

CANCER RESEARCH.

Radium for Adelaide.

Loan from Commonwealth.

The Chief Secretary (Hon. H. Tassie) has approved of the Board of the Adelaide Hospital agreeing with the Commonwealth Government for the latter to make available for the use of the hospital a quantity of radium, on loan, for cancer research and treatment.

The Minister explained on Thursday that the offer was the tentative one to which he referred in a statement on the previous day. Under it the Commonwealth would supply the radium for a temporary period on less onerous conditions than were attached to the original offer (which involved so large an expenditure that the Government had been unable to comply with them). The board would be responsible for the safe keeping of the radium. It was hoped by the Government that during the period of the loan there would be such developments in the whole matter in Adelaide as to enable the scope of the use of the radium to be considerably extended.

Loan and a Research Committee.

The Inspector-General of Hospitals (Dr. B. H. Morris), when questioned on the subject, said that an agreement was being entered into by the Board of the Adelaide Hospital with the Federal Government for the custody and use of the radium subject to certain conditions. It would be used in the treatment of cancer and allied diseases, and for other purposes, including research work, and would be under the control of the board. The radium would be placed in the special charge of an officer appointed for the purpose. As the radium would be made available coincident with the establishment of a research committee on cancer, it would be subject to specified conditions for that purpose. That had been done in other centres of the Commonwealth. Facilities for research would be provided on a scale previously not possible. Dr. Burrows, of the Commonwealth Department of Health, would visit Adelaide and supervise the initial stages of the establishment of the clinic.

REG. 20.7.28
INTERNATIONAL DEBATES

American 'Varsity Team's Visit.

In a few days the Adelaide University will receive a visit from the debating team of Bates College, Maine, U.S.A. Debates will take place on Saturday, July 28, and Monday, July 30, at the Institute Hall, North terrace, between the American and the Adelaide team.



MR. M. L. AMES,
Leader of the American team.

Bates College, one of the smaller American universities, makes debating its chief activity, and has had a brilliant record in debates with other American universities. It has won 85 out of 103 such debates, in each case by a vote of the judges on the merits of the teams, and not the question. These contests include victories over the universities of California, Columbia, Colgate, Yale, and Toronto. Advice from Sydney indicates that the present team compares favourably with the English team which was here two years ago.



MR. J. F. DAVIS.

The present "Bates Around-the-World Debating Team" will visit Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, Italy, Switzerland, France, and England, and in each country a series of debates will be held with the local universities on a large variety of topical subjects. The team comprises Messrs. M. L. Ames, J. F. Davis, and C. H. Guptill. Mr. Ames, the leader, has had a great debating record. He was adjudged the best speaker in the Bates High School Debating League, of about 50 schools, and gained a place in the Bates debating team as a freshman—an unusual feat. Mr. Davis (whose father is chairman of the United States Senate Committee on Naval Affairs) has an equally good record. His main interests are literary, legal, and political. Mr. Guptill is good all round, for he has recently been selected as Bates candidate for the Rhodes Scholarship from Maine. His chief diversions are politics and the drama.



MR. G. H. GUPTILL.

In Adelaide the team will stay at St. Mark's College, and its members will be entertained by the English Speaking Union.

The Adelaide team will consist of Messrs. S. Pick, F. W. Mitchell, and S. H. Mayes, all of whom have had wide experience in debating. Sir Archibald Strong will preside at the first debate, and His Honor Mr. Justice Angus Parsons at the second. On the Saturday evening Adelaide will affirm "that efficiency has become a deplorable fetish in modern life," and on the Monday the Bates team will affirm "that the so-called emancipation of women has not been in the best interests of civilization."

Professor Woollard on the Unfit.

Sir—One or two passages in the report of Professor Woollard's lecture at the Adelaide University invite comment. On the subject of the sterilization of the feeble-minded, Professor Woollard said if this course were followed "it would take 60 generations to reduce the rate of feeble-mindedness from one in a thousand to one in ten thousand." The lecturer contended that the feeble-minded turned up sporadically in good families. The reasons, or some of them, were given. If the conclusions really are based on Mendelian laws, as qualified or enlarged by later researches, the layman will be puzzled to know why so many scientific thinkers, some of world-wide repute, believe that the mental defective in the vast majority of cases inherits his shortcoming.

While the professor appears to admit the inheritance, both parents must have the gene. One is almost driven to accept a French dictum to the effect that each is capable of all. Either a particular gene is much more widely distributed than is generally supposed, or calculations alleged to be based on Mendelian laws are not beyond criticism. It would be helpful if the professor could explain, as doubtless he can. The subject is of profound importance. Not only mental defectives but other classes are commonly thought of as unsuitable parents—and that without reference to the qualities of the possible future partner. In an article which I wrote for the Economic Record (May, 1927) on the subject of "Economic Welfare and Racial Vitality," I expressed the belief that most authoritative scientific and medical opinion would probably agree in holding that the sterilization or segregation of mental defectives, habitual criminals, habitual drunkards, &c., would be an inestimable gain to the race.

Professor Woollard concedes that there is nothing to be said against "persuasive eugenics." The expression impels me to envisage the professor devoting a vacation to persuading undesirables not to marry. "You are a man and have a right to live. But you ought not to marry. I know the thing is done. But, really, you mustn't." I think the experience might induce the professor to adopt a kinder attitude towards the milder forms of statutory enforcement being attempted in various countries. I believe the New Zealand Parliament is engaged at present in the preparation of a Bill.

Despite apparent carpings, I express the opinion that the public owes a great debt to Professor Woollard for his lecture. He brings before us grave matters, too often left in the background though vitally affecting the national welfare.—I am, Sir, &c.,

W. JETHRO BROWN.

REG. 21.7.28
GRAZING RESEARCH WORK.

The Minister of Education (Hon. M. McIntosh) said on Friday that recently the Government decided that the Waite Agricultural Research Institute should be allowed to use for a term of years approximately 100 acres of the area at Urrbrae given to the Education Department by the late Mr. Waite for an agricultural high school. He had now approved of about 15 acres of grazing land south of the orchard adjoining the above area being leased to the University of Adelaide on a monthly tenancy for supplementing the grazing investigations being undertaken by the Waite Institute.

ADV. 23.7.28
CANCER RESEARCH COMMITTEE.

Nearly all the proposed members of the local Cancer Treatment and Research Committee have consented to act, and the Registrar of the University (Mr. F. W. Eardley), who is a convener, has arranged for a meeting this week. The committee will arrange with the Commonwealth Department of Health and the Adelaide Hospital authorities for supervision of cancer treatment under the scheme laid down at the Melbourne conference of the Cancer Advisory Committee, and will co-operate with Dr. Burrows, the English expert, in arranging post-graduate work and other activities. It will also take steps to raise funds for equipment and research work, and to educate the public on the urgency of the problem.

Last of Exhibition Promoters

The recently expressed desire of the University authorities to secure possession of the Jubilee Exhibition building and grounds reminds one that of the 47 personal promoters of the great exposition held in Adelaide in 1887 Mr. S. Talbot Smith is the sole survivor. The exhibition was a success financially and in every



MR. S. TALBOT SMITH
sole survivor among the 47 personal promoters of Adelaide Jubilee Exhibition.

other way, and the guarantors had no vain regrets. It was attended by 789,672 people, although the population of South Australia at the time was only 310,000.

Mr. Smith is a son of the late Sir Edwin Smith. He is president of the Public Library Board, and also occupies a seat on the Council of the University. The writer has in his possession a photograph showing Mr. Smith as a member of the first Adelaide lacrosse team, formed in 1886. Among his colleagues in the group who are still in the land of the living are Sir William H. Bragg and Mr. Lloyd Prince.

NEWS 24.7.28



MR. R. L. ROBINSON, O.B.E., B.A., B.Sc.

technical commissioner of the British Forestry Commission, who will attend the Imperial Forestry Conference in Canberra next month. Mr. Robinson is a South Australian, and was a Rhodes scholar.

REG. 20.7.28

The appointment of Dr. Raphael West Cilento (Director of the Australian Institute of Tropical Medicine at Townsville) as Chief Quarantine Officer and Director of the Division of Tropical Hygiene in Queensland, vice J. S. C. Elkington, resigned, is announced in The Commonwealth Gazette this week. The salary is £1,250 a year.