

FUNCTIONS OF A UNIVERSITY.

One of the most noteworthy addresses delivered in Australia by the late Viscount Bryce during his visit nearly ten years ago was that at a special congregation of the University of Adelaide, which admitted him ad eundem gradum to the rank and privileges of a Doctor of Laws. Viscount Bryce, who was then British Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Washington, expressed his admiration of Adelaide, which, in his opinion, deserved all, and more than all, that travellers had said of its beauty and charms. It stood on a rich, fertile plain, like his beloved Oxford, which, however, did not possess the charm of a mountain range running almost round it and holding within its recesses beautiful, varied, and wonderful scenery. "What a privilege for you," he remarked, "to have the opportunity so close at hand to commune with Nature in its inmost secrets! What delight it must be to be able to view from the summit its most exquisite lights and colors stretching down to the blue expanse of ocean in the distance! You are indeed to be envied in your surroundings." After speaking at length of the three distinctive types of universities, German, American, and English, he dealt with Australian conditions, pointing out that Australians were the heirs of a noble tradition of Great Britain—the tradition that the function of a university was not only to teach, but to form the characters of men. There was, he thought, a tendency to deify the study of the ancient classics, but he ventured to believe that nothing was more necessary than that a fair proportion of the people of to-day should cherish and be familiar with the masterpieces of ancient literature. Every day they were moving further and further from the man of the early, simple days, man as he was before he had passed through all that series of changes which had made him the complicated being he was to-day. The value of the ancient classics was at least as great as it had ever been, and, indeed, they could not really know and comprehend the modern world unless they had some idea of the ancient world. Besides the duty of teaching and the duty of research, the university had another great aim and object, namely, to hold up to its students and the whole community a noble ideal of life. It was said in the Gospel, "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." So a State did not live by material success alone, or by all the wealth and the fertile soil and flocks and herds scattered over ten thousand hills, but by the character and intellect of its people. And the highest function of a university was to hold up the ideal of a high and pure and noble life, and to teach its students, as the greatest of all lessons, the Love of Truth.

Dr. Strong, professor of English literature in the University of Adelaide, is publishing through the Clarendon Press, Oxford, a volume consisting of studies in Shelley and an Essay on Nature in Wordsworth and Meredith. The studies of Shelley's poetry deal, we are told, rather with its thought and symbolism than with its formal characteristics. Intrinsically, these characteristics are of the first importance; but they are less important for the purpose of the enquiry, which chiefly aims at penetrating by different approaches as far as may be into Shelley's heart and mind. In one essay it has been deemed necessary to discuss aspects of Shelley's character as displayed in certain episodes of his life. This has been done not in order to furnish fresh "chat-ter about Harriet"—or Elizabeth or Emilia—but solely for the light which Shelley's psychology sheds upon his poetry. In the last essay an attempt has been made to compare the thought and outlook of the two who of all modern English poets have seen most deeply into the heart of Nature.

Miss M. F. Proud, M.A., of Adelaide, who has been for some time studying in London under the famous educationist, Professor Adams, has been awarded the diploma of education by the University of London. During her stay in England she has been specially interested in the trade continuation schools, where girls who are learning their trades, are also taught English, history, economics, and other subjects. She has spent some time in France and Germany, studying the languages, and she may go to America before returning to Adelaide.

SIR ERNEST SHACKLETON
SUDDEN DEATH ON THE QUEST

THE EXPEDITION CONTINUED

LONDON, January 29.
Sir Ernest Shackleton, the celebrated Antarctic explorer, died suddenly on January 5, on board the Quest, of angina pectoris.
Sir Ernest died while the Quest was off Gritwicken Station. His body was brought to Monte Video, the capital of Uruguay, in a Norwegian steamship, and it will be sent to England by another vessel. Captain Mussey will accompany the body to England.
Professor Gruval and other members of the party will continue the work of the expedition with the Quest.

SIR DOUGLAS MAWSON'S TRIBUTE.
"I was very surprised indeed when I heard the news, remarked Sir Douglas Mawson last night. "The death of Sir



The late Sir Ernest Shackleton.

Ernest Shackleton is all the more surprising, of course, in view of his magnificent physique. He was a robust man, and possessed great powers of endurance. Sir Ernest was a fine upstanding man, but the tremendous trials he endured during his numerous expeditions no doubt strained the heart, although that was not apparent to the observer. Sir Ernest Shackleton was a most courageous man. He never thought of the risks he ran at all. That was his greatest fault, I think. He would launch out on any project, no matter how hazardous, and would carry it through if it were at all possible to do so. Owing to limited equipment and financial assistance his first dash for the South Pole in 1907-9, for instance, was most daring. In the circumstances it was a wonderful thing to get within 100 miles of the Pole. At that time no one had penetrated to within the same distance of the North Pole, although many attempts had been made during the previous 100 years, and it was a much easier proposition than the South Pole. Scott, who followed Shackleton, reached the Pole. He went farther than Shackleton, but did not get back. I was a member of Shackleton's expedition, and we were all amazed when he returned after his wonderful march towards the Pole. The little party just managed to get back, and then only by great good fortune. During the final stages of the journey Shackleton marched 100 miles without sleep. It will be remembered that Dr. Marshall fell ill, and had to be left in a tent. I was one of the party which returned to bring him in, and in spite of the great strain through which he had passed, Shackleton went back after his comrade. Such tremendous trials naturally play on the heart.
"Had Sir Ernest lived there is no doubt he would have carried out another fine achievement. During his second expedition to Antarctica Sir Ernest demonstrated his intrepidity and daring. The ship, it will

be remembered, was lost in the Weddell Sea, and the shipwrecked party, after being on the floating ice for months, eventually reached Elephant Island. From that lonely spot Shackleton and several others set out in an open boat to seek assistance for their comrades, and after a journey of 1,200 miles in Antarctic seas reached South Georgia. From the latter country news of the fate which had befallen Shackleton was made known, and relief was sent. To my mind the two achievements of Shackleton which will live longest in memory are his great march to the South Pole and his trip in an open boat for 1,200 miles through Antarctic seas. They were marvellous examples of physical endurance. No one knows now what will become of the Quest expedition. I do not think the original programme will now be adhered to. Lieutenant Frank Wild, who is second in command, has spent more time than any man living in Antarctica, and can be relied upon to bring the party safely back again, but he will probably not be prepared to carry out the full programme.
"One feels particularly sorry for Lady Shackleton. She is well known in London. I know she was much wrapped up in her husband and her two children, and it will be a great blow to her. There is only one consolation, and that is the thought that he died doing his work, which is a great thing for an explorer. To die in harness is the end Sir Ernest would have chosen. I do not think he would have cared to die in bed in the ordinary way."

PROFESSOR DAVID'S EULOGY.

Lanuceston, January 30.
Professor David, who accompanied Sir Ernest Shackleton to the Antarctic in 1907-9, was greatly shocked when informed of the sudden death of his former leader. The death, he said, was no doubt due to the strain or hardship of the present expedition, which had at last told fatally on even Shackleton's iron constitution, weakened, no doubt, as it must have been, by the terrible hardships of his three earlier Antarctic expeditions. By his death the geographical world had lost one of the most successful and intrepid Polar explorers.

AN ADVENTUROUS CAREER.

The sad news that has come from the Quest concerning the sudden and untimely death of the great explorer will cause world-wide sorrow. "Of all living Englishmen," Lord Curzon a few years ago said of him, "Sir Ernest Shackleton is best fitted to carry to a successful issue the feat of discovering what is hidden in the great white blank—whether mountainous glaciers or frozen plateau. The task appeals to the imagination as one of the few great achievements in exploration still left to the human race." The name of the late Sir Ernest Shackleton will live as that of one of the greatest explorers of the present era, and an enterprising and gallant leader, who fulfilled the finest traditions of the British race. His visit to Adelaide and the inspiring lectures he gave in 1909 on his return from the South Polar regions in that year are well remembered, as also is the warm-hearted support which he gave to his comrade, Sir Douglas Mawson, when the Adelaide scientist was in England arranging his expedition to Adelle Land. In addition to his successive expeditions to the Antarctic, and his labors in the interests of science, Sir Ernest Shackleton rendered notable service to his country during the war as Director of Equipment and Transport for the British mobile forces in North Russia during the winter campaign of 1918-19. He was born at Kilkee, County Clare, Ireland, on February 15, 1874, being the eldest son of Dr. Henry Shackleton. He was educated at Dulwich College, near London, and obtained his first experience of South Polar research as third lieutenant with the National Antarctic Expedition of 1901. In 1907 he set forth in the Nimrod as commander of a British expedition, which went very near to the Pole.
In 1914 Sir Ernest Shackleton, as the Pole had by that time been reached by Amundsen, and also by the ill-fated Captain Scott, began another expedition, the object of which was to cross Antarctica from coast to coast, entering the Polar continent from a base on the Weddell Sea, and emerging on the shores of the Ross Sea, at the same time doing scientific work of the kind that is usually carried out by Antarctic and Arctic expeditions. Another object was to give more accurate charts of the coastline, especially on the Weddell Sea side. Two vessels were necessary to carry out the programme. The main party, in the Endurance, under the command of Sir Ernest Shackleton, set out from Buenos Ayres in October, 1914, for the Weddell Sea. The little Aurora, which had braved the terrors of the ice-bound coasts in the Australasian section of Antarctica, when Scott's expedition met disaster, and when Sir Douglas Mawson conducted his scientific expedition in 1911-14, was to operate from the Australian side under the command of Captain Aeneas A. Mackintosh, R.N.R. This expedition will be recalled on account of the

anxiety that was created when news came to hand of a mishap to the Aurora, which was caught in a blizzard and driven from her moorings on May 6, 1915, while Captain Mackintosh, with five of the crew and four scientists were on shore. The vessel became locked in pack-ice, and drifted for many weeks. When about 90 miles south of Coulman Island she was heavily nipped by the enormous ice pressure, and lost her rudder. The hull was severely strained. It was not until March 14, 1916, that the Aurora got free of the ice. Her inability to pick up Sir Ernest Shackleton, as originally planned, was almost the only contingency not foreseen. The whereabouts of the leader and those in his party were for a long time unknown, and intense relief was experienced when eventually it became known that their rescue had been effected.

Sir Ernest Shackleton was a splendid type of Briton, eminently fitted by his strength of character and personal qualities to lead expeditions of the kind he delighted in organising. He seemed to have an iron constitution, and was possessed of great physical energy. A sagacious and cultured man, he had, among other traits, a resoluteness of will that carried him far in any project that he undertook. He was knighted by the King in 1909 in recognition of his Antarctic research, made a commander of the Royal Victorian Order in 1909, and an officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1919.
Sir Ernest left Plymouth by the Quest on September 25 last on a long voyage of Antarctic exploration. The Quest was formerly a Norwegian sealer, of about 200 tons net. She is 111 ft. long, with a beam of 23 ft. and a depth of 12 ft. The expedition, which was made possible by the generosity of Mr. John Quiller Rowett, who has done much for agricultural and medical research, and by a donation from Mr. Frederick Becker, was planned to cover some 30,000 miles through the Atlantic, Pacific, and Antarctic oceans, including a complete circuit of the South Polar continent. The route to the Antarctic was to be by way of South Trinidad, Tristan da Acunha, and Gough Island, where investigations were to be made with a view to ascertaining whether those islands are the key to under-water connection between Africa and South America; then on to Cape Town, and from there south to Enderby Land, on the Antarctic circle. Between Enderby Land and the Weddell Sea is a huge area of which nothing is known, and the exploration of about 3,000 miles of land and sea in this region was expected to constitute the most serious work of the expedition. On emerging from the Antarctic it was intended that the Quest should visit South Georgia to refit, and then proceed to New Zealand via Bouvet Island and Heard Island. After leaving New Zealand, Sir Ernest Shackleton had planned to make a search for the "lost island" of Tuanaki, and also to pay a visit to Dougherty Island. The homeward journey was to be made via Cape Horn. The Quest left England equipped with the most modern apparatus and appliances to aid the explorers in all those branches of science in which it was intended to carry out investigations, and a specially constructed seaplane was expected to help considerably in the important work of exploring the segment between Queen Mary Land and the Weddell Sea. While lying in the Thames previous to sailing the Quest was inspected by thousands of visitors.

Mr. W. R. Birks, B.Sc. (Agr.), has been appointed principal of Dookie Agricultural College, Victoria. Mr. Birks was educated at Prince Alfred College, Adelaide, obtained his degree of Bachelor of Science (with agriculture) at the Adelaide University, and his diploma at Roseworthy Agricultural College. He was in charge at Bobarowie, and other experiment stations until he received an appointment as inspector of agriculture in New South Wales. He enlisted, and left as a bombardier in the A.I.F. artillery, was promoted sergeant in Egypt, and obtained a commission as lieutenant in France, where he saw active service. After the armistice he was appointed to organise the section of agricultural education under the A.I.F. scheme. He took part in a visit of agricultural students to Denmark, and afterwards visited many agricultural colleges and experiment farms in Canada, the United States, and New Zealand. Since his return to New South Wales Mr. Birks has been acting as inspector of the western agricultural district in that State.