

ing on questions of pasture management. The provision of the recently erected plant culture house would enable those investigations to be extended and developed, and provide facilities for the detailed investigation of the role of the various elements in the nutrition of the plant.

The present plant is the great alchemist which alone of living things has mastered the secret of transmuting the sun's energy into food. How this was done was still largely unknown and was one of the pressing problems of plant physiological research, the further elucidation of which was of great consequence to the human race. Some day it might be possible to produce a perfectly efficient variety of crop—efficient in utilizing the sun's energy, efficient in its ability to grow under dry conditions—efficient in its power to resist the invasion of parasites. For the production of such a plant the physiologist, biochemist, entomologist, geneticist, bacteriologist, and soil technologist would work in the closest co-operation and collaboration.

## CHANCE FOR GRADUATES IN PUBLIC SERVICE

### To Fill High Posts In C/wealth

The Commonwealth should not be at a disadvantage as compared with business in employing young men with the basic training necessary for conducting the complex and exacting functions of Government administration, state the Commonwealth Public Service Commissioners in their annual report.

The universities have made representations to the Government that the Commonwealth Service should offer careers of official positions to a restricted number of graduates to furnish a nucleus of officers of training for the higher executive and administrative offices.

The obligations of the Commonwealth according preference to returned soldiers have hitherto prevented the adoption of a similar policy, but the number of qualified returned soldiers has now been reduced to such an extent as to render it possible to begin with the appointment of graduates, and a small number of positions has been reserved for this purpose in connection with appointments in Canberra.

## THE UNIVERSITY COMMEMORATION

### THEN AND NOW

No. 1

By the Rev. F. SLANEY POOLE, M.A.

The crowded attendance and the stirring enthusiasm at the University not only made me recall to memory some of the incidents and conditions which accompanied its birth, and to contrast them with the present position of the University as it exists to-day. Indeed, I was reminded whether there is anyone now living of the large interest in its foundation which reaches so far back as the first settlement and origin are to be found in the generous impulse of the representative members of the Presbyterian, Congregational, and Baptist churches, who for some few years established an institution for the training of ordinands known as Trinity College; this college was offered by Sir W. Hughes the sum of £20,000 as an endowment; with a splendid generosity and self-denying sacrifice it was suggested that this sum should be given to form a nucleus for the establishment of a University. It was formed with this object in view, and Sir W. Hughes's concurrence; and in the year another £20,000 was contributed by Sir W. Hughes. As a result of these two magnificent gifts, the association left warranted in obtaining the Royal Assent and on November, 1874. It was in this year that the first student of the University, John's Church, Adelaide, was brought into close contact with the movement, and made acquaintance with a leading member. It has been my good fortune and privilege to have been on terms of friendly intimacy with the Chancellors of the University since the day of its inauguration. Only two faculties, viz., law and science; there were four professors and the other bear the honored names of their generous founders thus—The Hughes Professor of Logic and Comparative Philology and Literature, the Hughes Professor of Philosophy; similarly the Elder Professor of Mathematics and the Elder Professor of Physics; this was in 1875; fifty years later the number of professors amounted to twenty, not to mention a number of lecturers and demonstrators in various subjects; must, however, confine myself to the present, which is my special object. I must, therefore, refer to a reference to an action of mine which occurred in great benefit to the progress of the University. In 1868, a year before I came to Adelaide, I was master in Stockport Grammar School; I was then twenty-one years of age; my eldest son, who was Horace Lamb; we were, being of the same age, attracted to each other both in our studies and in other ways. In the following year I left for Australia, and at about the same time, I was at Trinity College, Cambridge; after commencing my course I was second Wrangler—he obtained a Fellowship at Trinity. So soon as I was able to do so, I invited candidates for the Elder Professor of Mathematics. I obtained the necessary sanction of the appointment, and the result that for ten years I was in exceptional power to build up his successor in the University. He, like his father, was a man of high attainments, Sir William Bragg, is a man of European fame. The other occupant of the professorial chairs here—Davidson, a Presbyterian minister here—married a daughter of Hugh Miller, of Tate, who was a general of some fame; Professor Reid was Professor of science; he did not retain this for the appointment of the year, and pending his departure, I for about a twelvemonth, did I did not have any other occasion. The place of instruction in the latter part of the year was in Morilla Chambers or rough and rudimentary, all told, were about 10 undergraduates, all told, were average class numbering only three or four. The two or three potential members of the Professor were Lamb and Tate; sometimes the distinction between them was advantage to the University. I was a lecturer in my personal opinion only; as professorial board, I gave a seat on the

to which the occasional students were present. I should like to mention that the great act of collaboration which in these early days of the University were its cautious registration of its students without advice and legal skill. The first Chancellor, Sir R. D. Hanson, Chief Justice, held office for some months; he was a man of high standing after the Union of Parliament had passed. In November, 1874, and in March, 1875, Dr. Elliot, the first Chancellor of Adelaide, had been his Vice-Chancellor, and at his death he succeeded him as the higher officer. He retired in 1880, without having been of good repute to the University; he was from London, with wisdom and knowledge, and he presided over the public address presented. Especially do I remember his officiating at the first assembly of graduates held in 1877. I could not consider that I should be able to secure fifty—if I had been able to admit that number could have been secured by admitting graduates of other University to an ad eundem degree. Steps were taken, but a little doubt: it was felt that this could be done, but it turned out that there were 47 graduates willing to be admitted to the University. The Town Hall Bazaar was held, and the Chancellor gave a splendid address and admitted the seventy-seven to membership of the University. We were a mixed lot, for the known were graduates of nearly every known university in the world; a single notable exception was the University of Sydney, which was totally unrepresented. In the Chancellor stated that out of the seventy-seven graduates of the ad eundem degree in 1877 there were only seven survivors. Since the public we have had the late Canon Sharpe, Sir John Cockburn, and one living in Sir John Stirling, Professor Lamb, and myself.

## THE NEWS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1929

### HELPING THE FARMER

The recent opening of new plant culture houses and insectary at Waite Agricultural Research Institute serves to bring to public notice the valuable though not spectacular, work being done by this institution under the supervision of Dr. A. E. Richardson (director).

South Australia has been fortunate, indeed, in receiving the benefactions which made possible the inauguration of the institution and the extension of its activities. The names of Mr. Peter Waite, Sir John Melrose, and the members of the Darling family will be remembered for the great services those citizens have done to agriculture in this State.

As Professor Chapman stated, the possession of such a research station has made Adelaide University the envy of every other university in Australia.

### BEST CULTURAL METHODS

Recently Dr. Richardson said that after four years' research at the Institute it had been found that 31 bushels of wheat to the acre could be grown from any soil in South Australia through the crop. "To prove that it was practicable elsewhere than at the Institute, he mentioned that 41 South Australian farmers had achieved that result last year by adopting the best cultural methods."

The average for the whole State for the past three years had been one bushel to each inch of rainfall during the growing period. It is therefore evident that a greatly increased production is possible by the use of better methods in districts already settled.

What these methods are has been ascertained by exhaustive experiments made at Waite Institute and Roseworthy College.

### AID OF SCIENCE

According to figures recently given in the House of Assembly by the Hon. R. L. Butler (Premier) the number of bushels of wheat in South Australia has increased by 1,200,000 since 1924, this year the total being 4,780,000, but unfortunately lack of rain in some districts has seriously affected the yield.

With South Australia depending so heavily on its primary products, agriculturists should be trying to obtain the maximum yield from their land, and willing to the full the knowledge made available by scientists at the Waite Institute.

Not only are rotations of crops, manures, and best varieties of wheat studied for their benefit, but investigations of plant diseases, insect and animal pests are made and their results placed at the disposal of farmers.

As Mr. R. B. McConnochie, Director of the Commonwealth Bank said when visiting the new plant culture houses at Waite Institute it has been expended thousands.

## ADV. 16-12-29

### UNIVERSITY INFLUENCE EXTENSION IN BRITISH BUSINESS

The outstanding change in life in England during the past 22 years is the extension of the value and the influence of university education in British business, according to Mr. S. Russell Booth, a partner in the firm of Counsel, Booth & Hunwick, chartered accountants, and chairman of the board of commercial studies at the University of Adelaide, who returned by the Orama on Saturday after spending several months in Cambridge.

Mr. Booth said the things that struck him most during his stay in England was in connection with Cambridge University, which he found extraordinarily alive and very much in touch with the general life of the country. The number of undergraduates had increased greatly in the past few years, but in spite of that increase in natural numbers, there was a substantial increase in the proportion of those taking honors degrees. Thirty years ago there was an unofficial board known as the Honorary Examinations Board, which endeavored to place graduates in positions in the commercial and industrial world. To-day the board was an official body, and the University advanced to it out of the University funds, and he had found many of the leading industrialists in close touch with the board and making inquiries as to what men were going along in the various branches of work in which they were particularly interested. The result was good for the University and also for the country. He had been told from outside sources that a man with a B.A. and a first degree in suitable subjects had no difficulty whatever in getting an appointment.

## ADV. 16-12-29

The Council of the university on Friday made the following appointments:—Lecturer and demonstrator in zoology, Mr. G. R. Robb; B.A. lecturer in commercial practice, Mr. C. Harding Browne, A.C.U.A. (Aust.); lecturer in accountancy, L. and H. Mr. E. M. D. Mather, honorary demonstrator in accountancy III, Mr. L. W. Ferris, C.A. (Aust.); assistant lectures in human physiology and pharmacology, Dr. R. W. Mather, honorary demonstrator in anatomy, Mr. W. J. W. Close, M.B., M.S.

## ADV. 16-12-29

The Council of the University has awarded the Bonnyton prize to Miss T. C. Blaylock. This prize was established by the council in consideration of the endowment by Sir Langdon Bonnyton of the chair of law, and for the encouragement of original contributions to the science of law. The title of Miss Blaylock's thesis is "The Law of Trusts and Trustees in Australia." The value of the prize is £100.

## ADV. 16-12-29

A David Murray scholarship for 1930 accountancy has been awarded to Mr. G. Kingsley Hughes. Mr. Hughes recently obtained the honors degree of B.Sc. in chemistry. The scholarship is awarded for research, and Mr. Hughes has selected as his subject "The Structure of Starches."

## NEWS 19-12-29

### MUSICAL PROFESSION Association to be Formed

Mr. G. de Cairns-Rego (secretary of the Musical Association of New South Wales) is a passionate admirer of the late Narkunda, which will leave Outer Harbor late this afternoon.

Today he visited Adelaide and met Prof. Harold Davies, Mr. John Dunn, Mr. J. G. Keimann, and Mr. E. E. Mitchell, M.B., to discuss the formation of a similar association in New South Wales.

"The object of such an organisation devoted to the best interests of music and of all those who are professionally concerned in the work of teaching is highly desirable," stated Mr. de Cairns-Rego.

The A.S.W. Music Association has existed for 17 years. Its members include the leading teachers of the State, as well as a

Mr. de Cairns-Rego, as well as a bery. Frequent concerts are meetings held, and visiting artists are received. The principal objects of the association are to advance the interests of the whole musical profession, to assist the whole, and within the next few weeks an authorized roll of qualified music teachers has been prepared and published for the guidance of parents.

The principal object of such a roll is to establish a proper standard of qualification, and its effect would be to establish a recognition of such examining bodies only as are approved by the Teachers' Registration Council of Great Britain.

It is anticipated that with the formation of a musical association in New South Australia, the time has come for the creation of a Federated body covering the whole Commonwealth. This, it is hoped, will be effected through the Incorporated Society of Musicians of the United Kingdom, thus forming an association which will bring together the whole music profession throughout the Empire.

Early in the new year practical steps will be taken to formulate a basis for achieving this end.