PROFESSOR BRAGG AND HIS GIFTED SON.

AWARDED THE BARNARD GOLD MEDAL.

THE ATOMIC STRUCTURE OF MATTER.

News was received in Adelaide yesterday that the Barnard Gold Medal has been awarded to Professor William H. Bragg and his son, Mr. W. L. Bragg.

The Barnard Medal, which is awarded every five years by the trustees of the Columbia University, New York, is one of the most distinctive honors to which scientific men may aspire. How true this is may best be gauged by the roll of men on whom it has already been conferred:—

1895—Lord Rayleigh and Professor Sir William Ramsay.
1900—Professor Wilhelm Conrad von Roentgen.
1905—Professor Henri Becquerel.
1910—Professor Ernest Rutherford.
1915—Professor William H. Bragg and Mr. W. L. Bragg.

Nothing could be more appropriate than that the news of the bestowal of this great honor should have been received in Adelaide on Professor Bragg's 34th birthday, for that happy anniversary occurred yesterday. The medal, the intrinsic value of which is 200 dollars, is conferred for meritorious service to science. As already explained, it is awarded every five years "to such person, if any, whether a citizen of the United States or any other country, as shall within the five years next preceding have made such discovery in physical or astronomical science, or such novel application of science to purposes beneficial to the human race, as in the judgment of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States shall be esteemed most worthy of such honor." The medal is established by the provisions of the will of the late President Barnard, of the Columbia University.

Professor Bragg will be widely remembered as Professor of Mathematics and Physics at the Adelaide University. He married a daughter of the late Sir Charles Todd. His son, originally of St. Peter's College and the Adelaide University, is now a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and both father and son have won world-wide renown, particularly in connection with their researches into the properties of radium. In their report the committee who made the award pay striking tribute to the work performed by Professor Bragg and his son. They say:—

"Your committee have reached the unanimous conclusion that William Henry Bragg, professor of physics in the University of Leeds, and his son, W. L. Bragg, now a student at the University of Cambridge, should be recommended for the next award. The reasons which have led your committee to this conclusion are briefly indicated in the following statement:—

"The doctrine of atomism, foreshadowed poetically by Leucippus, Democritus, [illegible] Lucretius, and raised to the dignity of an exceedingly fruitful hypothesis by Dalton and the modern schools of chemists and physicists, is now approaching the long-sought stage of verification and demonstration. Since the time of Dalton a multitude of investigators have contributed continuously towards the attainment of this advanced stage, but progress has been remarkably cumulative and rapid during the past quarter of a century. The fundamental importance of the several fields of research in which the atomic structure of matter is now being established is sufficiently indicated by the fact that four preceding awards of the Barnard medal have been made for researches in these fields. But this importance is now emphasised anew by the recommendation that the next award of the Barnard medal be made to Messrs. W. H. and W. L. Bragg, father and son, for highly meritorious work in the same fields.