

ANCIENT AND MODERN AGRICULTURE.

CANCER MENACE

THE UNIVERSITY OVAL.

Campaign in Adelaide

NEW LEASE APPROVED.

MEETING OF RATEPAYERS.

Address to the Rotary Club.

Professor A. E. V. Richardson (Director of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute) delivered a valuable address at the weekly luncheon of the Rotary Club, held at The Grosvenor on Friday. There was a large attendance, and Mr. J. H. Burgess occupied the chair. Professor Richardson took as his subject, "Ancient and Modern Agriculture." He said that the classical writers had left behind them a mass of literature which enabled one to formulate, with reasonable precision, the practices in vogue in the Mediterranean region 2,000 years ago, and the philosophy on which such practices were based. Among the more important ancient writers on agriculture were Mago, the Carthaginian, and the Roman writers, Cato, Varro, Virgil, Columella, Pliny, and Palladius. Mago's works were particularly valuable, and dealt with the preparation of the land, sowing, harvesting and marketing of cereals, vines and fruits; the feeding and rearing of stock, and the making out of production costs for the year.

To enlighten the people regarding cancer a campaign is to be opened in Adelaide on Thursday. Its aims and objects were explained today by Dr. A. A. Lendon (chairman of the Cancer Treatment Research Committee).

He said that the aims and objects of the campaign were threefold—educational, therapeutic, and preventive. It was necessary to awaken the public to certain facts about cancer, its nature, and, above all, its curability if detected early, and to improve and reinforce the available means of treatment and to test all suggested or alleged cures. In regard to prevention it was necessary to make investigations which might lead to the cause of malignant diseases generally.

Aim at £50,000

Dr. Lendon said that the Federal Government had purchased 10 grammes of radium at a cost of £100,000, which was to be loaned to the States willing to accept a loan on certain terms. Conditions imposed were that the States which accepted the radium were expected to raise a certain amount. Queensland had raised £37,000, and aimed at £60,000. New South Wales £130,000, and if £5,000 was raised in South Australia the Government had promised to subsidise the amount pound for pound. It was hoped that the Commonwealth Government would do the same. South Australia should aim at getting £50,000 at least.

Questioned in regard to the manner in which the campaign was to be conducted, Dr. Lendon said that at the meeting to be held on Thursday a cancer treatment and research centre would be established at the University under the control of the University Council.

Strong Committee Appointed

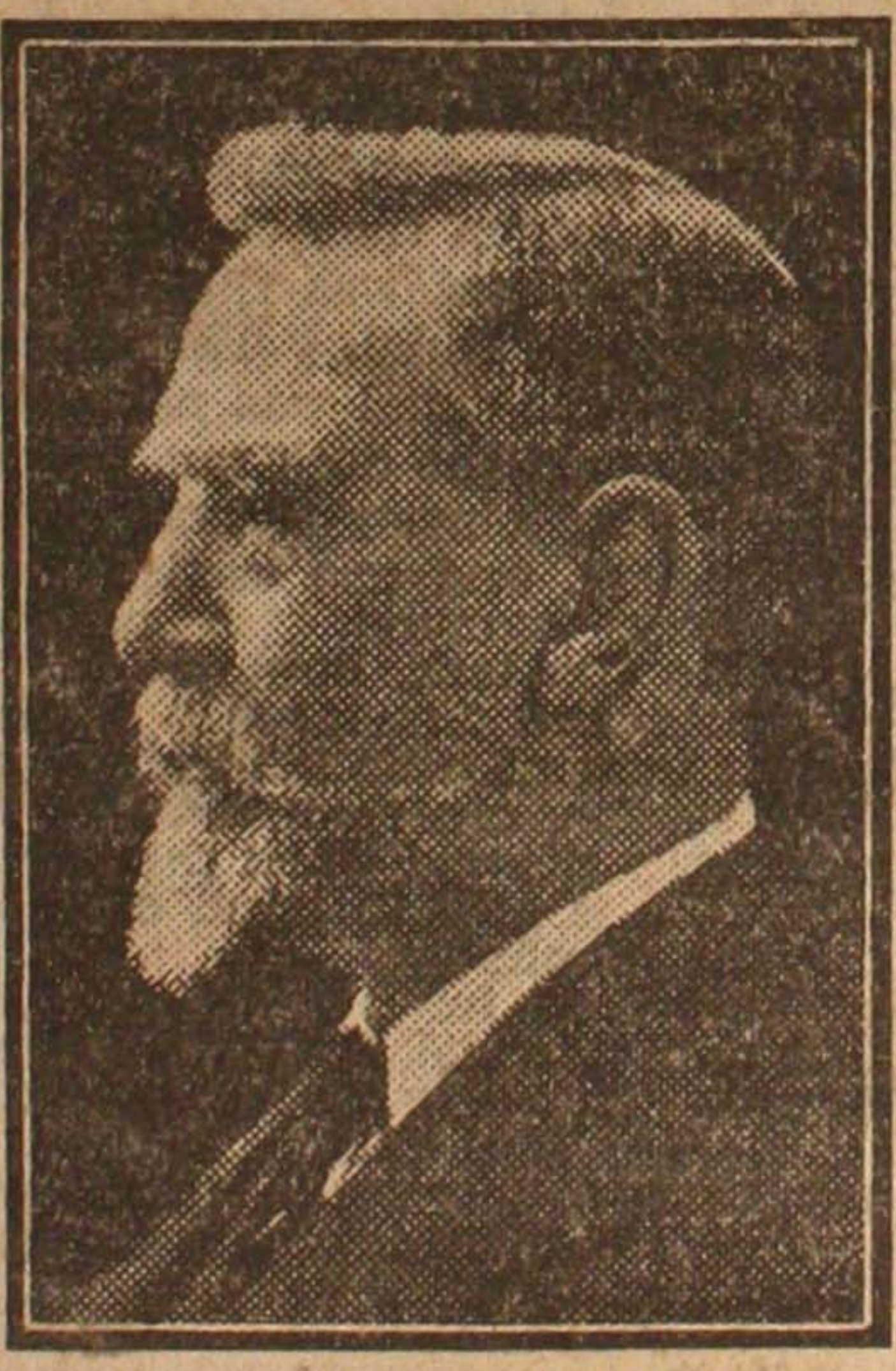
The latter body had already appointed at the instigation of Dr. F. S. Hone a strong general committee for cancer treatment and research, which included the professors and lecturers of the various departments in the faculty of medicine, representatives of the press, and prominent laymen. The committee would be divided into three sections to attend to all phases of the work.

"What is the most important of the activities of the committee?" Dr. Lendon was asked.

"All are important," he said. "It is essential that money should be raised in order to provide such things as a deep X-ray therapeutic plant for the Adelaide Hospital."

ADV. 29.9.28

Sir Joseph Verco has, owing to ill-health, resigned his seat on the Council of the University. He has not been at all well for some weeks past. At a meeting on Friday the council accepted



Sir Joseph Verco.

the resignation with extreme regret, and decided to place on record its appreciation of the long and distinguished service which Sir Joseph Verco had rendered to the University.

MAIL 29.9.28

Four young medical men now at the Vienna Medical School are Drs. Malcolm T. Cockburn (son of Mr. Alexander Cockburn, Toorak), Geoffrey Morey, Ray of Kaines (son of Mr. Norman E. Kaines, North Adelaide), and Close, formerly of Port Pirie. The quartet have also been studying in London and Edinburgh. Dr. G. Letcher (son of Dr. H. Letcher, of Adelaide), Dr. Hogg (formerly of Morphett Vale), and Dr. Appleby (formerly of the Adelaide Hospital) are now in Edinburgh, where Dr. Harold Thwaites has settled in practice. The last named is a son of the late Mr. F. Thwaites, who was connected with the National Bank in Adelaide for many years. Dr. Tostevin, formerly of Murray Bridge, is taking a post-graduate course in London.

radium—10 grammes—at a cost of £100,000. This is to be loaned to the various States which are willing to accept the loan on certain terms. The Federal Government also engaged an expert, Dr. Burrows, to superintend all Federal and State matters in connection with the loaning of the radium. It has to be properly housed, to be stored and handled only by persons who have had instruction in the matter, and it must be kept in a secure place, specially constructed, so as to prevent danger to others from the radiations and emanations constantly going on. Its application in disease requires trained assistants, and it is the duty of Dr. Burrows to see that those conditions are constantly fulfilled.

What are the other conditions imposed?—The State which accepts the offer of the radium is expected to raise funds. Queensland has raised £37,000, and aimed at £60,000; New South Wales has £130,000. If £5,000 is raised in South Australia the Government has promised pound for pound up to that amount, and it is hoped that the Commonwealth Government will do the same. We should aim at getting £50,000 at least.

How is it proposed to conduct the campaign?—At the meeting on Thursday a Cancer Treatment and Research Centre will be declared, to be established at the University, under control of the University Council. The Council has already appointed, at the instance of Dr. F. S. Hone, who has been the prime mover in the matter, a strong general committee for cancer treatment and research. This Council, all the professors and lecturers of the Faculty of Medicine, representatives of the press, and prominent laymen. This committee is split up into three sections—one of finance and organization, another for treatment and research, and the third for education and publicity. All those subcommittees report to the general committee, and that in turn will make recommendation to the University Council. To be effective, of course, there will have to be the same close co-operation between the Adelaide Hospital Board and the University Council as already exists for medical education.

Is this only temporary?—Oh, no. It might go on for a century, or until, as we hope, cancer is either curable or abolished by preventive means.

Are you hopeful of that?—Certainly. Why not? It is 55 years since I began to study medicine, and I have seen many wonders. I am very hopeful that some great discovery may be made in connection with cancer. Take the familiar instance of typhoid fever. Sir William Jenner, only about 80 years ago, finally settled the question of it being a separate disease from typhus. In the South African War it was more fatal than the bullet. In the Great War it was prevented. I could multiply such examples indefinitely. I hope to live to see the conquest of cancer.

Which is the most important of the committee's activities?—All are important. It is important to raise money. That is essential to provide such things as a deep X-ray therapy plant for the Adelaide Hospital. At present there is only one such outfit in South Australia. It is important to teach people the danger of cancer, and to preach the gospel of hope in the early recognition and treatment of it. It is important to test from time to time all suggested methods of treatment which are alleged to have effected cures, to prove or disprove their value. There are plenty of wild-cat schemes advocated from time to time. There was the violet leaves treatment of Lady Ann Marsham, and there was the molasses cure. All these have been investigated at the Middlesex Hospital, London, which has large wards devoted to this disease solely. It is important again, to standardize, as it were, the present available means of treatment. It is essential also to investigate still more fully the properties of radium, and that is being done in Sydney, so as to use it in the most efficient and economical manner.

Is it any use conducting research into the nature of cancer in Adelaide?—Of course it is; one might light upon the cause quite unexpectedly. The prevention of smallpox was worked out by a country practitioner in the west of England. Pasteur's great discoveries were made in a cellar, or attic, not in a well-fitted laboratory. All the discoveries in medicine are not confined now-a-days to the United States of America, nor are they all made in Germany or Japan. If Toronto, three or four years ago, could discover the treatment for diabetes, why should not Adelaide, or Melbourne, or Sydney, have its turn? What would the expenditure of a few thousand pounds be if such a discovery were made? Efficient treatment is so far ahead of our knowledge of the nature of the complaint that we have not to wait for its cause to be known.

How is the education of the public to be conducted?—That has to be worked out in detail. But extension lectures might possibly be given at the University, though they might hardly be popular. Addresses might also be given to various bodies, and I expect to begin the campaign in the latter way in, about a fortnight.

A meeting of ratepayers was held in the Adelaide Town Hall on Friday afternoon, to consider a request from the University for a 21 years' lease of 9½ acres of land on the North Park Lands (the area at present occupied by the University Oval and boatshed). The Lord Mayor (Mr. Lavington Bonython) was in the chair. The headmaster of St. Mark's College (Mr. A. Grenfell Price) moved, and Mr. Russell Booth seconded, the following resolution, which was carried unanimously:—"That this meeting of ratepayers of the City of Adelaide, convened for the purpose of approving an application made to the City Council by the University of Adelaide, for a lease for a term of 21 years of 9½ acres of land or thereabouts, being a portion of Park No. 12 of the North Park Lands, within the city, which land is to be used for cricket, football, and other athletic sports, including lacrosse, lawn tennis, and hockey, approves the terms and covenants of the proposed lease, as arranged by the City Council, and hereby favors the granting of a lease to the University of Adelaide for the aforesaid term of the land in question, under the powers conferred on the council by section 236 of the Municipal Corporations Act 1923."

The Lord Mayor asked whether any ratepayer present desired a poll on the question, and as there was no such demand, declared the motion carried.

ADV. 29.9.28

THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER.

From "JUSTICE":—The sensible and highly informative letter of Mr. Chas. Newling on this subject should be read with gratitude by both laymen and medical practitioners. The experimental use of radium in South Australia is quite unnecessary. Its utter worthlessness as a remedy for cancer has been proved in every enlightened country in the world. In addition to its worthlessness, it is well-known that the use of radium causes unutterable pain. This is well-known to many a poor sufferer in Adelaide. A committee of sensible men should have been appointed to make enquiry about its use before providing money to purchase more of it.

REG. 1.10.28
ALSO ADV.

CANCER RESEARCH.

The Coming Campaign.

Much public interest is being evinced in the forthcoming campaign in regard to the research and treatment of cancer. The inaugural meeting to be held in the Adelaide Town Hall on Thursday afternoon is sure to attract a large attendance of people in all walks of life, who are desirous of learning of the methods which it is proposed shall be adopted in this State to combat this terrible disease. Action of smallpox was worked out by a country practitioner in the west of England. Pasteur's great discoveries were made in a cellar, or attic, not in a well-fitted laboratory. All the discoveries in medicine are not confined now-a-days to the United States of America, nor are they all made in Germany or Japan. If Toronto, three or four years ago, could discover the treatment for diabetes, why should not Adelaide, or Melbourne, or Sydney, have its turn? What would the expenditure of a few thousand pounds be if such a discovery were made? Efficient treatment is so far ahead of our knowledge of the nature of the complaint that we have not to wait for its cause to be known.

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that it will to invite applications for the chair.