HIGHER AIMS OF EDUCATION

adv. 19 SEP. 1935

Dr. R. E. Priestley's Ideals For Melbourne University

BROADER OUTLOOK NEEDED

Why He "Boiled Over"

The Vice-Chancellor of the Melbourne University (Dr. R. E. Priestley), who was speaking at the jubilee dinner of the Adelaide Medical School on Wednesday, said that it would not pay the Melbourne University to keep up with it and it would help him to remain in Melbourne unless the University received a considerably greater income, discussed, in an interview yesterday, the ideals which he hopes to have established during his administration of the University. He said that what he had meant by his statement at the dinner was that, if in the next few years, sufficient money were not received to enable him to put his ideals into practice, he would feel that he could lead a more useful life elsewhere.

"I have set myself certain ideals as to how a university should be run," Dr. Priestley said. "They are rather expensive ideals, and, at present, there does not seem to me much possibility of carrying them out unless there is a substantial increase in income. The Melbourne University is not the only one suffering from a lack of resources. My impression is that all the Australian universities are in the same funds, and that none has as much money as it needs.

"It seems to me that the Australian universities as a means of educating men and women for the professions and science are admirable. But the idea of university life in which I am interested is not the side of formal education, a university should be something much more than a training ground for those who pass through it. It should broaden their outlook on life and teach them to take an interest in the social and intellectual problems of their times. It should be a means of bringing people of different interests together and encouraging them to sympathise with each other's point of view. It should develop their mental faculties and, by bringing students into intimate close together, enable them to discuss controversial subjects without loss of temper. This is the ideal of the ideal of education, and it is essential for its development that there should be close contact between the staff and the students and between the students themselves. The students should make the university their home during term.

"Boiled over"

"From one point of view the Melbourne University is at present very badly off," Dr. Priestly continued. "The reason I boiled over in my speech last night was the comparison I was forced to draw between what the students have here and the opportunities which those not in college live in Melbourne. I have begun a drive in Melbourne for a new students' union building, and I hope that it will form the beginning of the programme of development which I have set out. I also hope to have a Vice-Chancellor's house built in the university grounds, so that I shall be able to be of more in bringing the students and staff more closely together. Then, too, I hope to increase the staff so that a number of it will be able to keep in personal touch with 50 or 60 students. I want to do for the main body of students what the colleges do for a minority.

"Whether my ideals can be carried out will depend on the resources available. What I meant when I said that unless the university's income was considerably increased it would not pay the university to keep me on, it would not pay me to stay, was that, unless there be no increase of revenue in the next few years I should feel that another man can do my present job as well as I can and that I can be of more use elsewhere. I shall lead a very much less useful life if I am not able to realise my ideals of university education."

The University of Adelaide, Dr. Priestly said, had been very fortunate in its munificent gifts from families who realised the value of higher education and were able to support it. "I do not mean that Melbourne has not such people," he added, "but it appears to me that Adelaide has been particularly fortunate. I am sure that the people of Melbourne are as good as it is possible at present, but more money is needed."

MR. C. J. COVENTRY NEW S.M.

Re-allotment Of Magisterial Districts

20 SEP. 1935

As foreshadowed last week, the Executive Council yesterday approved of the appointment of Mr. C. J. Coventry as a new Stipendiary Magistrate. A realotment of magisterial districts has been made necessary by the retirement of Mr. G. W. Halcombe, S.M., from Port Adelaide. Mr. Coventry will be stationed in the Port Augusta Local Court district.

Mr. Coventry, who is a well-known Adelaide lawyer, and for the past three and a half years had been mayor of Brighton, will replace Mr. H. G. Nesbit, who has been appointed as Stipendiary Magistrate for the Mount Gambier district, in place of Mr. K. P. V. Sanderson, S.M., who will succeed Mr. Halcombe at Port Adelaide. The realotments and appointment of Mr. Coventry were made on the recommendation of the Public Service Commissioner, and with the approval of the Acting Chief Justice (Mr. Justice Angas Parsons). Under the provisions of the Licensing Act, the Executive Council also approved of the appointment of Mr. Coventry to constitute a Licensing Court in the northern and north-eastern district, and Mr. Nesbit in the southern and Murray district.

Medical School Jubilee Publication

20 SEP. 1935

The council of the University of Adelaide is now issuing to members of the medical profession the jubilee publication of the medical school. In a foreword to the book the Vice-Chancellor (Sir William Mitchell) states that "this account of the original and early history of the school was written by the late Dr. A. A. Lendon, who had given much time and care, and tiring from practice, to searching all sorts of records for a full history of the medical profession in South Australia. The council of the University is glad to supplied him with its early minute books."

Much of the publication relates to the early years of the medical school, and mention is also made that some factions to the medical school total £3,000. This sum comprises the three gifts of £5,000 each towards the foundation of an institute of medical research, referred to at the jubilee dinner of the medical school on Wednesday night. The publication also lists the staff of the medical academy and students who enlisted for active service in the war, lists of graduates of the Adelaide University, graduates in degrees or diplomas, deans of the faculty of medicine, senior honorary officers of the Adelaide Hospital, and honorary staff of the medical school since its inception, and the roll of graduates. Other valuable information is also contained in the issue.

ADELAIDE doctors were still laughing yesterday over the speech delivered at the medical school jubilee dinner the previous night by Mr. Justice Angas Parsons. "They said that a more amusing after-dinner speech had never been heard.

Mr. Justice Angas Parsons has something of a reputation for telling a story of this sort of thing; but he quite excelled himself on Wednesday night, and especially with his highly ironical anecdote about a professional visit paid to him, he said, by Dr. Frank Hone. This genial physician, as the story went, having placed his sole in the judge's chest in default of a stethoscope, was soon overcome by the labors of the day that he promptly went to sleep. The patient, equally tired, slumbered, too. The Judge at last awoke (so he said), to find the pale light of daybreak suffusing the eastern sky, and looking down over the shaggy head of the still sleeping physician, he whispered in his ear, "Beloved, the day breaks."

The roars of laughter evoked by this veracious anecdote, were renewed when the Acting Chief Justice, in his response with the statement that the Acting Chief Justice's speech was the first long postprandial utterance that he remembered to have listened to without resentment—said it was worth coming twelve miles to hear it. He was afraid that the consultation described by the Judge, and "have such convincing evidence of a really sympathetic right of the practitioner."

20 SEP. 1935

UNIVERSITY IDEALS

CHAIRS OF THEOLOGY

To the Editor

Sir—In a letter published on Thursday, the Rev. Father Denny says:—"Of course one sees clearly that a chair of theology at any Australian university is out of the question. One insurmountable obstacle would be the differing beliefs of the various churches." I wish to point out that in Great Britain theological faculties exist and theological degrees are conferred by such university bodies as Oxford, Cambridge, London, Manchester, and Wales, not to mention the Scottish universities. All denominations, Anglican, Presbyterian Catholic, co-operate in the work of teaching and examining, nor have secularian differences any such difficulty whatever, let alone any "insurmountable obstacle." In Australia the Melbourne College of Divinity, whose governing body includes representatives of the Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, and Congregational Churches, carries on a similar work; here also the "differing beliefs of the various churches" have not been incompatible with the most harmonious co-operation. In Adelaide a few years ago a committee was formed to advocate the establishment of a theological faculty at the University of Adelaide. The Bishop of Adelaide was chairman of the committee, and leading scholars of all denominations (except the Roman Catholic) united to further the idea in view. In the British universities and in the Melbourne College of Divinity no religious test is imposed on examiners or candidates; degrees and diplomas are awarded to any student who fulfils the necessary academic standards.—I am, Sir, &c.,

EDWARD S. KIEK.

To enable members of the staff of the University of Adelaide to meet Dr. R. E. Priestly (Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne) and Professor Noble Stewart, the newly appointed Jury Professor of English Language and Literature at the University of Adelaide, the Vice-Chancellor (Sir William Mitchell) entertained them at dinner at the refectory last night.

adv. 21-9-35

£104,000 In Endowments To Medical School

The announcement that £5,000 each had been contributed by Mrs. Edith Bonython, Mr. T. E. Barr Smith and Mr. Norman Darling towards the establishment of a Medical Research Institute, draws attention to the fact that the Medical School has received endowments amounting to more than £104,000. The first benefactor was Sir Thomas Elder, who, in 1882, gave £10,000 towards its foundation, and, in 1897, £20,000 more. In 1896, £6,000 was given by Mr. J. W. Angas for the foundation of a chair of chemistry. Another magnificent endowment was made in 1920 by the family of the late Mr. John Darling to perpetuate the memory of their father, and this sum was devoted to the erection of the Darling Building, which houses the departments of zoology, physiology, biochemistry, and pathology. In 1922 Mrs. Jane Marks gave £30,000 to the Medical School in memory of George Richard Marks and his wife, Jane Marks, who died in the same year, for the advancement of medical research. Mrs. A. M. Simpson and Miss Ada Keith Sheridan, gave over to the University property to the value of £20,000. Valuable scholarships were endowed by the donors of the gifts, Mrs. Davies Thomas, the executors of the late Mrs. A. M. Simpson, and Miss Keith Sheridan.

Mr. R. Bronner, formerly lecturer in English at the University, Freiburg University, Germany, will leave today for Sydney to join the staff of the Australian Broadcasting Commission.

adv. 23-9-35

SCHEME FOR NATIONAL MEDICAL SERVICE

adv. 25 SEP. 1935

Queensland B.M.A. Submits Policy Proposals

BRISBANE, September 22.

The Queensland branch of the British Medical Association today announced a scheme for a national medical service for the State, based on the provision for every family of a general practitioner, free of charge. The association proposes to finance the scheme by compulsory medical insurance, with a Government subsidy to provide for unemployed and chronic invalids. The aim is to build up the present system of private practice and friendly societies' medical service into a National medical service. All existing services, public and private, are to be used as essential parts of the scheme.

In an official announcement released by the Queensland president (Dr. W. N. Robertson), it was stated that if the proposals were accepted, a complete medical service would be made within the reach of everybody. The policy was to promote a service which would be available for every person in the community at his discretion, and should be equal in every respect to the best service now provided for the rich.

British Doctors' Advocacy

A national health scheme for Australia was strongly advocated by several of the British delegates to the Australian national health insurance, who were among the delegates to the Medical Congress of Medicine held at Perth on the Nieuw Zealand on Saturday. They emphasised that the scheme should be compulsory for everybody, and should be guided by the medical profession, the relationship between doctor and patient should be a private practice.

Dr. H. Clare Le Fleming (chairman of the B.M.A. Council) said Australia would have to devise a scheme to meet its local conditions. One of the difficulties she had to face, which did not arise in England, was the splitting of the Government into sections. In British all health questions were outside the field of politics, and action taken applied to the whole country as one.

Dr. G. C. Anderson (secretary to the B.M.A.) said national health was outside party politics. Immediately it so minded up with politics, it was sure to arise. There was no reason why Australia should not introduce national health insurance as successfully as in England, but it was imperative that it should be outside the vote-holding influence. The Government must father the scheme, but must accept the advice of the profession when it was being framed.

adv. 9-9-35

PIONEERS' ASSOCIATION FORMED

Many Prominent Citizens Attend Meeting

The Pioneers' Association of South Australia was formed at the inaugural meeting held at the Adelaide Town Hall last night. The room could not accommodate the large attendance, which included many prominent citizens, or descendants of pioneers, Sir Henry Newland presided.

On the motion of Mr. Borrow, the meeting resolved to congratulate Mr. Thomas Hill, of Prospect, on having celebrated his 100th birthday, on the inaugural day of the association, and to adopt life membership.

Officers elected:—President, Sir Henry Newland; vice-presidents, Sir John Hewitt and Messrs. J. H. Barker and J. C. Morphett; committee, Messrs. Ronald Angas, J. R. Baker, W. Bogle, Thomas Hill, Sir Henry Newland, M.L.C., A. V. Davenport, J. Fred Dowie, J. W. Hawker, Hallett Hawker, R. Mayo, K.C., Alex Melrose, F. Kenneth Milne, Morphett, M.P., S. H. Skipper, C. C. Vaughan, J. H. Vaughan, W. Anstey Giles, A. Grenfell Price, Misses Mabel Marryat, K. Kyffin Thomas, and Mrs. Andrew Thomson; executive committee, Sir Henry Newland, Dr. Grenfell Price, Messrs. A. Melrose, K. C. Wilson, Misses Mabel Marryat and Kyffin Thomas, and secretary and treasurer (Mr. Anstey Giles); C. Borrow; treasurer, Mr. C. G. Hack; auditor, Mr. H. H. Austin.

The membership of the association is open only to persons one of whose ancestors arrived in South Australia before the end of 1845.

A constitution was adopted, in which the aims and objects of the association were stated to be to perpetuate the memory of the pioneers of early settlement in South Australia; to keep alive the sentiments of reverence and admiration of their enterprise, sacrifice, and heroic labors; to promote co-operate in any philanthropic scheme for the benefit of the descendants of