THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY; AN AUSTRALIAN VIEW

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The American University; An Australian View by E. R. Holme

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BY

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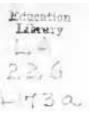


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INTRODUCTION

THE document that follows is a book only in appearance. It began as an individual private report, supplementary to a series whose authors were a Committee; and it was mainly written, as such, during a sea-voyage, without aid from a library and without thought of publication. The writer's intention was to furnish the Australian Universities with general answers to certain questions concerning American Universities; and to attach, in an appendix, much detailed information about particular courses of study, methods of administration and discipline, and the like.

A change of plan has been necessitated, however, by two considerations: first, the University of Sydney wishes to publish the discursive general part; and second, the writer has been too fully occupied with teaching duty, in an overcrowded department, to recast what has already been written. This seeming book is, therefore, mainly a section of a Report which was to present a preliminary survey of a very wide field. Large tracts of that field are not viewed at all; the rest is seen only in those aspects which are of immediate and general interest to Australians. Technical detail has, for the most part, been deliberately excluded; there is no room for it in a short exposition intended for University people generally, and for that

small fraction of the Australian people which has acquired an interest in Universities. Another opportunity may be found for satisfying the experts.

The form adopted needs this further explanation. It is that of an enquiry under certain prescribed heads not quoted in full. The prescribing was done in London during 1919 by the "Administrative Committee of the Australian Universities," which was a section of the Education Service of the A.I.F.1 attending to the continued education of University men who had been on active service. This Committee, of which the writer was Chairman (the other members were Captain H. W. Allen, Vice-Master of Ormond College in the University of Melbourne, and Captain E. V. Clark, Lecturer in Electrical Engineering in the University of Adelaide), was appointed by the Government of the Commonwealth, upon the nomination of the Australian Universities, and accredited to the Universities of the United Kingdom and her Allies. Australia was thereby represented in that unprecedented co-operation of Universities which marked the end of the war; and the difficulties of demobilization were partly solved by the general advantage taken of this educational opportunity by men of the A.I.F. All the Universities of the Empire were associated in the "Imperial Education Committee of the War Office and Dominion Forces." This led to an important Conference in London, at which it was unanimously decided that a permanent Imperial Education Bureau should be established to continue and extend the co-operative work begun by the Imperial Education Committee.

¹Australian Imperial Force.