

PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY

Addition to University Staff

DR. A. K. MACBETH HERE

"So far I have not had time even to look round the laboratories," remarked Dr. A. Killen Macbeth, M.A., D.Sc., F.I.C., who has arrived to undertake his duties as professor of chemistry in the University of Adelaide, when seen today. "Therefore," he continued, "I had better tell you something of other universities. Immediately prior to coming to Adelaide I was for three years at Durham as reader in chemistry. That university is conducted on the collegiate system, as also are Oxford and Cambridge Universities, and was founded by a former Bishop of the See.

"Before taking that appointment I was reader in chemistry at the University of St. Andrews, the oldest university in Scotland. Some of the old statutes of that institution are still in force.

"For example, students are forbidden to shoot arrows over the college tower, and must on no occasion carry dirks in their stockings.

Quaint Customs Survive

"A number of the old customs still obtain, too. Once a term there is a week-end holiday known as "Meal Monday." In former times students brought with them sufficient oatmeal, as they thought, to last a full term, but it was usually found about mid-term that it was necessary to renew supplies.

"Then here is "Raisin Day," which falls on the Monday on which the bursaries or scholarships are paid to students. Any senior student may demand from a freshman a pound of raisins, for which he issues a receipt in dog Latin. This is supposed to be a survival of an old occurrence when students broke into the greenhouse of the principal and stole his grapes, for which offence the miscreants were each fined in terms of raisins."

Dr. Macbeth is a graduate of Queen's College, Belfast, and was on the staff there for several years. He also discharged the duties of acting-professor of chemistry for four years in that institution.

Impressed with Adelaide

"The Belfast University," said Dr. Macbeth, "is about the same size as the Adelaide University, and in common with the latter institution, is noted for its fine medical school. Belfast has supplied more than one prominent man to Australian universities. The names of Sir John McFarland and Prof. Osborn, both of Melbourne, occur readily to my mind.

"As I entered Adelaide I was impressed with the background of hills, which reminded me of those that encircle Belfast. I shall like your city. I have been treated with great kindness since I arrived.

"Later I hope to undertake research work on natural products. Much work has been done in the past in sugar chemistry and synthetic organic work."

Dr. Macbeth has published upward of 40 papers on scientific subjects.

REG. 25-2-28

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

Proposals for Extension.

Arrangements have been completed which will inaugurate a forward step in regard to agricultural education in this State. Land adjacent to Urrbrae, Fullarton, is to be utilized for an agricultural high school.

This announcement was made by the Commissioner of Public Works (Hon. M. McIntosh) on Friday prior to his departure for Canberra. It was known that negotiations has been proceeding between the University, the Department of Agriculture, and the Education Department for the full utilization of the magnificent property held by the Education Department adjacent to the Waite Institute.

Some years ago, Mr. McIntosh said, 1 1/2 acres of land was handed over to the Education Department by the late Mr. Peter Waite for agricultural high school purposes, and this area was increased by the purchase of an adjoining 20 acres of orchard land. During last session the Government was responsible for the carrying out of a measure for the promotion of agricultural research and for a grant to the University for the extension of research work at the Waite Institute. An urgent requirement of the institute was the extension of field investigations on crops and pastures. For this purpose the Government had placed at disposal of the Waite Institute 88 acres of the above land at a nominal rental.

Puting Land to Better Uses.

It was proposed also to transfer the horticultural experimental work from Hackney road to this locality and, that this might be done, approval had been given for the Agricultural Department to plant an experimental orchard. The Government realized that when the agricultural high school was eventually established, the land could not be put to better purpose than demonstrating by field investigations and experimental plots, the principles underlying horticulture and the practice of cereal culture and grassland management and improvement.

Both the University and the Department of Agriculture would be responsible for the cost of the preparation of the land for these field experiments and investigations, and for carrying them out; but the results of the investigations conducted on the area would be made available to the Education Department. When the agricultural high school was established, the staffs of the Waite Institute and of the Department of Agriculture would give pupils of the agricultural high school demonstrations on the field and on the investigational work in progress.

Mutual Advantages.

"The adoption of this scheme," Mr. McIntosh added, "will be of mutual advantage to the Waite Institute, the Department of Agriculture, and the Education Department. The students will have the benefits of tests and experiments conducted under the best possible conditions, and there will be no overlapping of effort as between the Education Department and the various activities at present conducting experiments in similar work. These proposals were discussed with Mr. W. J. Young (representative of the late Mr. Peter Waite) and met with his cordial support on the grounds that they would be furthering the wishes of the donor regarding agricultural high school instruction. The students fortunate enough to be able to attend the agricultural high school at Urrbrae when it was established, would receive advantages unequalled by any other high school institution in the Commonwealth."

REG. 27-2-28

Mr. H. S. Newland, M.B., M.S., and Mr. A. M. Cudmore, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S., have been appointed by the council to represent the University at the first annual meeting of the College of Surgeons to be held at Canberra on March 31.

REG. 27-2-28

Professor T. Harvey Johnston has been nominated by the University council as one of the representatives of the University on the Fauna and Flora Board in place of Professor Osborn, who has recently accepted the appointment of Professor of Botany in the University of Sydney.

REG. 27-2-28

The University council has received the nomination by the Adelaide Co-operative Society, Limited, of Mr Raymond Stanmore Turner for the George Thompson Bursary in commerce.

REG. 27-2-28

The council of the University has awarded the Elder Scholarship for organ playing to Mr. Norman Chinner.

REG. 27-2-28

Dr. A. Killen Macbeth, who was recently appointed Angas Professor of Chemistry, was welcomed by the council of the University at its meeting on Friday.

Professor of Zoology

Prof. Thomas Harvey Johnston, M.A., D.Sc., has filled the chair of zoology at Adelaide University since 1922. He read modern history for his arts course and specialised in zoology and physiology in science, taking honors in the former subjects.

He taught for some time and did research in pestology in stock and Australian fauna, on which subject he wrote a thesis which earned him his doctorate. Then



PROF. T. HARVEY JOHNSTON

he was appointed microbiologist to the Department of Public Health in Sydney, where for some years he had Prof. J. B. Cleland as a colleague.

When Queensland University was inaugurated in 1911 Prof. Johnston went there as one of the original staff to establish the department of biology. When funds were available he took the chair as professor in that course. Then he was lent to the Queensland Government as chairman of the Prickly Pear Travel Scientific Commission. He visited various warm and temperate climates overseas in an endeavor to ascertain methods of controlling the pest by utilising biological agencies or otherwise.

Later Prof. Johnston was awarded the Syme Research Medal and prize by the University of Melbourne. In 1920 he was appointed scientific controller of prickly pear investigations in Queensland and New South Wales. His work took him abroad again, and his recommendations are being put into effect by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

The progeny of insects collected on this trip are being transported by motor trolleys into districts where the pest rages.

Prof. Johnston is continuing his research in prickly pear and other parasites. He has investigated the blowfly pest in sheep and the worm-nodule disease in cattle.

He was born in Sydney 47 years ago, and his hobby is gardening.

REG. 28-2-28

UNIVERSITY CALENDAR.

The University of Adelaide, now well embarked on its second half-century, has grown from the modest foundation with four "chairs" to a great concern with 19 professors and over 60 lecturers, besides the 20 teachers in the adjoining and allied Elder Conservatorium of Music. Last year it had more than 1300 students of one kind or another. Its calendar just to hand (W. K. Thomas & Co., publishers) is a bulky volume of 600 pages; and this although masses of information about examinations of all kinds, and about the Conservatorium, have been relegated to separate smaller volumes, four in number. There remains quite enough matter; for example, the list of graduates, including diploma takers, has now swelled to 57 closely printed double-column pages. The annual report for 1927 is of unusual interest. It chronicles the degree conferred upon the Duke of York—as formerly upon his father and his elder brother. It mentions the existence of a new St. Andrew's in competition with St. Mark's, which hitherto has had monopoly as residential college. It records the splendid gift of £20,000 by Mr. Barr Smith for the housing of the library whose existence is mainly due to the generosity of members of the same family. Mr. John Melrose, too, gave £10,000 for the chemical laboratory of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute at Urrbrae. This suburban estate, which at one time looked like being something of the proverbial "white elephant," has taken hold of the public imagination, and generously helped by gifts in cash and kind is already doing fine work. Way-back Koonamore is also yielding results in the observation of Australian fauna in the natural state. Extension of the University site northward continues steadily. With the recent Government transfer of nearly six acres, the plunge downhill has been taken. Entrance from Kintore avenue, and eventually from Victoria drive, will be possible. The Students' Union building is already taking shape in the flat. The women's part, made a

practical issue by the £10,000 gift of Sir Josiah and Lady Symon, and the refectory, should both be opened before this year is out. The Barr Smith Library is to be near them, but "the council is still without a suitable site for the great hall" for which in 1930 Sir Langdon Bonython's fine gift of £40,000 comes due. Changes in council and staff have been serious of late. Judge Poole, Warden of Senate, and Professor Rennie, first and only holder of the Chair of Chemistry, passed away, and are succeeded respectively by Judge Parsons and Dr. Macbeth (just arrived). Professor Wood Jones resigned, and is succeeded by Dr. Woollard. The gaps left by the resignation of Professors Darnley Naylor—gone to England—and Osborn—moved on to a similar chair in Sydney—have not yet officially been filled. Mr. Clive Carey, too, will be greatly missed from the Conservatorium. The Council of the University is a strong body of citizens numbering 25, with, latterly, a marked inclination to medical men. At its head, as every one knows, are Chancellor Sir George Murray and Vice-Chancellor Mitchell, who became "Sir William" during the year—a well-deserved recognition of good service over a long term of years. The University, and the community in general, are fortunate in finding so large and varied a selection of keen intellects to take on this onerous guardianship without material reward of any kind.

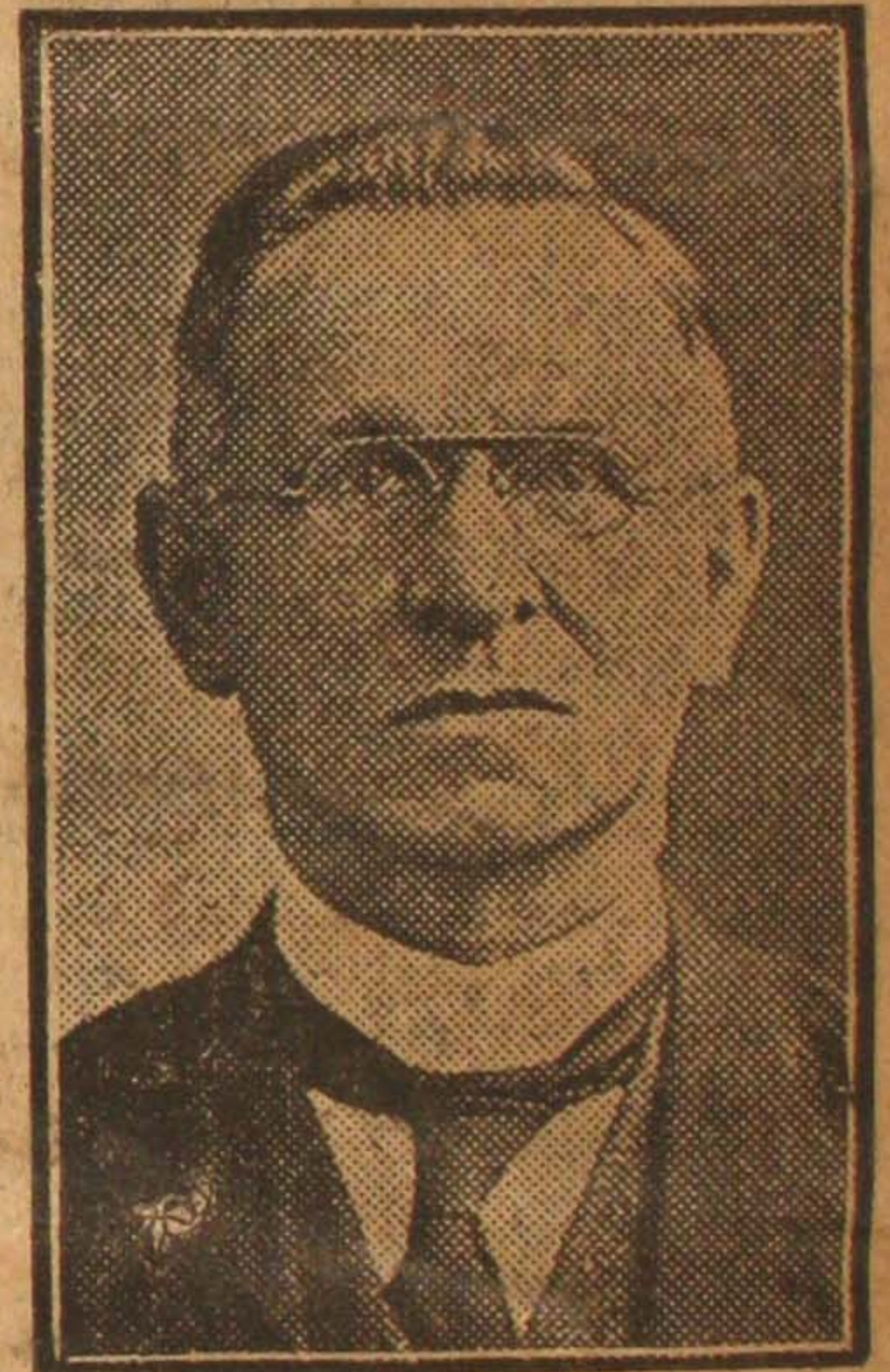
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A FINE MUSICIAN.

THE OLDEST MEMBER OF THE ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

Mr. I. G. Reimann, Acting Director of the Elder Conservatorium, has just completed a term of thirty years of service at that institution. He is the only original member still on the staff.

In 1897 Sir Thomas Elder left £20,000 to the University of Adelaide for the purpose of endowing a Chair of Music. There



Mr. I. G. Reimann.

was already a Chair for Music in existence in Adelaide, which was supported by private subscription, the occupant of that chair being Professor Ives. On receipt of this sum of money by the University the question arose, what should be done with it. It was decided to send Professor Ives to England to consult with leading musical authorities there. This was done, and towards the end of 1897 he returned, and on receiving his report the University Council decided to establish a Conservatorium of Music in addition to the chair.

Mr. Reimann, as a private individual, had established the Adelaide College of Music in Wakefield-street in 1883, which college will be well remembered by many of the older citizens of Adelaide. By degrees it became a flourishing institution. There was a large staff of imported teachers at this college, and a roll of 250 students. The chief members of the staff under the director (Mr. I. G. Reimann) were Messrs. H. Heinicke (violin), H. Kugelberg (cello), Albert Fairbairn and Miss Guli Hack (now Mrs. W. Magarey) (vocal), and Mr. John Dunn (piano). Besides these there were four elementary teachers. It was at this time when the college was flourishing, that Sir Thomas Elder's legacy came to the University, and the University approached Mr. Reimann with a view to merging his institution with the Conservatorium that they intended establishing. Mr. Reimann enthusiastically agreed, and the whole of the staff of his college was taken over, together with pianos and furniture.

The Elder Conservatorium was established in 1898, and the institution was carried on for two years on the premises of the old Adelaide College of Music.