

MAN'S BRAIN LIKE MONSTER PHONE EXCHANGE

Adelaide Professor to Lecture Tonight

"It is no exaggeration to say that a complete map of every circuit in all the telegraph and telephone lines in Europe would be incomparably simpler than a chart of the nervous circuits, of which we already have some knowledge, in the human brain." Prof. H. J. Wilkinson, of the Adelaide University, will tell his audience at the first of the series of public lectures tonight.

Prof. Wilkinson, who is the Elder Professor of Anatomy and Histology, will speak at the Prince of Wales Lecture Theatre on "The Evolution of the Brain." "The nervous system, like all other animal tissues, is composed of cells, and these cells are specially constructed to facilitate the transmission of nervous impulses to and from all parts of the body to the central nervous organ—the brain," he said today.

"ENORMOUS SWITCHBOARDS"

"The nervous system, therefore, has been compared with a monster telephone system with a large number of exchanges grouped together, mostly in the brain, and containing enormous switchboards.

"Every part of the animal body is connected with one of these switchboards, and the switchboards of the various exchanges are connected up one with the other in many ways.

"The known complexity of the lines of nervous connection within even so simple a brain as that of the frog, if mapped out in detail would make the wiring chart of the largest electrically driven factory look as simple as a country road map.

"It will be the object of the lecture tonight to give some idea of how the nervous system arose, and how, from the simplest type of brain, such as that of the jellyfish, worm, mosquito, or ant, arose the complicated mechanisms as seen in the brains of fish, fowl, beast, and man."

FUTURE OF OLD EXHIBITION

Renovation Needed, Revenue Shrinking

HISTORIC BUILDING

Although the Exhibition Building is considered to be in urgent need of structural repairs, and its future is being considered by the Government, it will, probably play its part in the celebrations of the State's Centenary. This building was the central feature of the State Jubilee celebrations in 1887.

The buildings and grounds, except for the eastern wing of the main building and the northern annexe near the Frome road gate, were vested in the University of Adelaide in fee simple in 1929, and the Government holds the property on lease until 1939. It has been the scene of many functions associated with the history of South Australia, but the necessity for such a building seems to be decreasing. In 1888, the year after the Jubilee Exhibition, it returned £1,800 in revenue, but last year only two or three hundred pounds was received.

In 1883, under the Bray Government, an Act was passed authorising the expenditure of £212,000 for the holding of a Jubilee Exhibition, of which £140,000 was for building. Next year brought a change of Government and a deficit of £436,658, so the Act was allowed to lapse, but Sir Edwin Smith, then Mayor of Adelaide, called a public meeting which led to a guarantee fund being formed. There were 57 promoters, and the smallest contribution was £100, Sir Edwin Smith giving £5,000. In 1885, the Government was asked for £32,000 and the necessary land, and Parliament approved. The main building was erected to the design of Messrs. Withall and Wells, and the roadways were constructed by Government labor. Heavy rains which washed away the roads resulted in the work being completed, by overtime and Sunday work, just in time for the opening by the Governor (Sir William Robinson) on June 21, 1887, the 50th anniversary of Queen Victoria's accession, which occurred within six months of the proclamation of South Australia as a province of the British Empire.

Skating Rink And Circus

The exhibition, which was visited by 750,000 people, closed on January 7, 1883, and the building came under the control of the newly created Department of Works. It was used first as a skating rink, the lessee putting in the kauri pine floor—which is still there—at a cost of £1,200. On another occasion it was let to a circus. The western annexe, which overlapped the University grounds on the site now being prepared for the Bonython Great Hall, was sold and removed after the exhibition. There was an eastern annexe of wood and iron where the School of Mines now stands.

Visits By Royalty

The building has been visited by Royalty more than once. The King and Queen, as Duke and Duchess of York, were entertained there and the mayoral ball for the present Duke and Duchess was held there in 1926. Other mayoral balls have been held there also. The delegates to the first Federal Convention held a grand dinner there and troops going to and returning from the South African War and the Great War were feted there many times. Melba, Clara Butt and other world famous singers have been heard in the hall, as well as many of Australia's greatest statesmen. It is regularly used for University examinations.

Until 1925 the Royal Show was held there, after its removal from the old Exhibition Grounds on the other side of Frome road. Portion of it is at present occupied by the horticultural branch of the Department of Agriculture and another portion by the School of Arts and Crafts.

Adv. 23-6-33

FIFTY YEARS AGO

From "The Advertiser," June 23, 1883

FOR the Elder scholarship this year, Mr. Otto Fischer, of Tanunda, is the candidate recommended by the examiners. Miss Franziska Puttmann and Mr. J. M. Dunn receive honorable mention.

FIRST CONVICT TRANSPORTATIONS

Lecturer On Experiments That Failed

The numerous experiments in the transportation of prisoners which preceded the arrival of Governor Phillip's fleet at Sydney Cove in 1788 were described by Mr. W. Oldham, lecturer in modern history at the Adelaide University, in a University extension lecture last night.

The first experiment, he said, was the transportation of prisoners to America, which was suggested as far back as 1584. It was a remarkable coincidence that the Australian experiment, which it closely resembled, was first proposed as a desperate remedy for a desperate evil exactly 200 years later. Before the War of Independence closed America to English convicts—although a shipment was actually made after that war—the American colonies absorbed about 100,000 men and women, many of whom sentenced and transported for having stolen such trivial things as a pocket handkerchief.

The convicts supplied the colonists with cheap and valuable labor. They were shipped by contractors, to whom the Government paid a royalty of £5 a head, and on arrival in the colonies were put up for auction. A skilled workman would bring as much as £25, a laborer about £10, and a woman £8. The cessation of the system confronted the British Government with a serious problem. The gaols quickly became overcrowded, and every remedy suggested was eagerly adopted. Experiments were made with the transportation of prisoners to Honduras, the West Coast of Africa, and South Africa. All ended in failure.

New South Wales provided the solution. It was essentially an experiment, and the British Government went to great pains to ensure its success, making every provision for the welfare of the 1,000 prisoners who were sent in the first shipment, and investing wide discretionary powers in Governor Phillip. So successful did it prove that during the next five years 5,000 convicts were sent to the colony, a rate not exceeded even in the days of the American system.

Adv. 23-6-33

Conservatorium Organ Recital

Brilliant renderings of characteristic compositions of Bach, Vaughan Williams, and Karg Elert were given by Mr. John Horner in his lunch hour recital on the Elder Conservatorium organ yesterday. Bach was represented by C minor prelude and fugue, Vaughan Williams by his prelude on the hymn tune "Rhosymedre." The Karg Elert "Post luidium Alla Toccata" made an effective finale.

The Agnus Dei of Bizet was well sung by Mr. Kenneth Ward to the admirable pianoforte accompaniment of Miss Topsis Doenau.

At the next recital (June 29), Mr. Horner's programme will include the Glazounov D minor prelude and fugue and the Delius "On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring." Mrs. Hewitt Dutton will sing Landon Ronald's "O, Lovely Night," with Miss Gwen Paul at the piano.

Adv. 27-6-33

In the classics room at the University, at 3.15 p.m. on Friday, the Chancellor (Sir George Murray) will confer degrees upon the following students:—William Donald Padman (Bachelor of Laws); Claude Leonard Anderson, Ronald Barrington Knight, and Roy Le Page Muecke, in absentia (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery); Leslie Alfred Ballard Tucker (Bachelor of Agricultural Science, Melbourne); and Theo John Marshall, B.Sc., Western Australia (Bachelor of Agricultural Science); Arthur Walter Fielding, Norman Meshach Fricker, and Thomas Howard Stephenson, in absentia (Bachelor of Engineering and Diploma of Applied Science).

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Among students on whom honors will be conferred tomorrow afternoon by the Chancellor of the University (Sir George Murray) is Robert Neil O'Reilly, who will receive the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery.

MURRAY BASIN'S FUTURE

Dr. Fenner to Speak on Possibilities

In the third public lecture at the University tomorrow night, Dr. Charles Fenner will describe and illustrate the structure and physiographic history of the Murray-Darling Basin.

"This basin, which is 414,000 square miles in extent, is perhaps the most extensive economic unit in Australia," Dr. Fenner said today.

"The dominating conditions of height and latitude have largely determined that the productive areas lie in a series of concentric boomer-shaped bands," he said.

"A very important factor, worthy of more definite recognition in the exploitation of the area, is the division into uplands, delta lands, flat lands, and mallee lands.

"DEFINITE UNIT"

"While this great area with all its interesting variety constitutes a definite unit, it has not been developed thus."

Dr. Fenner said he would mention the haphazard and thoughtless way in which State boundaries were set up in the early days.

"Four separate areas were set apart, each of which has been developed independently from one of four powerful capital cities, not one of which lies within the Murray Basin," Dr. Fenner said.

He will also discuss the possibilities of the Murray Basin some day obtaining a natural outlet by means of a harbor at the river mouth.

Adv. 27-6-33

Students' Concert At Conservatorium

At the Elder Conservatorium students concert last night a good standard of proficiency was revealed. Of the vocalists, Marjorie Hartley (Mrs. Reginald Quesnel) was outstanding, her singing of Elizabetha Oddone's "Canzone Dell' Arpa," to the able harp accompaniment of Miss Clarice Gmeiner, showing distinct promise. Others who sang creditably were Declina Harvey (Madame Delmar Hall); Marian Hardy, whose violin obbligato was well played by Hartley Williams; Howard Pfitzner (Mr. Winsloe Hall), and Clement Hardman (Mr. Frederick Bevan).

In the first and second movements of the Liszt E flat piano concerto, Betty Solomon (Mr. William Silver) played with good effect. Betty Puddy (Miss Maude Puddy) in her rendering of the Chopin B flat minor scherzo, brought no little storm and thunder into that composition. Vernon Odium (Miss Sylvia Whittington) in his violin solos, a Boccherini minuet and D'Ambrosio canzonetta, revealed good musicianship and a delightful expressiveness. Pauline Hyde (Mr. Peter Bornstein) contributed an effective violin solo, the moderato from the third suite of Ries. A cello solo, Gabriel Marie's melodious "La Cinquaine," was pleasingly played by Ronald Porter (Mr. Harold Parsons).

Members of Mr. Parsons' ensemble class were responsible for a string quintet and trio. The former, the first movement from the Mozart G minor, was well played by Winifred Chinner and Vernon Odium (violin); Kathe Yoerger and Clarice Gmeiner (viola); and Gwenneth Thompson (cello). The trio, the last movement of Arensky in D minor, received admirable interpretation from Dorothea Angus (piano), Mary Hancock (violin), and Juliet Savage (cello).

The pianoforte accompanists were Misses Topsis Doenau, Jean Barbour, Joyce Rofe, and Muriel Porter.

Adv. 28-6-33

Among the King's Birthday honors bestowed in India, Dr. Laura Hope (nee Fowler) received the Kaisar-i-Hind gold medal, an Imperial decoration for services to the Empire. Dr. Laura Hope took the degree of M.B. at the Adelaide University. Her husband, Dr. Charles Hope, also took his M.D. degree in Adelaide. He has been decorated with the Kaisar-i-Hind silver medal.