

THE CENTRAL LABORATORY SCHEME.

A SUPPLEMENTARY EXPLANATION.

The scheme for the centralisation of the bacteriological and pathological work of the Adelaide Hospital and various Government departments, and also of municipal and other bodies, in one laboratory under the direction of the Board of Management of the hospital has been favorably received on all sides. At present there are numerous laboratories under the control of individual departments and institutions, and the idea is to concentrate the work in one up-to-date establishment under the management of skilled officials, thus rendering it unnecessary to have the small "labs" for departmental investigations only. Mr. W. G. Coombs, the deputy chairman of the Adelaide Hospital Board, was asked by a representative of "The Advertiser" on Tuesday if he could supplement the statement on the subject which appeared in paper on Tuesday.

What prompted the board to take action with the idea of extending the laboratory and taking in outside work, he was asked.

"I don't think there is much to add to the statement which has already been published," he replied, "but you can say if you like that the experience of the board has demonstrated clearly that the bacteriological and pathological laboratory could be extended with great advantage to the patients of the hospital, to other Government institutions, to local boards of health, to medical men, and to the general public. Under the scheme it will be possible to bring pathological and bacteriological methods of diagnosis and treatment to the aid of a greater number of patients, the result of which will be that the course of many diseases will be materially shortened, and probably many lives saved. The pressing need of such examinations is being emphasised more and more every day, and all well-equipped modern hospitals are securing better results as the outcome of work of the character indicated. The direct advantages to the hospital would include the larger establishment of the kind than we have now, which would mean a wider experience and greater efficiency on the part of all concerned in the pathological and bacteriological department. An increased staff would permit of more examinations and special investigations being undertaken than is possible now, and the modern methods of diagnosis and treatment could be more extensively used. In combining bacteriology and clinical pathology and increasing the scope of both the training of students would be more thorough and the course of learning more valuable. In addition to that, original investigation and research work in bacteriology and pathology could be made, whereas it is practically impossible to do anything of the kind under existing arrangements."

What advantage would the State derive from the enlarged scope of the laboratory?

"There are many. First, it would be more economical to have one large central laboratory than several small ones. Second, owing to the increased amount of work done, the ever-increasing efficiency of the already efficient staff would be a guarantee that the results of the investigations could be relied upon as being accurate. The third advantage would be that the collection of statistics in relation to public health matters in so far as pressing subjects are concerned, would be carried out in a complete and scientific manner. The fourth benefit would lie in the fact that zymotic diseases would be thoroughly investigated with the natural result that the adoption of preventive measures would be greatly facilitated."

Do you think the local bodies will join hands with you?

"I should think so, because it will be to their advantage to do so. Copies of the report which appeared in 'The Advertiser' on Tuesday, are being sent to all Government departments interested, boards of health, corporations, and district councils, and medical officers connected with them, with a notification that laboratory work will be carried out for them at nominal charges. As was stated in the report referred to, the Government have heartily endorsed the scheme, and we shall lose no time in giving effect to it."

Have you sufficient accommodation for such a large institution?

"Certainly. We have that splendid building a few yards north of the hospital, which was put up for laboratory purposes. Only a portion of the ground floor is now being used for laboratory work. There are ten rooms upstairs now used as bedrooms for nurses, and the partitions are movable, so that some big apartments could easily be provided. On the ground floor there are other bedrooms, and as

soon as the nurses take possession of their new quarters on Frome-road the whole of the block will be available for laboratory uses. It is an ideal place for the purpose and there will be nothing to approach it in any other part of the Commonwealth. "The more that medical men know about diseases and their causes the better able are they to treat them, and this new laboratory scheme will make it possible for the most perfect investigations, and research work to be done, and consequently the public are bound to benefit through the increased knowledge gained by the doctors. I am quite satisfied that the institution will prove a splendid place, and that as the result of its creation the medical fraternity will be enabled to treat diseases and generally to deal with cases of illness with much greater satisfaction to themselves and their patients than is possible now."

Register, Sept. 4th

PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT BILL.

In committee. Clause 2 passed. Clause 3—"Amendment of section 2, principal Act." The Hon. B. A. MOULDEN said the clause would bring under the operation of the Act country institutes. He moved to limit it to the metropolitan area. The CHIEF SECRETARY moved the following new clause (3B)—"This Act and the Acts incorporated herewith shall apply to the whole of the area comprised in the present House of Assembly Districts of Adelaide, Torrens, and Port Adelaide." The Hon. B. A. MOULDEN accepted that. The Hons. E. KLAUER and A. W. STYLES opposed the amendment. The Hon. E. LUCAS pointed out that later on Mr. Moulden's amendment gave power to extend the operation of the Act to any portion of the State. Amendment carried. Clause as amended agreed to. Clause 4—"Inspectors and subinspectors." The Hon. B. A. MOULDEN said they should remove from the Government the responsibility of appointing inspectors and subinspectors. He moved an amendment to enable corporation officers to do all that was necessary. The Hon. T. BRUCE hoped the Government would stick to the Bill. When there was a popular leg show on at the Theatre Royal they saw the place crowded out, and people standing up in the aisles, stalls, and boxes. They wanted two or three inspectors for the theatres alone. The Elder Hall was a deathtrap. If a fire were to break out there not a soul would get out alive. The Exhibition Building was another deathtrap, and they would have a holocaust which would carry off a great many of the citizens. He did not wish to be an alarmist. (Minister of Industry—"Who is responsible?") The Government. The Government has been spoken to many times about the matter, and nothing has been done. The Hon. A. W. STYLES said he had seen such overcrowding of the Theatre during "The Bad Girl of the Family" that it would have been impossible to get out of the circle had a fire occurred. The Hon. J. J. DUNCAN said the Bill was going to provide against overcrowding, &c. If the general public knew of overcrowding at the Theatre surely the inspector should. (Chief Secretary—"There have been two or three prosecutions.") Then the penalties could not be sufficiently severe. Overcrowding of the Theatre night after night should not take place. (Hon. T. Bruce—"It does then.") Well it should not. The Hon. B. A. MOULDEN said he had been asked to draw up a clause to say that a manager could not sell more seats than he could provide. Mr. Bruce had magnified the position. Mr. Shakespeare said he could carry out the Act if he had the power of admission during performances. The amendment was lost by 9 votes to 6. The Hon. B. A. MOULDEN said he hoped the Council would not agree to the creation of easy billets. He moved to strike out "and subinspectors." The Hon. J. H. HOWE agreed with Mr. Moulden in regard to the superfluity of inspectors, but this was an exceptional case, and had to do with the protection of life. What were the architects doing for the people when they designed the Brookman Hall. The committee of the School of Mines timed an exodus from the building, and it took 18 minutes to empty the hall. What would happen if a panic took place? The Hon. T. BRUCE said he would support Mr. Moulden, because he did not believe in the inspector delegating his powers. Inty should have strong men to do the inspectorial work. The Hon. J. G. BICE thought it was unnecessary to have subinspectors. The Hon. J. J. DUNCAN did not think there should be a duplication of municipal and Government inspection. The CHIEF SECRETARY said at the present time there was power to appoint one inspector, and that was not sufficient. The Hon. E. LUCAS said there was need for subinspectors. He had seen churches overcrowded. Progress reported; committee to sit again on September 7.

OUR FORESTS.

ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR APPOINTED.

The past two Governments and the present Ministry have been impressed with the absolute necessity of devoting greater attention to afforestation in South Australia. The natural timbers are being cut out, and insufficient steps have been taken in the past to replace them. The present Government has decided to take an important step in advance, and has appointed Mr. Norman W. Jolly, B.A., B.Sc., the first South Australian Rhodes Scholar, to the department. His title will probably be that of Instructor of Forestry, and his duties will be to assist the present Conservator of Forests (Mr. W. Gill), who has always urged that much more planting should be done. Mr. Jolly will conduct a class of forestry at the School of Mines, and it is hoped by this means that some of the young men in the State may be trained in afforestation so that they may be fitted for positions in the department.



MR. N. W. JOLLY

Mr. Jolly, who is 28 years of age, is South Australian-born. He was educated at the Mintaro State School and Prince Alfred College, and graduated at the Adelaide University. As Rhodes Scholar he secured the Oxford diploma of forestry, and having finished his course he proceeded to Burma to gain practical experience in the teak forests of that country. He had charge of a subdivision on the Chinese frontier for nearly 12 months, and in 1908 returned to Australia. For some time he has been mathematical master at Geelong College.

Register Sept. 4th

UNIVERSITY LAND.

Mr. RYAN asked the Premier, in reference to a deputation introduced to him in the previous week by Mr. Ponder on behalf of the Adelaide University, for the grant of £17,000 and a block of land, had any decision been arrived at in reference to what the Government would do for the deputation?

The PREMIER replied that nothing had yet been considered. It was a big matter.

Ad. Sept. 4th

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY.

Mr. VERRAN, in reply to Mr. Ryan, said he had not yet had time to consider the request of the deputation last week for an additional grant of £17,000 and a block of land for the Adelaide University.