

SURGICAL CONFERENCE

MR. MADIGAN TO BORE LAKE EYRE

PUBLIC HEALTH

RETURN OF DR. R. H. PULLENE

DESERT FODDER FOR AUSTRALIA

After having represented the College of Surgeons of Australasia at the Pan-Pacific Surgical Conference held in Honolulu, and visited research institutes in California and Arizona, Dr. R. H. Pulleene returned to Adelaide yesterday. He brought with him a number of seeds of various desert plants, which will be experimented upon by the Waite Agricultural Research Institute to find their suitability for the sparsely-watered areas of Australia.

Conference a Success Referring to the conference, Dr. Pulleene stated that it had been a great success from every point of view. There were over 100 delegates present from all countries on the Pacific seaboard, including Korea, China, Japan, the Philippines, the Dutch East Indies, South American countries, and some of the most eminent surgeons in the world attended, amongst them being Dr. A. L. Brown, New York, who specializes in the grafting of bone from one part of the body to another. Some of the most important and interesting papers were delivered by Australians, of whom eight were present. The papers of Professor W. A. Osborne, of Melbourne, and Dr. J. Harris, of Sydney, were amongst the outstanding theses read. The representative gathering and the importance of the matters discussed. Dr. Pulleene, the pliers the Pan-Pacific Conference in the forefront of any work in the world. It was a periodical conference, but was one of a series of conferences arranged for the Pan-Pacific Union. It was distinct from the Medical Conference, which will be held in 1933.

Australia Abreast with Progress. The conclusion of the Conference Dr. Pulleene visited California and Arizona in the company of Professor W. A. Watson, formerly of the Adelaide University, and at present residing in London. He visited a number of hospitals, including the Los Angeles and the Hospital, and as a result of his inspection was satisfied that Australia was quite up to date with regard to the methods and latest ideas in operation there, although things were not carried out on such a large scale. In Los Angeles a new county central hospital of erection stories high, and have accommodation for 3,500 patients. They, however, had a population of 200,000 to cope with, and a floating population equal to that of Adelaide.

Plants for Australian Conditions When in Arizona he made a special study of the fodder plants for dry areas at the suggestion of Professor A. E. V. Richardson, of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute. He visited the Boree Thompson Arboretum and the Carnegie Desert Laboratory, where a scientific study of flora suitable for desert conditions was being carried out. He studied the correlation with which Australian plants and the particularly rare species of the eucalyptus family grew there. The rainfall and hard conditions of Arizona were similar to those of Central Australia, and several plants which had been developed for the desert to fodder requirements were, in Dr. Pulleene's opinion, ideally suited for Australia. He brought home a wide selection of seed with him, and it is found suitable by aeroplane. This method had been successfully in Honolulu, where with Australian Merton Bay had been used to prevent erosion. Several species of seeds were admirably suited to the needs of the desert. The seeds of the plant were included in the Huxley Boree seed. Fodder plants had made large tracts of land in California and Arizona suitable for cultivation.

Will Follow Up Aerial Survey

SOIL EXAMINATION

MR. C. T. Madigan, lecturer in geology at the University, and acting professor in the absence of Sir Douglas Maitson, will leave for another trip to Lake Eyre on December 5.

He recently conducted an aerial reconnaissance of that portion of the interior, and will make tests in the centre of the lake itself.

He will take with him Professor Prescott, of the Waite Research Institute. "We are going to follow up the work that was done from the air," said Mr. Madigan last night.

"The Government and the Mines Department are particularly interested to know the value of the lake after what we reported from our aerial view. It has been suggested that the Mines Department should send out a bore, and do work on the lake itself," he said.

MR. C. T. Madigan

HAND-BORING TESTS

Mr. Madigan will take with him a hand boring plant and make preliminary tests on behalf of the Government which is providing him with transport and other facilities for the work.

He and Professor Prescott will leave by train at Marree and travel by motor truck to the lake. From time to time applications have been made from various persons, including some from overseas, for permission to search the lake for salt and particularly potash deposits. These have never been granted because no one had known whether it would be worth while or not.

MOTOR ACROSS LAKE

"I hope to get out to the middle of the lake and put down a few holes myself," said Mr. Madigan. "We will go down about 20 or 30 feet. This is merely a reconnaissance to establish the fact that we can get a motor vehicle across the lake. From 1,000 feet in the air, apart from the question of hitting the lake with the wheels of the plane, and raising the dust, as we did, I dropped a tin of sand, which burst, showing the hardness of the surface.

Professor Prescott is interested in the soils of that part of the interior, which he has not previously visited. He will make his own investigation of the types of soils there. Mr. Madigan is sanguine that once he gets to the edge of the lake, he will get to the centre.

"Sandhills on the eastern side of the lake from Marree will be our big difficulty," he said.

Adv. 16 11 29

MATHEMATICS AND ENGINEERING

From W. WALTER.—The first part of the examination in Mathematics I, has just been completed at the University. Once more we have the pleasure of seeing the professor imbued with the idea that his subject is the only one which the student has to take. The paper is a fully theoretical for practical requirements of the engineering student, who probably has no great desire to become a professor of mathematics and is juggling with algebraical signs and symbols. He has to subject any more than the farmer who has to till the soil has time to try and become a professor of agriculture. It is time the University authorities put a curb on a man who year after year seems possessed of the idea that mathematics are the race of super mathematicians, to the detriment of everything else.

Amalgamation of Departments DEPUTATION FROM B.M.A.

A deputation from the South Australian branch of the British Medical Association, which visited on the Chief Secretary (Hon. H. T. Miles) on Friday, urged that the proposed position of Chairman of the Central Board of Health and the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board be filled by a medical man.

The deputation, which was introduced by Sir David Gordon, M.L.C., comprised the president of the South Australian branch of the B.M.A. (Dr. H. Gilbert) and the immediate past president (Dr. John Corbin).

Dr. Gilbert said in view of the possibility of the Government appointing a layman to the position of Chairman of the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board and the Central Board of Health, the Council of the British Medical Association felt that the matter was of such importance to the public and the medical profession that he and the other members had been deputed to place its views before the Government. He said that the appointment being made by the Government, it was necessary to grant a hearing to any deputation with regard to health matters, and as a result the association realised that the establishment of a Central Board of Health was at present out of the question.

He referred to the Chairman of the Central Board of Health as at present Sir David Gordon, M.L.C., and as approaching the position of Chief Medical Officer, to such a ministry, and stated that the chairmanship of the dual position would be held by a medical man who would be of the utmost value to the Minister. Under such conditions the relationship between the Central Board of Health and the medical profession as a whole would be more intimate, and the work that could be undertaken would be far more valuable to the community. Up to the present the Central Board had no concern with child welfare and similar work but under the joint chairmanship of the Central Board of Health and the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board, the department, but the increasing of the Council would be under one that in a matter which so gravely affects the welfare of the living-in woman and the infant only a medical man could fully appreciate the factors involved. The association was of opinion also that if a layman were appointed to the chairmanship of those boards a precedent might be established from which it might prove difficult to prevent the formation of a Ministry of Health, becoming possible in the future. A further argument for the proposed position was that Health had to attend meetings of the Federal Council, and it was certain that only an individual of a properly trained medical mind could obtain the full benefit for the State in such meetings. With a view to elaborating a comprehensive scheme of health administration four medical officers were being co-opted forth by the council of the association, which had already been working on the matter. Persistent and intended to appoint a layman to the great concern were causing the association to immediately render its efforts in the interests of public health largely non-Victorian. A similar effort, as previously indicated, will consist of a degree course in science and as much training in forestry as one therefore be duplicating in training with a corresponding increase in cost to the taxpayer.

layman who could have the same experience to fill those important positions adequately. The Council is in need of a man who is almost as urgent as it was not only the material, but the health of the children under his care that was at stake, but their physical and mental health must be an important and continuous care of the department. It is only possible for wise guidance to be given from a medical man well-versed in the health and fitness, and it is essential that the staff of a medical man's outlook to make for progress and success.

Advice Should be Available

The Chief Secretary said there were arguments in favour of the establishment of a Ministry of Health, and the representations made to him in that connection would not be discussed. It was possibly indicated that it was impossible for the Government to deal with that aspect of the question that a successor would have the same qualifications and enthusiasm as the present occupant of the position of Chairman of the Board of Health (Dr. Ramsay Smith). The scope of operations of the Central Board of Health as indicated by the deputation might be placed even without the establishment of a Ministry of Health. Bearing in mind the operations of the Board as at the present time, it did not seem necessary that a medical man should be chairman of the Board, and the experience should be available. It was suggested that the deputation, in making its representations to Cabinet, be assured that if a layman were appointed to the dual position, the Government would see that adequate medical experience was available to the board.

Adv. 15 11 29 FORESTRY COURSE

VICTORIAN LECTURESHIP

MR. SCULLIN OBJECTS

Canberra, November 17. "I am surprised at the remarks of the Premier of Victoria (Sir William McPherson) in regard to the proposal of the Victorian Ministry to establish a lectureship in forestry at the University of Melbourne," said the Prime Minister (Mr. Scullin) yesterday.

"Sir William McPherson stated that he considered that in the establishment of forestry schools the Commonwealth might well have stood out of the picture. In establishing a forestry school at Canberra the Commonwealth had the support of the Victorian Government. Moreover, it was of opinion that there was room for one school only. I am informed, too, that the advisory committee of all Australian Universities passed a resolution expressing the opinion that there should be only one school giving degrees. The action of the Victorian Ministry, therefore, in establishing a lectureship in forestry at the University of Melbourne is entirely opposed to all expert opinion on the question. The forestry school at Canberra will, of course, suffer by the probable withdrawal of Victorian students. As it is, only one of the students that experts declare are needed for forestry work in the Commonwealth are being trained. It is true that, in accordance with the decision that the Commonwealth Forestry School should be immediately rendered a degree, only a few students are being trained. Their training has a similar effect, as previously indicated, will consist of a degree course in science and as much training in forestry as one therefore be duplicating in training with a corresponding increase in cost to the taxpayer.