



SIR JAMES BARRETT.  
one of the outstanding personalities at the  
Science Congress.

of its resources. For some time a scheme had been in process of evolution to ensure permanence of membership. It was suggested to divide membership into three grades of members, associate members, and fellows. The committee, however, could not yet express its definite opinion of the suggestion. If they could have, through royal societies, universities, and museums, active steps taken with a view to inducing scientific people throughout Australia to join up as members, paying an annual subscription of, say, 10/6 or more, they might thus secure many people whose work was associated, and thus establish the security of their resources.

It was arranged that the next meeting of the council should be held on Wednesday, at 2.30.

## MUELLER MEDAL PRESENTED.

### Mr. Gibb Maitland Honoured.

The Mueller memorial medal for 1924 was on Monday presented by the trustees of the fund to Mr. Gibb Maitland, Government Geologist of Western Australia.

The medal perpetuates the memory of the late Baron Ferdinand von Mueller, of Victoria, and carries with it a cash prize of £52.

This year the committee controlling the giving of the medal decided on Mr. Andrew Gibb Maitland as the recipient. In making the presentation, Sir Edgeworth David said that Mr. Maitland went to Queensland in the eighties and worked in that State for many years under Professor Jack. He had also done a considerable amount of work in New Guinea. His great task was his survey of the artesian basin of Queensland from the New South Wales border to the Gulf of Carpentaria. In the early nineties Mr. Maitland was appointed Government Geologist of Western Australia. The geological formation of that State was then little known. Utilizing his Queensland experience, Mr. Maitland conceived the idea of finding artesian



MR. ANDREW GIBB MAITLAND,  
Government Geologist of Western Australia  
and winner of the Mueller Medal for his  
research work in geology.

water there. He proved to be right, and solved the water problems of many parts of that State. To him they owe a fine geological map of more than one-third of Australia, which took in most of the important mineral deposits. That was no small work for one man to accomplish. In the future geological history of Australia

the name of Gibb Maitland would be one that would have its proper place as that of a man who had spent his life in accomplishing a great work on behalf of Australia. (Applause.)

Mr. Maitland was not able to be present, and the medal was accepted on his behalf by Professor Willmore (Vice-Chancellor of the Perth University).

## THE NEXT CONFERENCE.

### To be Held in Western Australia.

At the meeting of the general council of the Australasian Association for Advancement of Science at the University on Monday, the members unanimously decided that the association should hold its next conference in Western Australia in August, 1926.

In advancing the claims of the western State, Professor Willmore (Vice-Chancellor of the Perth University) said that his State had never yet had the honour of entertaining the conference. He assured them that there would be no lack of hospitality extended them. They had also received a promise from the State Government that they would be granted financial assistance to the extent of £1,200.

Sir Edgeworth David and Sir George Knibbs supported the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The matter of the venue of the 1928 conference was also raised. Sir George Knibbs mentioned that Tasmania was to

have been the venue of the 1920 conference; but, owing to the shipping strike, the gathering was held in Melbourne. In those circumstances he thought Tasmania should have the 1928 conference. The Tasmanian members of the council intimated that they had been in touch with the Premier of their State on the matter of financial assistance. So far they had received no reply. The association was not in a condition financially to invite the conference to Tasmania unless they had the support of the Government. The matter of the 1928 conference was allowed to stand over until the next meeting of the council, by which time it would be known whether Tasmania could finance a conference there or not.

## ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION

### Australian Body Proposed.

At the meeting of the social and statistical science section of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science at the University on Monday, a discussion was instituted on the advisability of forming an economic association for the whole of Australia. Professor D. B. Copeland (sectional President) said the idea behind the proposal was for the association to correlate all the information about their work. Following the formation they could inaugurate an annual publication on their work, with possibly, at a later stage, a bi-annual supplement. The section appointed a committee, consisting of Professor D. B. Copeland, Mr. C. H. Wickens (Commonwealth Statistician), Mr. A. L. G. McKay, Mr. D. Fraser (New Zealand Statistician), Mr. Leo. Watson (N.S.W.), Professor Parnell (Queensland), and Mr. A. Bennett (Western Australian Statistician), to go into the matter and report to the section on Friday.

## THE PRESIDENT-ELECT.

### Sir Thomas Lyle Elected.

The general council of the science congress on Monday unanimously appointed Sir Thomas Rankine Lyle, who was from 1889-1915 Professor of Natural Philosophy at the Melbourne University, to be the

President of the 1926 conference to be held in Perth. The nomination was made by Sir Baldwin Spencer, and supported by Sir Edgeworth David and Sir John Monash. Sir Baldwin Spencer said that he had a long acquaintance with Sir Thomas, having been a fellow-professor at the Melbourne University with him for over 30 years. There was no man who had done more for the scientific community in particular and the community at large. He was, moreover, a splendid organizer, and had been of the greatest assistance on the professorial boards of the university. Sir Edgeworth David and Sir John Monash also spoke in glowing terms of Sir Thomas's ability and his great services to the community.

Sir Thomas Lyle is an M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S. (Vic.). He graduated at the Dublin University in 1883, where he was first science scholarship in 1881, first senior moderatorship with large gold medal in mathematics and mathematical physics, and first senior moderatorship with large gold medal in experimental physics and chemistry, and with the university science studentship at graduation. He secured the McCullough prize in 1884, M.A. in 1887, and Maddern prize in 1888. From 1884-5 he was Lecturer in Mathematics at the Catholic University College, Stephen's Green, Dublin, and Professor of Natural Philosophy at the Melbourne University

from 1889 to 1915. He secured his D.Sc. degree at the Dublin University in 1905, and was made F.R.S. in 1912. In 1912 he was the author of a highly valuable report to the Victorian Government on technical schools and technical education in the British Isles and America. He was Chairman of the Board of Visitors to the Melbourne Observatory from 1903, and has been a Vice-President of the Council of Education, Victoria, and Chairman of the Electricity Commissioners, Victoria. He is the author of several original scientific memoirs.

# SPRING OF CIVILIZATION.

## SCIENCE AND WORLD CONDITIONS.

### NEED FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

A civic reception was accorded the members of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science by the Lord Mayor (Mr. C. R. J. Glover), at the Adelaide Town Hall, on Monday evening. The speakers stressed the need for greater public recognition of the work of scientific bodies such as the one represented, and the necessity for practical assistance.

In welcoming the members, Mr. Glover said that as the representative of the citizens it afforded him great pleasure to welcome the visitors to Adelaide. It was 18 years since the city had been the seat of the last similar gathering. They were honoured that so many distinguished figures in the scientific world of Australia and New Zealand were temporarily sojourning with them. It was 10 years since representatives of the parent body—the British Association—had visited Adelaide, where sittings had been conducted. Unfortunately interest in the deliberations on the occasion was diminished by the outbreak of the Great War. The President at that gathering was the world-famous scientist, Sir Oliver Lodge. The Australian Association had come into existence in 1888, principally through the efforts of Professor A. Liversidge. Founded on the lines of the British Association, the Australasian organization had been formed "to give stronger stimulus and more systematic direction to scientific enquiry, to obtain a greater degree of national attention to the objects of science, and the removal of those disadvantages which impeded its progress, and to permit the intercourse of the cultivation of science with one another and foreign philosophers." No more worthy objects could be imagined, and it was to be regretted, therefore, that the limited number of cities which could give accommodation to so large a gathering, as well as the considerable distance which separated the chief centres of population, made it necessary to hold the conferences once every two years only. The pleasure and stimulus which the members experienced from intercourse on such occasions was added to by valuable records of the proceedings which supplied in a brief form to the public the latest observations and ascertained facts in every branch of science in Australasia. The present was the third meeting in Adelaide. On this occasion the chair would be occupied by one of Australia's greatest and most popular citizens in the person of Lieut.-Gen. Sir John Monash—(applause)—who had not only distinguished himself as the leader of the Australian Imperial Forces in the Great War, but also in the realms of engineering, law, and literature. Sir John Monash succeeded another great man in Sir George Knibbs, whose investigations in statistics and science in the Commonwealth were known throughout the world. He added that the visitors were welcome, and they could rest assured that the citizens of Adelaide would leave nothing undone to increase the pleasure of their visit. He welcomed them most heartily to Adelaide.

Cr. Sir Lewis Cohen, in supporting, observed that the company accentuated the title of Adelaide as the city of culture. He tendered, in behalf of the City Council a cordial and heartfelt welcome to the visitors. (Applause.) An extremely important part would be played during the week by those present, who represented the various States of the Commonwealth. Their deliberations would be regarded with the greatest interest by others in every part of Australia. Science in every department of life had played so important a part in the world's history, particularly in the last decade, that their interest would be all the greater in the advice which would be presented to them during the week. (Applause.)

### The Government's Greeting.

The Attorney-General (Hon. W. J. Denny) welcomed the delegates on behalf of the Government. He regretted that, owing to indisposition, the Premier (Hon. J. Gunn) was unable to be there in person to present his felicitations to the assemblage. It would be hard to find more distinguished names in the world of science than those connected with the conference. In their President (Sir John Monash) they had a great personality, a great soldier, man of letters, and scientist. It was appropriate that they should have a returned soldier at their head; and that the man who had done so much to bring the war to a successful end, should now

be prominently engaged in "turning the munitions of war into the ploughshares of peace." He assured them that the Government would do their utmost to make their stay pleasurable and instructive.

### Recognition Essential.

Sir George Knibbs (President), in response, returned thanks for the very generous welcome that had been extended them. The fact that the Science Congress had taken up their abode in Adelaide for a week or two should be a good thing for Australia. The appreciation of science was growing rapidly. In a young community where people were necessarily engaged in the sterner matters of life, they were apt to forget that during the last century science had made it possible for the world to more than double its population. In fact population was growing at a rate that could not be kept up much longer. He wondered whether the nations of the world could not give the vast amount of money that they were expending on attacking one another, and give it to science researchers to show people how to live together in harmony. The enormous sums of money devoted to the war, if devoted to the study of physical and political science, could be used to benefit the people in many parts of the world. To do that, however, they would require to change the human heart from egoistic to altruistic. The manner in which scientists worked together for the common good, and the lives of public men were devoted to the development of civilization, showed the splendid spirit that actuated them. It also showed that the spirit by which enormous changes for the benefit of the race could be made, was among them. What was really wanted was some sort of correlation of effort and movement. That meeting's gathering made them feel at home, and they would go away to commence their work with better hearts and greater spirit. The future of Australia would necessarily be difficult. The truth about Australia was that, so far, it was a practically unoccupied continent. It had rapidly to multiply and develop its wealth and people in order to meet all contingencies. The quicker, therefore, the authorities recognised that they had to stand behind movements of the kind of the Science Advancement Association the better.

### Blunders Not Wanted.

Sir John Monash in support, said that whatever exultation, the retiring President might feel at the rapid approach of the end of his term of office, was balanced by his own feeling of dismay in entering upon those duties. He was gratified to know that the present function partly took the form of a personal welcome to himself, and he thanked them for the kind words that had been spoken of him. He was no stranger to Adelaide, as in pre-war days he had done a good deal of engineering work in the city and State, and he had at all times been received with kindness by South Australians. He expressed his pleasure at what had been said in appreciation of the sciences, and in the fact that public men were beginning to speak seriously and sincerely of science as the spring of modern civilization. He could wish that those sentiments were more often expressed in practical form in the way of financial support of scientific research. (Applause.) In Australia they had had good reason to entertain high hopes that the examples of the older world would be followed in that matter, and that institutions and bodies responsible for keeping the torch of learning and science alight would be practically assisted, but they had been disappointed—scientific institutions had no votes—(laughter)—and their needs were, therefore, often relegated to a position of secondary importance. That was not as it should be. It was too much to ask that men and women should give up their careers to devote themselves exclusively to the research of knowledge. That work