

GRADUATES FOR JOBS IN PUBLIC SERVICE

SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS AT HOSPITAL

Confirmation of Policy

The Registrar of the Adelaide University (Mr. F. W. Eardley) said today that the agreement of the vice-chancellors of Australia at their conference that university graduates should be appointed to the Civil Service was really confirmation of a policy already adopted.

Before last year university graduates in subjects which fitted them for the Civil Service were practically debared because only juniors were considered who worked their way up to the positions which could have been occupied at once or graduated.

The new system, under which the first appointments were made last year, has been found to be possible for graduates to be appointed without examination, through the recommendations of their universities. The recommendations are considered by the vice-chancellors of the Council, who recruits them to the Public Service Commission for the final selection.

Government - Take Action

"State In Throes Of Epidemic"

An appeal to the Government to take immediate action regarding the shortage of doctors at the Adelaide Hospital was made by Mr. Robinson (Lansdown) in the Assembly yesterday. The Address-in-Reply debate in the Assembly yesterday, Mr. Robinson said the position was worse than it had been a year ago, since a similar dilemma had arisen.

"We are in the throes of one of the worst and most virulent epidemics of pneumonia ever experienced in this State, and young doctors are being worked to a standstill," he added. "There are more than 800 patients, and the position has been aggravated by the recent departure of two of the doctors on the staff."

"The Minister's remuneration were given, it would not be difficult to find young men qualified to do the work here, and there would be no necessity to look for men in England," said the Acting Premier (Sir George Ritchie) has suggested. The palty £100 a year is inadequate, and the valuable experience which the young doctors are supposed to get, the routine is exacting that they have no time for anything else.

"I urge the Government to give some consideration to our own doctors and see that our better product is properly staffed and not in danger of completely breaking down."

£1,000 for Scientific Research Work

The trustees of the Scientific and Industrial Endowment Fund have announced that grants of about £1,000 will be made for 1936 to assist persons engaged in scientific research work. Applications should be lodged by October 21.

They are also calling for applications for a junior scholarship in the forest products division of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. This is tenable for one year. Applications close on September 9.

"FERTILITY" VITAMIN ISOLATED

Scientists' Important Discovery

SAN FRANCISCO, August 20. A bio-chemical discovery of considerable importance was revealed here today before the American Chemical Society. With the announcement that Professor Evans, of the University of California, who, in 1922 identified Vitamin E, had finally succeeded in isolating it.

The element is found in the wheat germ, and lettuce and cotton seed, and some other green vegetables. Known as the "fertility" vitamin, its absence in the diet of mammals produces sterility.

The scientist succeeded in obtaining crystals of high Vitamin E potency, and stated that he expected to produce the element in commercial quantities within 90 days.

Professor Hicks' Comment

Professor C. S. Hicks, professor of bio-chemistry at the University of Adelaide, said yesterday that Professor Evans' discovery was of great significance, and would lead to a much better understanding of the working of the cells of living creatures. All such investigations into the chemical composition of the vitamin, its isolation, was conditioned by quite simple molecules. It would be a bold man who would attempt to prophesy what these discoveries would lead to in the way of both therapeutic and pathological progress. The discovery just published followed on the results of much painstaking work by Professor Evans and his school. Within the next 10 years, there might be very considerable changes in the mode of treatment of disturbances of the glands of internal secretion, said Professor Hicks.

tractivity. We have gone to the other extreme so much so that if we seriously emphasize the use of our own resources to pay our debts, then the only currency we can supply—goods. Our main creditor is troubled by the receipt of interest and dividends are threatened with restrictions, quotas, and so on.

Economic Improvement

"However, I merely wish to put forward the view that every effort towards economic improvement in many production in Australia is showing everywhere in the world at the present day. At the same time, can we not, with the advance of scientific knowledge, and even more important, the growth of willingness on the part of the world, to come when a smaller and smaller fraction of the world's population will be capable of producing all its requirements in food and in clothing, in shelter and in transport—the four outstanding primitive needs of man? Are we to look forward to living with fear and dread, to live in a state of such nervous tension as that which is the result of any confidence in the rationality of the future. We shall look forward to that time of peace and satisfaction, as a period in which it will be possible for greater numbers of us to give our minds to other things than filling empty stomachs and covering backs, in which music and painting and literature and art, and the pursuit of science itself, are to be known to be the main objectives of those who where today they are cultivated and enjoyed only by few."

"In short," continued Sir David Rivett, "is there not a most attractive prospect before us if we have the sense and sound imagination of the present deliberately threatened by the disaster of mankind in Europe and the uncertainty of the future? It is the plenty: alleged gluts of food, of which we actually there is a closing of the ranks, rather than abundance of every nation seeking to sell products of every kind, and the result of them may present intense practical difficulties, but fundamentally, there is no occasion for the existence of such troubles."

RESTRICTION OF PRODUCTION CONDEMNED

"Nothing Short Of Scandalous"

ECONOMIC PROBLEM

Dr. Rivett's Address

The importance to Australia of producing more goods at lower costs was stressed by the Chief Executive Officer of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (Dr. Rivett) in his address to members of the Rotary Club at their weekly luncheon yesterday. He said that the suggestion that Australia should restrict production was nothing short of scandalous, in view of the millions of unemployed persons in various parts of the world.

Dr. Rivett pointed out in all the work of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research the aim was industry, and that the better product at a lower cost in men and money. The necessity for an improvement in the quality of Australian goods to enable their place in world markets was obvious, but the suggestion for a restriction of production was nothing short of scandalous, in view of the marketing system had been choked, and no doubt was overdue for radical reform, but to suggest that the world had an excess of food and clothing was to deny fact. Careful studies in the United States indicated that 25,000,000 people were more or less unemployed. The estimate for Great Britain was 10,000,000. In Europe and Asia probably 100,000,000 were unemployed. A campaign for better national health through better feeding had already been launched, and the question would be brought before the next Assembly of the League of Nations.

Economic Influences

"Even if greater consumption is brought about by the more intensive, as it does, some sacrifice of that overgrowth of today, economic nationalism is a payment to be exacted by us, since the world is not providing citrus for Poles and wool for Germans without a return, nor would it be possible to get the wool should," added Sir David Rivett. "This is a theory question and will not be taken up here, but I would like to suggest that we Australians have never shown ourselves very backward even in the matter of crop and other nations in goods and services than they take from us. Is it probable that we shall find any country as financially laden with any country? So far we have never shown ourselves to be possessed of that

The Advertiser

ADELAIDE: THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 1935

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY

The fact that the Commonwealth Council of Scientific and Industrial Research is meeting in Adelaide for the first time, is a reminder that the work of this body has a special significance for South Australians. Not only is this State, in common with the other Australian States, actively represented on the Council, but the operations of the C.S.I.R. have been largely identified with the research work which is carried on at the Waite Institute. Furthermore, Adelaide supplies the headquarters of the Council's animal nutrition division, the laboratory having been established in the grounds of the Adelaide University, under the directorship in the first instance of the late Professor Brailsford Robertson. The present director, Mr. H. R. Marston, succeeded Sir Charles Martin, who has now returned to England. Dr. L. B. Bull, who was previously director of the S.A. Government laboratory of bacteriology and pathology, controls the Council's division of animal health. It is not unnatural, therefore, that South Australia should evince a special personal interest in the work of the Council, quite apart from the material results which accrue from its scientific researches.

It is impossible to overestimate the importance of the part played by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in the Australian economy. Primarily, it provides a medium for the application of scientific research to the practical problems of agriculture and industry. In this direction probably lies its greatest immediate value. The

agricultural development of a new country like Australia—influenced as it is by exceedingly diversified conditions—presents a vast number of special problems to the research worker, quite apart from those branches of scientific investigation which have to do with the improvement and evolution of existing plant and animal species. One of the Council's activities, for example, is the control, by biological means, of animal and insect pests. Spectacular success has been achieved in suppressing the pest of citrus in Queensland by the introduction of a parasite of the pest, the cactoblastis cactorum, which prey on the pest. Millions of acres of previously useless land have been cleared by these means. Other pests are attacked by still more direct means, and there seems to be some ground now for believing that the office of the Council have made definite progress towards the ultimate solution of the blowfly problem. Suppression of the blowfly menace would be of untold value to the pastoral industry, and it has already almost seem to justify the council's expenditure of money on ground covered by the researches of this organisation is well high estimable; and, if the results are not always so spectacular as in the cases quoted, the labors of the Council proceed quiet, unobtrusive, and usually effectively. Tobacco mould, bitter pit in the tomato, wilt, the codlin moth, the buffalo fly, the grasshopper pest, soil drift, food preservation and transport, marine biological investigations, and the use of concrete in sewer pipes, present only a few of the wide variety of problems whose solution by workers of the C.S.I.R. will confer an immediate benefit upon agriculture and industry.

The Council's work, however, does not end with the solution of such problems as these. It extends to the realm of pure science, to the training of scientific workers, to the testing of scientific apparatus, to the collation and dissemination of scientific information, and to the relationship between the Commonwealth and other countries in matters of scientific research.

The scientist, as thoughtful people constantly remind us, plays an ever-increasing part in our daily life. One school of educational thought, as represented by Professor Osborne, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Melbourne University, holds that boys and girls should be introduced while young to the scientific habit of thought, in order to develop a confidence in their powers of reasoning, and thus be better enabled to deal with the problems which will arise in their later life. Professor Osborne was apparently discussing thought processes, rather than school curricula, when he made this plea some time ago; and if to him "scientific thinking" means clear thinking and the habit of accuracy, he will find little intelligent opposition to this point of view. However, it is true, that another branch of science—the science of government—is becoming one for more and more scientific study; and, in this connection, it is natural enough that scientists should be inclined to see that the most effective way of settling the problems of our day is in the application of scientific research. No great surprise will be occasioned by the remarks of the Professor of Chemistry at Oxford University, who has just expressed his amazement that scientists should be excluded from key positions in the active control of our defence. It is adding that the Government suggestions for combating aerial invasion were childish, the professor declared that it was folly for scientists to continue their researches, and to guarantee that they, instead of the old-fashioned statesman, control the use to be made of their discoveries. It is no new thought that science is progressing too fast to make it possible for the generality of mankind to "keep up," but sceptics will persist in saying that it is at least open to doubt whether the same is true of defence and defence, chemical and mechanical, would be rendered less dangerous by being controlled for practical purposes by people even distantly related to that "absent-minded scientist" who boiled his watch for breakfast and tried it with an extract