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UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

A meeting of the council of the University was held on Friday. Present—The Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, Professors Bragg and Mitchell, Keys, Dr. Jeffers and H. Girdlestone, Drs. Hayward and Poulton, and Messrs. Jacobs, Fowler, Murray, Chapple, and S. T. Smith.

The council had under consideration the question of lectures to be delivered by President Jordan, of the Leland Stanford Junior University, who is now delivering a course of lectures in Sydney. It was resolved to have two lectures by President Jordan on June 13 and 14, and details were referred to a subcommittee.

The Board of Commercial Studies reported that Mr. A. S. Cheadle had been elected President of the Chamber of Commerce, and in virtue of his office had become a member of the board. On the recommendation of the board the council resolved to invite Mr. R. Kyffin Thomas (ex-President of the Chamber of Commerce) to retain his seat on the board of commercial studies.

The Public Examinations Board laid on the table the syllabuses of the public examinations to be held in 1908.

Reports were received that valuable presentations of minerals had been made to the geographical laboratory by Mr. A. W. Dobbie and Mr. L. W. Judell. The council directed that these gentlemen be thanked for their valuable contributions.

An invitation was received from the Geographical Society of London to send a delegate to attend the celebrations of the centenary of the society to be held in London in September.

The usual terminal report from the Royal College of Music, stating that excellent progress was being made by Mr. Brewster Jones (Elder scholar) was received.

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The council of the Adelaide University has decided to invite President Jordan, of the Leland Stanford Junior University, to deliver two lectures in Adelaide shortly. Mr. Jordan is now delivering a course of lectures in Sydney.

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TROPICAL DISEASES INSTITUTE.

DEPUTATION TO LORD NORTHCOTE.

From the Bishop of North Queensland (Right Rev. Dr. Frodsham) we have received the report published by The Townsville Daily Bulletin on May 27 of a deputation which waited upon the Governor-General (Lord Northcote) on his way to the Northern Territory from the Townsville Chamber of Commerce and hospital committee concerning the proposed Tropical Diseases Institute. It was pointed out that the Commonwealth Government had approved of the scheme.

Dr. Ross spoke of the necessity for an institute of the kind from a medical point of view, remarking that the prevalence of malarial fever throughout the north was well known, as were also the difficulties of treatment and dealing with the prevention of outbreaks. It was also realized that in malarially affected countries when the soil was being opened up through the erection of buildings, formation of roads, construction of railways, &c., the fever increased not only in the number of persons affected, but also in virulence. When it was considered what a large area of country around the Gulf of Carpentaria and other parts of North Queensland was awaiting development it was evident that malaria would probably in the near future increase rather than diminish unless proper means were taken to combat it. Ankylostomiasis (commonly called the earth-eating disease) was also very prevalent in North Queensland, and it had been shown in the construction of the St. Gothard tunnel through the Alps, and in other places, that the disease increased when new country was being opened up. Another obvious reason for the establishment of the proposed institute was found in the recent outbreak at Port Douglas, where a disease officially recognised as plague had resulted in a mortality of only 2 per cent., a remarkable contrast with the death rate usually associated with plague.

That showed that the disease must have been varied in some way from its normal form. Another circumstance in dealing with the diseases of the tropics was the recent discovery of leprosy at Charters Towers. The two cases which occurred there, together with the growing connection of the North with the East, impressed on most people the necessity of having the disease always quickly recognised so as to prevent its settlement in their midst. The diseases he had mentioned referred particularly to the coast, but the inland districts had also diseases peculiarly their own. In the west of Queensland, both north and south, there prevailed a disease commonly known as "Barcoo rot," and the number of cases treated over the vast area was sufficient evidence that the disease required further study. The prevalence of eye diseases among children in the west, particularly around the rapidly growing district of Cloncurry, was also well known, and required closer investigation. From what he had said the necessity for an institute for the study of tropical diseases was obvious, and it was also apparent that such an institute should be situated within the tropics, because almost all diseases mentioned were immediately associated with insect life within tropical boundaries. Malaria and filaria were conveyed by special forms of mosquitos, and most of the facts known about them were discovered by actual study of the insect in its native habitat. The mosquito was also responsible for the spread of the unknown yellow fever, which is not known to exist in Australia, and if one single case of that disease were accidentally introduced the conditions would be favourable for its propagation. Dengue fever was also conveyed by mosquitos. The necessity to study the insects had already been recognised by the trustees of the Australian Museum, who endeavoured to collect all the species of mosquito in Australia. Another obvious reason for the establishment of the institute in North Queensland was its close proximity to the Eastern Archipelago, and as the trade of these islands and the East increased Queensland must run the risk of being more and more open to infection by diseases comparatively unknown in Australia.

The Bishop of North Queensland said the Townsville Hospital committee had made certain concessions which would lead to the foundation of a research institute in Townsville. But it was not proposed that the observation of diseases would be restricted to any one district in North Queensland, not that all the work of the investigation would be undertaken in Townsville. The greater part of the work of investigation would be done in the University laboratories of Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide, which had been placed at their disposal. It had been said that it would be difficult to find in Australia a qualified superintendent of the institute. That was probably true, but it was absurd to assume that the professional staffs of the universities were not fully competent to investigate the obscure diseases of tropical Australia. To quote Professor Anderson Stuart, the Dean of the Medical Faculty of Sydney, "Research necessarily precedes knowledge, and knowledge teaching and practice." The Bishop read letters he had received, including the following:—The University of Adelaide, May 10, 1907. My dear Lord Bishop—As we cannot send one of our staff, we ask you to represent us at the deputation to the Governor-General as to the establishment of a School of Tropical Medicine at Townsville. We are glad that the patriotism of your fellow-citizens is supplying the necessary hospital accommodation in a city so well situated for the purpose. This university strongly supports the proposal to place the school under university control. No Government department could manage such an institution with the same efficiency, whether from a practical or scientific point of view, as a university having a medical school conducted by accomplished specialists of its own. A tropical school thus managed would attract an ever-increasing band of post graduate students, and equip them for fighting tropical diseases in whatever part of the continent they may live, and for recording observations and results adding to the common stock collected and systematised at the school itself. Until Queensland has a university of its own we hope the University of Sydney may undertake the control of the school.—S. J. Way, Chancellor.

The Governor-General said that he would present their representations to his Ministers, and that, speaking for himself, he cordially approved of the scheme. He also thought that the control of the institute by the medical schools of the Australian universities would be found to be the most satisfactory form of administration.

In the course of an interview with a Bulletin representative Dr. Humphry mentioned that there was one disease which particularly required urgent investigation, which so far as he knew, was only known

in Queensland. It was a form of paralysis, which by many medical men had been put down to lead poisoning, but which he felt certain was not due to anything of the sort, but probably to some organism yet to be discovered. The disease often left behind a crippled mind or body, and was occasionally followed by blindness. The doctor said he would like to congratulate Bishop Frodsham upon having been able to put in a concrete shape a definite and workable scheme for the establishment of an institute, and also the committee of the

Townsville Hospital, who deserved the thanks, not only of the people of North Queensland, but also of Australia co-operating so harmoniously with the universities of Australia in the matter. They had taken not a progressive step, but a flight of stairs.

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UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

During the winter months four courses of extension lectures will be given at the University. Professor Henderson will begin the series on Tuesday next. His subject will be "Hamlet and the Shakspearean Drama," and he will deal with "The Language of Hamlet," "The Character of Hamlet," and "The Teaching of Hamlet." Season tickets will be available until the evening of the lecture. Single tickets will then be issued only if there is room in the lecture theatre. In the initial lecture Professor Henderson will discuss the construction of "Hamlet," and point out how, through the principal character of the piece, the common fundamental laws of human nature are revealed. The University has also arranged with Professor David Starr Jordan, of the Stanford University, U.S.A., to lecture in Adelaide on June 13 and 14. The professor, who is an educationist of eminence in the United States, is visiting Australia under engagement to deliver a series of lectures in the University of Sydney on university education and management.

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