentleman, appeared upon the scene, and though he might have started with an eye to Portia's wealth, he had already discovered that her merits had asserted themselves to such a degree that his heart was engaged in the pursuit. He fell back then upon what the heart would dictate in the matter of love, his character backed him up in proposing, and he hazarded all he had for true love's sake. Consequently he won the hand of the heiress, who became the agent in delivering his friend Antonio from the meshes wherein Shylock had entangled him. Then came the great trial scene, portions of which the lecturer read and expounded. He concluded with a remarkable quotation from Heine as to the final judgment of Shylock. Then followed the moonlight scene at Belmont, and the happy winding up of all the complications.

The rev. gentleman was followed with great interest throughout, and at the conclusion of a brilliant lecture he was warmly applauded.

What the University of Adelaide is doing for Western Australia, to promotion of higher education in which it enthusiastically addresses itself, it should be asked and commissioned to do for Broken Hill, which, as a matter of fact, is as much cut off from University life as Perth or Fremantle or Kalgoorlie is. The gap that there is between the Barrier and the higher education that centres in Sydney could be, and should be, bridged over by Adelaide, and there is no reason why a thing of the future should not be a college in Broken Hill affiliated to the Adelaide University. That in which such a college would be included is a common arrangement in the Old Country; and certainly should the old world system of local colleges affiliated with a central University be adopted in Australia the population and standing of this city would entitle it to participation in it. In the meantime, it behoves us to make the largest use of the opportunities of education that are at our disposal, and which Mr. Hodge's present mission to the city sensibly enlarges. A junior examination in general education cannot be held here under the auspices of the Adelaide University until August of next year. The intimation of its occurrence gives ample opportunity for the preparation of candidates for the examinations, at which a very

large number of young people should present themselves.

And, then, there is no reason, at least no good reason, why the Adelaide University should not hold here senior and junior, as well as primary examinations. It is unthinkable that the Sydney University authorities should raise any objection to an arrangement which would so make for cheapness and convenience as that under which the examinations of a University only some three hundred odd miles distant would be substituted for those of a University nearly fourteen hundred miles away. So that the successful candidates at these examinations should secure certificates with the State imprimatur and authority it could, it may be presumed, be arranged that the Adelaide University should examine for and on behalf of the University of Sydney. The examinations in music of the Adelaide University do not conflict in any way with the fixtures of the University of Sydney, which, strangely enough, does not include instruction in music within the scope of its operations. There is, therefore, nothing in the way of the holding of these in Broken Hill, and it is to be both hoped and expected that when the University examiners in music come along they will find quite a lot of candidates awaiting them.

Of the extension lectures which it is sought to persuade the University authorities to make provision for it is impossible to speak in terms of too high praise. Their provision is the expression of a truly democratic movement, a movement for the bringing of the University to the people who are unable to go to the University. It is nothing less than a magnificent thing that there should be placed at the disposal of all the people, of the poorest as well as the richest, of the most distant from as well as the nearest to, the great centres, the knowledge and the talents of those picked men, those giants of learning and culture, which the Universities have at great cost retained to their service. And here again, if we are to be served at all, we must be served from Adelaide, which is comparatively speaking upon our borders, rather than from Sydney, which, metropolis and capital of our own State as it is, is separated from us by pretty well half a continent. Elsewhere, in the Old Country, in this State, in South Australia, and in Victoria, the University extension lecture movement is a great factor in popular education, and from Sydney, Adelaide, and Melbourne, men brimful of information and

with trained and cultivated minds go forth to spread the gospel of learning and culture amongst the people. Why should we in Broken Hill be without the scope of the mission of these apostles of light? Certainly, the fact that there is a University within, so to speak, cooece of us, able and willing to give us the most and the best of what we need, takes all value from the excuse that we are so far removed from Sydney that the lecturers that the State University sends out cannot reach us. If we cannot get lecturers from Sydney we can, and should, get them from Adelaide, the University of which has on its staff and at its command some of the most brilliant intellects of Australia. Learning belongs not to a State, not to a nation even, but to the world; and if we have opportunity of drinking of the sacred stream we need not stop to inquire on which side of an arbitrary line of State demarcation its source is. Nothing, probably, can be done this year; but certainly a determined effort should be made to arrange with the University of Adelaide for the delivery of a course, or of courses, of extension lectures in Broken Hill next winter.

Barrier Miner 27th Aug 1904

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION.

Mr. C. R. Hodge, Registrar of the Adelaide University, is at present in Broken Hill, in response to requests which have been received by the University Council, with a view of reorganising the local centre. Examinations were at one time held in this city in connection with the University, but the holding of these has of late fallen into disuse. The University, sensitively anxious not to come into collision with the Sydney University, refuses to hold junior-senior examinations here; but as the State University does not hold a primary examination, it is proposed, with the full approval of the Sydney authorities, to institute that here. The time for the examination this year has passed, and it will not now be possible to hold one until August of 1905. The examination embraces a wide range of subjects, of which only two, English (including grammar, dictation, and composition) and arithmetic, are compulsory. The entrance fee is fixed at the nominal sum of 10s., and there is no age limit. The examination, the certificate of success at which has a very definite and very considerable value, should become a very popular one. It is also proposed to hold examinations in the theory and practice of music in connection with the University. These embrace three grades—the primary (the examination in which is held in June of each year), and the junior and senior (the examinations in which are held in November). The examinations in the practice of music are held in connection with the Royal Academy and the Royal College of Music, London, are in five grades, and are conducted by an examiner from London, commissioned by the associated board. In response to inquiries Mr. Hodge states that it is possible that, if the University of Sydney is unable to make the provision, and, if sufficient inducement offers, the University will be persuaded to include Broken Hill within the scope of its University extension movement, which will mean that lectures will be delivered here by professors of the University and other gentlemen of culture and ability. Mr. Hodge, who is most anxious to give information as to the work and projects of the University, may be seen at the office of Mr. Justin M'Carthy, solicitor, from 2 to 4 o'clock this afternoon.

Mr. Hodge, the Registrar of the Adelaide University, who is now in Broken Hill, has arranged to be in attendance at Mr. M'Carthy's office from 3 to 5 o'clock this afternoon, and from 10 to 12 to-morrow morning.

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY.

Broken Hill Committee.

Mr. C. R. Hodge, Registrar of the Adelaide University, who last week visited Broken Hill with the purpose of reinstating here examinations in connection with the University, reported the very successful result of his mission to the ordinary meeting of the University Council on Friday.

The council approved of the appointment of the following as a committee to act for the University in Broken Hill, the gentlemen named having consented to act:—Mr. O. von Rieben (chairman), Inspector Fraser, the Very Rev. Father Connelly, Dr. Booth, Dr. L. L. Seabrook, Messrs. W. Wainwright (Broken Hill South mine), C. B. Marryat, B.Sc. (Australian Metal Company), W. J. M'Bride, B.Sc. (Broken Hill South mine), A. S. Clark, B.Sc., T. C. Greenway, B.Sc. (North mine), and Justin M'Carthy.

Several members of the committee are themselves graduates of the University.

Barrier Miner

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1904.

HIGHER EDUCATION.

THE visit of the Registrar of the Adelaide University, Mr. C. R. Hodge, to Broken Hill is to be welcomed, because it makes for that local application of the higher education movement which is so necessary to the better life of this city, in which, busy with our gaining and losing, we leave ourselves but too little time for thought, and where our painful isolation almost cuts us off from all of the various channels through which the life-blood of Australian education and culture flows. Mr. Hodge need, we are sure, have no fear of any antagonism on the part of the Sydney University. That University being itself unable to give us participation in the advantages which it places at the disposal of the majority of the people of the State—advantages towards the cost of the provision of which we contribute—is not at all likely to adopt the dog-in-the-manger policy of objecting to the University of a sister State shedding some of its light upon this very much benighted place. Surely there is in these federated States to be a free exchange of the information and the civilising influences which the Universities of the Commonwealth have at their disposition. The very best way, indeed, would be for the University of New South Wales to sink all parochial differences, for such are the limitations of the operations of the Universities of this and that State, and to conclude with the University of Adelaide arrangements by which the higher education needs of this city should all be served from the conveniently situated South Australian centre.

Barrier Miner 27th Aug