

WHY PROF. PHILLIPSON RESIGNED

ANSWERED NO QUESTIONS, BUT ISSUED A STATEMENT

CHARGES which were levelled against Professor Coleman Phillipson, of Adelaide University, in February of this year, have resulted in the professor resigning. He intends to "continue researches, and to complete material for two books which he could not finish here because of lack of documentary sources."

Behind the professor's resignation is an interesting story, but the facts have been jealously guarded by the Council of the University, and Professor Phillipson, regarded as among the greatest authorities on international law in the world, is to be allowed to leave Australia for England.

PERHAPS the Council has taken the line of least resistance, but the fact remains that the charges and the professor's reply should have been made known if only to protect the interests of the parties to an affair which has astounded the social life of Adelaide.

Allegations were made that last February the professor approached the mother of a student at the University, and mentioned that as the boy had failed in his examination it would be wise to have him coached privately for a while, so as to strengthen him in certain subjects.

It was suggested by the professor that he might be able to find time to take the boy privately. His fee would be £300.

Professor's Denial

The mother of the boy did not quite understand the position, but she related the story to the father, who wrote to the professor. The professor did not reply in writing, but telephoned the father, and asked him to call at the University.

An interesting interview then took place. The same terms and conditions were repeated, with the professor emphasizing that the matter should be strictly confidential.

A report was then made to the University authorities, and the Council appointed a committee of three, consisting of Acting-Chief Justice Poole, Mr. Justice Angus Parsons, and Mr. W. J. Isbister, K.C., to inquire into the charges.

It was asserted that previously the professor had approached another man in Adelaide, and offered similar terms for the private tuition of his boy, but the fee was too high, and the idea was not entertained. The man did not report the matter to the University at the time, but when the second case was brought to the notice of the University he was produced as a witness.

The professor defended his case, and the inquiry was privileged, the professor contending that the attack was unjustifiable.

He related that the parents had approached him, and had asked him to coach the boys privately, and now, being disgruntled, had placed the charges before the University.

At the conclusion of the inquiry the committee reported its finding to the Council of the University, which unanimously asked the professor to resign, the only alternatives being in relation to salary adjustments.

Wants to Get Back

The professor called representatives of the local Press to his room at the University last Saturday morning, and issued a statement. He impressed on them that he would not care to answer any questions at this stage, as there were still certain things to be done.

His statement in full reads:—"The fact is that during the last two years, especially after the Council objected to my call to the S.A. Bar, I have been desirous of returning home, and but for the dissuasion of my wife, who loves the climate here, I would have already returned to London, that glorious and incomparable centre of life, scholarship, culture and international affairs. It is only there that I can continue my researches, of which Lord Birkenhead, when Lord Chancellor, wrote to me from the House of Lords. In this letter, which I am glad to show you, he says:

"It may be that you will have sufficient leisure to compile that complete history of international law which no one living is more competent to produce."

"I may add that Lord Reading, the present Viceroy of India, concluded in the following words a letter which he sent me after his mission to the United States: 'It may interest you to know

that you have a good number of admirers in the United States.' Lord Reading was thinking of the influence my publications had in America. Well, it is this work I want to continue, and I cannot possibly do so here. I published one book during my stay here, but I had written it entirely in London.

"Wonderful Work"

"Besides, I am keenly interested in international affairs, and at the Paris Peace Conference I was counsel in international law for the British delegation. It may interest you to see a communication from the present Lord Chief Justice, who refers to certain experiences we had together in Paris:

"You paid a number of visits with me to the other lawyers who were sitting upon the Commission to consider the responsibility of those accused of violations of laws of war, and I was much interested to find that you had already by your books achieved among them a standing which was not only important, but gratifying."

"And there is a letter from Lord Hardinge, of Peshhurst:

"Dear Mr. Phillipson.—On behalf of Mr. Balfour and myself, I wish to thank you most sincerely for the valuable assistance you have been good enough to give the historical section in the compilation of the series of handbooks for the Peace Conference. Those books, which are the product of much learning, literary skill and hard work, ungrudgingly given, have not only earned glowing testimony throughout all ranks of the British delegation, to which they have been a very great benefit, but will undoubtedly prove of lasting utility and interest. With many thanks for your share in their success, believe me, yours sincerely, (signed) Hardinge of Peshhurst."

"Here is a long memorandum signed, as you see, by some of the leading delegates at the Peace Conference. They speak of a certain piece of work I did there as 'wonderful!'"

"But it may interest you, in view of the recent death of the Prime Minister of New Zealand, to see this letter from him to me. He says:

"I am quite certain that had it not been for your knowledge of international law, and the advice which you were able to give me on very many occasions, the report of Sub-commission I, of which I had the honour of being chairman, would not have been in such a satisfactory form as that in which we were able to present it to the plenary commission."

"This kind of work interests me deeply. Besides, I shall resume practice at the Bar, and you may, perhaps, remember that some time ago I was offered by the South Australian Committee of Producers a case for the Privy Council. I could not have taken it because of the Council's objection to my admission to the Bar here. I would not have dreamt of coming here if I had not understood that my admission would be allowed."

Will Not Answer Questions

"You ask for the meaning of the 'attack' and 'unpleasantness' mentioned in my letter. Well, the crux of the whole affair was my unwillingness to give private tuition to one or two backward students. The Council objected. There is nothing dishonourable and wrongful in it, though it may be inexpedient, as there is always somebody or other ready to place the worst on it, and somebody did. It is possible, of course, that the practice may be abused, but why necessarily regard a possibility as an accomplished fact? Anyhow, I am sick and tired of the whole thing. I wish no one ill, not even him who is maliciously disposed to say and think the worst. Therefore, let the person stick another paper on my door, worse even than the last one which was this: 'Coleman Phillipson, blackmailer. Get out, you dirty swine.' Also let the person who said he wondered 'I did not snatch his wife's bag,' say something worse."

Questions were asked during the reading of his statement, but the professor refused to answer when they were put to him.

However, the professor has his remedy. It must be mentioned that he sets examination papers, and also corrects them, though he has outside assistance in the correcting.

In making public the facts of both sides of the case, "Smith's" has taken upon itself the duty, which rightly belongs to the University, to remove the sinister feeling following on the professor's announcement to resign, which feeling could have been allayed had the University come out in the open and made public the whole story.

Return of Dr. R. F. Matters.

'Twilight Sleep out of Favour.'

After an absence of 18 months from the State, during which time he has toured England, the Continent, and the United States of America making researches into the gynaecological side of medicine, Dr. R. F. Matters (a son of Mr. T. J. Matters, of the Adelaide City Council) and his wife and daughter returned to Adelaide on Friday morning.

Replying to questions submitted by a representative of The Register shortly after his arrival by the steamer Karoola, Dr. Matters gave interesting information on the latest developments in gynaecology in the countries which he has visited. He explained that he toured England first, and then went to the Continent, and spent most of his time in France, Holland, Germany and Austria. Thence he travelled to America before returning home. Hospitals he had visited were on an enormous scale, the facilities very good, and the organization wonderful. In Austria he had worked for a time with Professor Ardler, who had recently accomplished a deal of successful research work.

Gynaecology.

Questioned on the matter of "twilight sleep" in maternity cases, Dr. Matters thought it was passing from favour. It was rather a difficult process and required close attention. From the general practitioner's point of view it was hard for him to give the patient the care and attention necessary. The results also were not always quite as good as desired, largely owing to the personal equation which entered into the matter. What was entirely suited to some patients was quite unsuited to others. When asked whether there was anything recently invented to take its place, he stated a treatment called "natal synegia" was being developed in New York, much on the principle of the "twilight sleep," but considered to be more effective. Dr. Matters declined to give details of the treatment, saying that it was far too technical for the lay mind to assimilate.

Gland Treatments.

The doctor said that in Austria and Germany great advances were being made in gland treatments. In the last year or so research had discovered that many ills could be traced to the action of certain glands, and the cures had also been found. Even excessive fatness could be cured by gland treatment. Banting's treatment of diabetes, by means of insulin, was on that principle. Insulin was now the universal treatment for diabetes. Another thing he had noticed, particularly in Europe, was the great increase in electrical treatment, especially for inflammatory conditions. To a certain extent it was replacing surgery in some cases.

New Anaesthetics.

Did you notice anything new in anaesthetics? he was asked. Dr. Matters replied that in America a new anaesthetic, ethylene, was being used entirely in the Mayo Clinic at Rochester. It was a great advance of ether and chloroform. Its main disadvantage was that it was inclined to be inflammable. The after effects were less than those of the other anaesthetics mentioned, and the taking of the drug was much easier. However, it required a fairly large apparatus.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Treatment.

Dealing with the ante-natal treatment, Dr. Matters said most countries were now going in for the Chinese system of seeing that people were kept well, rather than letting them get ill and then curing them. It was ever increasingly being realized that the utmost should be done to see that every baby born lived. Post-natal and ante-natal clinics were appearing in ever-increasing numbers. Some hospitals in the more advanced centres now claimed to have reduced infant mortality to a minimum—in France especially, where the birth rate was still falling, was attention being given to this matter. The Borderlogue Clinique in Paris was one of the finest of its kind in the world. There the expectant mother submitted herself to examination, and if there was any unhealthy condition found, efforts were at once made to abolish it, and generally with success. The mothers were instructed what they should do in preparation for and following accouchement, and if they lacked the proper food, clothing, or other necessities, these were supplied. In some countries such clinics, and centres on the principles of the School for Mothers in Australia, were subsidized by the authorities. In U.S.A. big philanthropists of the type of Pierpont Morgan were devoting a deal of money to that end. Mr. Morgan had practically built a big hospital called "The Lying-in Hospital," in New York, where ante-natal and post-natal treatments were given.

The same thing applied in Chicago. The hospital where Dr. Delee was in charge was one of the best of its kind in the world.

Asked what was the opinion of other countries on the Australian system of a baby bonus, Dr. Matters said France had been talking of introducing a similar system. The medical profession there, however, were doubtful if it would do any good. The German birth rate seemed to be fairly stable. So far as he could see, conditions in Germany were fairly stable on the whole. He did not see anywhere near as much unemployment as was apparent in England.

Local Anaesthetics.

On the splendid progress in the perfecting of local anaesthetics, Dr. Matters said:—"Dr. Farr, of Minneapolis, has done a great deal of research work in that direction, and has made some splendid discoveries. To a large extent now operations are conducted with the use of local anaesthesia. The patient is quite conscious, but of course, does not see the operation in progress (unless under special circumstances). In Austria, too, they are largely going in for local anaesthesia of a special type—"spinal anaesthesia," as they call it, which produces a numbing effect. In London also, some of the surgeons are beginning to use special anaesthetics. From the point of view of surgery, English surgeons are more prominent than those of any other country."

Radium Therapy.

What about radium? In U.S.A. they are using radium quite a lot, especially at the Memorial Hospital, New York, which is almost entirely devoted to radium treatments. There they are collecting to radio active elements in small glass tubes, and use these tubes instead of the actual radium. They are well satisfied with the results. Radium is being used extensively in the treatment of cancer, while Zrays are also much used in that respect.

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LICENSED TRAVELLERS
EXHIBITIONS.
Open to Any School in South Australia.
O'Connor, Walter J., St. Peter's College, St. Peter's College; Church, Dorothy M., Adelaide High, Adelaide High.
THOMAS PRICE SCHOLARSHIP.
Open to Any School in South Australia.
Cox, Carlton I., St. Peter's College, the University.

GOVERNMENT BURSARIES TENABLE AT THE UNIVERSITY.
Archibald Henry Peake Bursary.
Jolly, Wallace W., Scotch College; course, medicine.

Government Bursaries.
Walkley, Allan, St. Peter's College, science; Watt, Fanny E., Adelaide High, arts; Bosworth, Richard C., Scotch College, science; Symons, Lloyd A. G., St. Peter's College, arts; Harris, Donald B., Prince Alfred College, arts; Macgrath, Brian G., St. Peter's College, medicine; Bridgland, Reginald J., St. Peter's College, engineering; Rice, John D., Christian Brothers' College, Magill, medicine; Garrett, Allan L., Adelaide High, engineering; Hone, Brian W., Prince Alfred College, arts; Cox, Alwyn B., Adelaide High, science.

EVENING STUDENTSHIPS.
On the recommendation of the public examinations board of the University, evening studentships for the year 1925 are awarded as under:—Batchelor, Ruth O.; Kollasche, Gerald; Whimpress, Thomas A.; Griff, Bernard; Naylor, Ruth; Russack, Frederick W.; Wilson, Harold B.; Witt, Eric; Correll, Edward J.; Buckley, William C.; Luke, Thomas J.; Langley, Lorna E.; Symons, Clifford T.; Williams, Spencer; Hannaford, William A.; Lought, Keith A.; Belcher, Milton J.; Mickam, Erwin J.; Dodd, Robert H.

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UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL.
The Council of the University of Adelaide met yesterday afternoon and decided that the lectures formerly delivered by Professor Phillipson should be given by the following lecturers:—Contracts, Mr. P. E. Johnstone; property, parts I. and II., Mr. E. W. Benham; and, subject to the consent of the Government, jurisprudence, Mr. A. J. Hannan (Acting Crown Solicitor). The arrangements made are to take effect from the next term and to continue until the end of the year, when Professor Phillipson's leave expires. In the meantime, the question of a successor will be considered in order that he may take up duties with the first term of next year. None of the lecturers are new to the work. Mr. Johnstone was the lecturer on contracts at the University for about 10 years until his partner, Mr. Justice Poole, was elevated to the bench in 1919, when pressure of private business compelled him to resign his lectureship. He also lectured for some years on commercial law. He has been a member of the Faculty of Law for some years, and is vice-president of the Law Society. Mr. Benham, who is also a member of the Faculty of Law, is lecturer at the University on international law, having been appointed to that position when Professor Jethro Brown was elevated to the Industrial Court bench. He was also the lecturer for some years on property, parts I. and II. The Acting Crown Solicitor (Mr. Hannan) is lecturer at the University on Roman law, having been appointed about two years ago. He lectured previously for about three years, on jurisprudence. He is also a member of the Faculty of