

New Matriculation Scheme For Universities

MELBOURNE, Tuesday.—A new system of examination for University matriculation was put forward by the Vice-Chancellor of Adelaide University (Sir William Mitchell) at a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Australian University in Melbourne today.

Students wishing to enter a University under his system, would have to take a special matriculation examination, general in form, and not on any prescribed syllabus.

The scheme was proposed as a result of the refusal of Sydney University to admit students who had qualified for matriculation in Melbourne under the Class A system of Melbourne University, which enabled students to matriculate by obtaining their leaving certificate in Class



Sir William Mitchell

A or approved schools on the results of their school examinations, without sitting for the public examination.

Sydney will accept only students who have obtained their leaving certificates by public examination.

The committee asked Sir William to formulate his scheme in detail. It will be submitted to the Australian Universities later for consideration.

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BROADER STANDARD OF MATRICULATION

Educationists Would Welcome Change In Adelaide

TEACHERS DISSATISFIED

A NEW system of examination for matriculation suggested by the Vice-Chancellor of the Adelaide University (Sir William Mitchell) in Melbourne on Tuesday, was discussed with interest by Adelaide educationists yesterday.

"The matriculation examination has long been a thorny subject among teachers," said a headmaster, "but until I know full details of Sir William's scheme, I cannot discuss it."

"If Sir William Mitchell's scheme will give schools an opportunity to give a boy a broader and wider education, I for one welcome it," said Mr. N. M. G. Gratton, headmaster of Scotch College.

"The present system results in too much early specialisation. For instance, a boy taking medicine must, several years before leaving school, drop several subjects, such as history and a language, and stick to scientific subjects necessary for matriculation in the faculty of medicine at the university."

WIDER KNOWLEDGE WANTED

"A more general matriculation examination would allow these boys to have a wider education, embracing other subjects equally important to their development, such as economics," said Mr. Gratton.

Teachers generally, he added, were dissatisfied with the present system.

"In Adelaide, at present," said Mr. F. W. Eardley, Registrar of the University, "students wishing to enter various faculties have to matriculate in subjects prescribed for those branches of study. Leaving standard is required for most of these, but for one or two the intermediate certificate is sufficient."

In Melbourne, students may qualify for the University under the Class A system of matriculation, which enables students to matriculate by obtaining their leaving certificates in Class A or approved schools on the results of their school examinations, without sitting for the public examinations.

"Matriculation Problem Does Not Affect Adelaide"

Sir William Mitchell, Vice-Chancellor of the Adelaide University, who returned yesterday from Melbourne, where he attended a meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee of Australian Universities, said that the difficulty which has arisen between Melbourne and Sydney Universities over matriculation did not concern Adelaide.

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Mr. H. W. Gartrell, lecturer in mining engineering at the University, and 22 students who have been inspecting the work on the North Shore-bridge, Sydney, returned on Saturday. Professor R. W. Chapman, who was in charge of the party, will return this morning.

VALUE OF NEW CROP VARIETIES

Wheat Which Brought £1,000,000 Year

At the weekly luncheon of the Rotary Club at The Grosvenor today Dr. A. E. V. Richardson (Director of the Waite Agricultural Institute) delivered an address on the production of new crop varieties and the measures adopted by scientists.

A remarkable feature of modern agriculture was the intense activity devoted to the improvement of farm crops, said Dr. Richardson. This was due largely to the brilliant discovery of Gregor Mendel, who formulated in 1865 a law which has placed plant genetics on a sound basis, and the epoch-making work of a Dutch botanist, De Vries, who established the mutation theory.

Systematic plant breeding was a comparatively modern development. From the dawn of civilisation the attention of man had been occupied with his animals rather than his crops. Improvement in plants was hardly possible until Camerarius in 1691 discovered sex in plants, and it was not until a half century later that the structure of the flower was properly appreciated.

Thus, while systematic mating of plants could not have been practised for more than two centuries, the control of the breeding of animals had been undertaken by man for more than 20 centuries.

There were two general methods by which new and improved varieties of plants might be obtained—by selection and by hybridisation. Both methods had been fruitful of results.

There were two lines of plant-breeding



Dr. Richardson

work which were of importance to Australia. They were the production of improved varieties of wheat which would be more prolific and resistant to drought and heat; and the improvement in native grasses and introduced forage plants.

The work of William Farrer was a remarkable illustration of the benefits which resulted from successful wheat breeding. Among his many valuable new creations was Federation wheat, the most popular and prolific wheat over a great portion of Australia. Its introduction to the wheat districts had meant at least £1,000,000 a year in increased production. So popular had this variety become that Farrer might be said to have changed the color of the harvest fields of South-Eastern Australia from golden yellow to dull bronze, the color of his own Federation wheat.

A number of new and improved varieties of wheat had been produced at Roseworthy Agricultural College, and a large acreage of South Australia had been sown with these improved types. In native grasses and fodder plants Australia had a source of wealth of great value, because these plants formed the mainstay of the sheep and cattle of the country.

Australian native grasses and saltbushes were without rivals in the plant world in regard to their capacity for resisting extremes of heat and drought, and furnishing palatable and nutritious herbage for stock.

A wonderful opportunity existed for the further development and improvement of Australian indigenous plants by modern plant-breeding methods. It was a field of research illimitable in scope and of the highest value to the pastoral industries.

NEWS 23-8-29

FUTURE OF EXHIBITION BUILDING

Manufacturers Agree to Urge Retention

The chief subject discussed at the monthly meeting of the South Australian Chamber of Manufactures this week was the future of the Exhibition Building and grounds.

Recently it came under notice of the chamber that the Government was considering the transfer of the property to Adelaide University. Members of the chamber understood that if that were done the buildings would be demolished and the grounds devoted to University purposes.

The opinion was expressed that such a step would be a great blow to the chamber and to manufacturers, who had conducted exhibitions there since 1890.

The chamber took a leading part in the Jubilee International Exhibition in 1890, as a result of which the existing buildings were established. Before that the area was portion of the parklands.

It was pointed out by members that if these buildings were removed there would be no other place suitable for holding exhibitions.

The meeting decided to write to the Hon. R. L. Butler (Premier) and strongly urge the claims of the chamber for the retention of the buildings.



REG. 22-8-29 SPEARS DROPPED ON LAKE EYRE

Air Survey Party Can Find No Trace Of Them FLYING AT 50 FEET

(Specially written for The Register by Mr C. T. Madigan, leader of the Central Australian Air Survey Party).

MARREE, Wednesday.—We arrived at Marree again after our first flight over Lake Eyre yesterday. We flew down the western margin, with the sidetrack out over the centre; confirmed the presence of mound springs, and flew at 50 feet over them. No other water has so far been seen in the centre.

We dropped from 300 feet two spears and a two-inch pipe, with a six-foot wooden shaft and four feet of streamers. They disappeared.

The surface looks firm, with sun cracks. From 50 feet we could not even pick up the spots where the spears had entered. I am devising another spear, with larger streamers for the next flight tomorrow, when we shall visit the centre again, and the eastern margin.

We have just discovered that on our journey from Broken Hill, over a string of lakes we passed over Lake Gregory and continued on to the Cooper, then turned south-west—which explains why we arrived at Boppeches, on the railway, instead of at Marree. I was puzzled at our turning point after we had flown low over a lake. We saw horses at water, which now proves to have been Kopperamanna bore, on the Birdsville track.

"EAGLE HAWKS"

At Cooper the blacks with the horses told the Birdsville mailman that "All-same big feller eagle hawks nearly settle on Lake." Lake Kopperamanna, on the Cooper, only 25 miles further on, was taken for Lake Gregory—not a big error after 400 miles flying.

Yoooyanna Creek enters Lake Gregory at the same angle as the Cooper flows out of Lake Kopperamanna, but I was puzzled by the size and the number of the trees. It is all clear now.

Our errors so far have all been made by our going further than we had expected. All is going well. We have made no startling discoveries, but useful permanent records are being obtained, and myths exploded.

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DR. H. T. POSTLE ADMITTED TO TASMANIAN BAR

LAUNCESTON, Wednesday.—The Rev. Dr. H. T. Postle, formerly principal of the Presbyterian Girls' College, at Glen Osmond, Adelaide, and of Broadland House School, Launceston, has been admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of Tasmania.

Dr. Postle left Adelaide in July, 1925, to become principal of the Broadland House School, which he purchased.

He is also a graduate in arts and laws of Melbourne University. After having completed a theological course at Ormond College, Melbourne, he served pastorates in West Australia and Tasmania.

Later Dr. Postle obtained his Diploma of Education at Melbourne University. He served at the war as a chaplain.