

Adv. 28-10-33

Professor J. A. Prescott, of the Waite Research Institute, has been granted leave of absence by the council of the Adelaide University. He will leave Adelaide in April, and will be absent about nine months. He will visit research institutions in Great Britain and on the Continent. Professor Prescott was appointed to the Waite chair of agricultural chemistry in 1924, and is also in charge of the survey and classification of Australian soil types for the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

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Professors Kerr Grant and McKellar Stewart, Drs. W. Ray and F. S. Hone, and Mr. W. J. Isbister, K.C., members of the council of the University, will retire by effluxion of time shortly, but are eligible for re-election at the annual meeting of the Senate, which will be held on November 22. A sixth vacancy has been caused by the death of Mr. H. Thomson, K.C. This will also be filled at the meeting of the Senate.

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Professor L. G. Melville has accepted the invitation of the council of the Adelaide University to deliver the Joseph Fisher lecture in commerce next year. The date of the lecture will be arranged later.

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At its meeting yesterday the council of the University nominated Professor T. Harvey Johnston and Mr. R. N. Finlayson as its representatives on the board of governors of the Public Library Museum, and Art Gallery.

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Professor R. W. Chapman, professor of engineering at the University of Adelaide, returned yesterday from Melbourne.

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Dr. E. F. Gartrell has been appointed honorary demonstrator in cardiology to the physiology department of the Adelaide University.

Mail 28-10-33

Gifted Professor for Adelaide

SO Edward Shann is to be the new professor of economics at the Adelaide University. Adelaide is indeed fortunate in securing the gifted author of "The Economic History of Australia" to fill the chair that Prof. L. G. Melville vacated in 1931. Although published only three years ago, the "Economic History" has already become an Australian classic.

It is being read as a text book by Adelaide Varsity students doing the economic history course this year, but never was a text book so readable and entertaining. Take this passage about Australia's early shepherds and station hutkeepers:—

"A slab-hut with a stringy-bark roof, rough-hinged flaps in lieu of windows, a mud floor, a packing case table, seats made from spilt logs, and beds, if any, of bush saplings and messian, was their home. Often a blanket on the floor and a saddle for pulow, served as 'shake-down.' Pasted on the walls might be a few fly-specked cartoons from the satirical press, or colored prints from the Christmas numbers of the weeklies, usually representing famous racehorses."

Prof. Shann's colorful account of the Kelly gang is one of the highlights of the book. Here is his comment on the Kellys:—

"They were mere boys, 'wild colonials,' who had little chance of knowing better, and the setting of their death, trapped as they were by their lifelong enemies, the police, in the presence of their neighbors and kin, scalds the heart."

Students will be thankful if the professor's lectures are half as interesting as his book.

Adv. 30-10-33

A message from London states that Dr. B. G. Maegraith, who is at Oxford, has been appointed medical officer attached to the Royal Engineers.

Adv. 31-10-33

EFFECT OF RADIUM ON BODY

Precautions Needed For Workers

Radium, which, properly applied, could do such wonderful good to the human body, had appalling results if misapplied, said the chairman of the Central Board of Health (Dr. A. R. Southwood) yesterday.

He was commenting on the report in "The Advertiser" of the fate of five women who had moistened with their lips brushes with which they were painting the dials of watches with radium paint. Three have died.

Dr. Southwood said constant application of the paint to the lips would set up chronic rotting of the jaw bones. It had been found that radium poisoning directly affected the marrow of the human bones. In the case of a man who had died through administering regular doses of radioactive salts (radium salts taken mainly for rejuvenation treatment), it had been found that all his bones had become impregnated with radium, and actually rotted.

Many of the early pioneers, said Dr. Southwood, had suffered horribly through ignorance of the dire effects of X-ray, and radium burning. At first nothing could be noticed, then the skin became inflamed, ulceration set in, and then a malignant growth, which often resulted in amputation of a limb. Today all who worked in connection with radium wore lead gloves, and lead shields. More subtle forms of poisoning from radium rays had been latterly recognised by the medical profession, such as severe anaemia. In this case the bone marrow actually ceased to function, because of damage caused by the rays. Employees were instructed to take special precautions, such as extra personal cleanliness, clean overalls, wearing thin rubber gloves constantly at work, short working day, with seven hours' limit, plenty of holidays.

"Radium is used considerably in Adelaide," he said, "and I have never heard of any ill-effect upon those employed in using it."

Adv. 31-10-33

Organ Recital At Elder Hall

Brilliant playing marked the organ recital of Miss Adele Wiebusch, a pupil of Mr. John Horner, in the Elder Hall last night. Bach's D minor toccata and fugue, the Cesar Franck A minor chorale, and Karg-Elert's choral improvisation on "In Dulci Jubilo" were performed with admirable technique and artistry. The Blake arrangement of three pieces from Handel's "Water Music" went well, as did the Cleramboult prelude and the Vierme pastorale.

Both assisting vocalists, pupils of Madame Deimar Hall, distinguished themselves at this year's Adelaide competitions. Miss Beryl Kekwick, who won "The Advertiser" aria, sang in superb fashion two of Dvorak's Biblical songs and "Mimi's Farewell," from Puccini's "La Boheme." Miss Margaret Pirie, vocal aggregate winner, sang Mallinson's "Blood-red Ring," and a "Steal Away" negro spiritual decidedly better than the slender merit of either depressingly futile composition deserved.

The good effect of each singer's work was enhanced by the well-played piano-forte accompaniments of Miss Topsis Doenau.

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UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS ON THURSDAY

The Adelaide University degree and diploma examinations will begin on Thursday morning, and continue until November 15, followed by practical examinations in laboratories for science and the clinical examinations for medical students. Examinations for students doing School of Mines subjects associated with the faculty of engineering will also be held after the degree and diploma papers have concluded. Notices will be posted in the main hall at the University, notifying students where they are to sit for their papers. There will be two sessions daily—9.30 a.m. and 2 p.m., and one session in the evenings. The University public examinations will begin on November 28, and continue until December 11, followed by oral examinations.

Adv. 7-11-33

GRANT FOR ANTI-THRIPS RESEARCH

Growers Ask For £200 A Year

A grant of £200 a year for three years, to assist anti-thrips research, was sought by a deputation of fruit-growers to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Blesing) yesterday.

The deputation was introduced by Messrs. Laffer and Playford, M.P.'s, and included the president of the S.A. Fruit Marketing Association (Mr. H. J. Bishop), the secretary (Mr. E. W. Mills), and the chairman of the research committee of the association (Mr. H. N. Wicks).

Members of the deputation emphasised that the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research had requested the Waite Research Institute to conduct anti-thrips experiments. Good work had been done, but it was by no means completed. The rural credits branch of the Commonwealth Bank was contributing £1,200 towards the research fund in three annual payments of £400, and the growers had undertaken to find the balance of the money necessary, amounting to £800 a year. They asked the Government to assist them in meeting this liability.

Mr. Blesing said that he was fully in sympathy with the fruitgrowers. As a gardener, he appreciated the importance of combating the pest, and promised to place the request before the Treasurer, but reminded the deputation that the Government was already contributing £12,000 a year to the Waite Institute. A member of the deputation pointed out that this did not affect the thrips research work which was being conducted by the Institute at the request of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

Adv. 2-11-33

University Council.—Nominations to fill vacancies on the council of the Adelaide University are due before noon on November 11. The following will retire:—Professors Kerr Grant and J. McKellar Stewart, Dr. F. S. Hone, and Messrs. W. J. Isbister, K.C., and W. Ray. Another vacancy to be filled is that caused by the death of Mr. Harry Thomson, K.C.

Adv. 2-11-33

ENGLISH POST FOR MR. GEOFFREY SAMUEL

To Go To Rothamsted Research Station

Mr. Geoffrey Samuel (plant pathologist at the Waite Research Institute, Glen Osmond) has been appointed mycologist in the Department of Plant Pathology at Rothamsted Experimental Station, England.

The vacancy for this post at one of the foremost research stations was advertised throughout the Empire, and attracted many applications. Mr. Samuel was selected, and an offer of the position cabled to him has been accepted.

Mr. Samuel, who is a son of Mr. J. K. Samuel, of North Adelaide, has had a brilliant career. He studied chemistry at the Adelaide University, and his ability was so marked that the late Professor Rennie chose him as a cadet to assist him in his laboratory. He served with the Light Horse in the Great War, and, resuming his studies at the University, took up botany with such success that Professor T. G. B. Osborn selected him as his cadet also. Mr. Samuel went to England, Europe, and America for further study, and upon his return was appointed plant pathologist at the Waite Institute.

The director of the Waite Institute, Professor A. E. V. Richardson, said last night that it was a great honor for an Australian to be selected for such an important post in the premier agricultural research station in the British Empire, and a great honor to Mr. Samuel's work on virus diseases.

"It will mean a great loss to South Australia," he said, "for Mr. Samuel has specialised in diseases of plants, a work of great economic importance to the State."