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PROFESSOR ATTACKED

Resignation Explained

Through the resignation of Professor Coleman Phillipson from the University of Adelaide and the circumstances that led him to resign, something of a sensation has arisen in city circles.

According to a statement made by Professor Phillipson to "The News" today, the reason for the resignation is that an attack was recently made on him which he considers unjustifiable. This caused unpleasantness, and as he wished to return to Great Britain to continue researches and to practise at the bar, he had asked the Council of the University to accept his resignation.

PRIVATE LESSONS

"You ask for the meaning of 'the attack' and the 'unpleasantness,'" added Professor Phillipson. "Well, the crux of the whole affair was my willingness to give private tuition to one or two backward students. The council objected to it. There is nothing dishonorable or wrongful in it, though it may be inexpedient, as there is always somebody ready to place the worst possible construction 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 he who is maliciously disposed to say and think the worst."

"Let the person stick another paper on my door, worse even than the last one, which was this:—'Coleman Phillipson, Blackmaller. Get out, you dirty swine.' Also let the person who said he wondered I did not snatch his wife's bag say something worse."

PAY TO CONTINUE

Accepting Professor Phillipson's resignation, the University advised him that the council had decided to grant him leave of absence and pay him the salary of the professorship until the end of the year.

"This will leave you free to resume the valuable work which you gave up to come to Adelaide," the letter concluded.

This report differs so essentially from the Report in the Register that I've much doubt the truth of either

PUBLIC HEALTH. MOTHERS AND BABIES.

The Federal Royal Commission on Health resumed its sittings at the offices of the Commonwealth Health Department yesterday morning, and the members present were the Chairman (Sir George Syms), Drs. Jean Greig, F. S. Hone, and R. H. Todd, and the Hon. S. H. Innes-Noad. After Dr. F. H. Beare (physician at Marseba Babies' Hospital and temporary assistant physician at the Adelaide Hospital) had given evidence on the prevention of disease and on medical research, evidence was given on matters affecting the health of mothers and babies.

The Prevention of Disease.

Dr. Beare, who was for some time in charge of the consumptive block on North-terrace, gave evidence concerning the prevention of tuberculosis. He said the most important factor was the recognition of early cases. It should be impressed on the profession that early treatment was necessary, although there were cases of tuberculosis where the disease had not been detected in spite of a long period of observation. The establishment of a clinic at the Adelaide Hospital would be efficacious, but medical students should be trained in the means of detecting the disease in its early stages. Like other witnesses, Dr. Beare agreed that instructions given to tubercular patients were not always carried out, and that legal power should be given for the segregation of these offenders. At the Consumptive Block the authorities had no power to keep the patients inside the block. Most of the cases there were serious, and recovery was rare. He had no experience of tubercular colonies, but thought that anything would be better than the conditions at present prevailing.

In regard to other infectious diseases, he said instruction to medical students in preventive medicine and public health was better than it had been, but it could be improved. He thought it would be better if the health inspectors were medical men, as then they could be called in as consultants in difficult cases.

He had also conducted research into gastro-enteritis for two and a half years. His chief difficulty was in finding a place in which to work until the Darling Building was opened. Any extensive research done in Adelaide would require a new building near the University and the Hospital. A Commonwealth committee should be formed to prevent the overlapping of research. More research could be done by the general practitioners, for they saw the diseases in their early stages, but in the hospitals there were only cases of well-established diseases. Research thus required not assistance so much as encouragement. Some epidemics were not investigated, but the witness referred in glowing terms to the work done by Dr. Hone in that connection. Dr. Beare admitted that his research would reduce the mortality from infantile diarrhoea, but so far nothing had followed from the point of view of public health.

The Health of Mothers.

Dr. Helen Mary Mayo (Chief Medical Officer at Marseba Hospital, honorary medical officer at the Children's Hospital, and clinical vaccinator at the Adelaide Hospital), gave a comprehensive statement setting forth the arrangements made in the State for pre-natal and post-natal work done in the State and the care of infants. She thought the weak point in the scheme for the registration of nurses was that so many untrained nurses remained in the profession. Better training should be given to both nurses and medical students in obstetrics and midwifery. More mothers' welfare centres were needed, and they should be subsidised by the State, for in their ante-natal work the services of medical men were needed, as well as privacy and "a certain degree of niceness." State children between the ages of 2 and 6 years, she considered, were the best cared for portion of the community.

Dr. Marie Brown (acting medical officer of the Adelaide School for Mothers Institute and Medical Officer for the State Children's Department) gave evidence concerning the treatment of maternity cases in Adelaide. There were, she said, no special wards for the treatment of special conditions relative to pregnancy. There was no department for the teaching of ante-natal or post-natal work, either at the University or at the Adelaide Hospital. In Adelaide there was no pre-natal work done except that of the School for Mothers. The midwives' homes for mothers were usually not good and were expensive. Often the work was "rough and ready," and the midwife also did outside work, leaving the care of the patients to untrained girls. Many of the patients did not get enough to eat. Some of the rescue homes were run as laundries, and patients were often underfed and overworked. A large percentage of babies from such homes were

light in weight. The general public should be better educated in the facts of pregnancy and childbirth, and there should also be post-graduate courses for doctors. A domiciliary creche, where the older children could be looked after while the mother was in hospital on the birth of another baby, would be an enormous boon.

The Young Child.

Dr. E. Ruth Gault said she had just returned from abroad, where she made a special study of child welfare work. While in England she held a position at the Vinecut-square Infant Hospital, Westminster, and also visited centres which dealt with defective and crippled children in various parts of the country. She thought the infant welfare work in this State was comparatively good, but should be enlarged to deal with children between the ages of 2 and 5 years. An "after-care" department should be established with the object of caring for children after they left the hospitals.

After the luncheon adjournment evidence was given by Mrs. Napier Birks (president of the School for Mothers Institute and Baby Health Centre), who described the work of the institute. She said it was concerned not so much with the treatment of sick babies as with keeping healthy babies well. She thought every district nurse should have a month's training in the baby health centre, especially in the treatment of infant foods. She did not consider the work of the institute in inspecting children between the ages of two and six years was sufficiently well known. That branch of the work had been in operation for only a year, and although the results were small up to the present, yet they were improving. The receipt of a Government subsidy would enable the work to be spread to the country towns, but would probably lead to a falling off in private subscriptions.

Mrs. Birks also gave a sketch of the welfare department of Messrs. Charles Birks and Company, which, she said, was a perpetual trust, administered by the shop assistants. Its functions were mainly hygienic, the welfare superintendent was a trained nurse, and the money of the trust had provided lunch and rest rooms and also free medical and dental inspections. Since its inception the amount of sick leave granted had decreased by about two-thirds.

Dr. Gertrude M. Halley (Chief Medical Inspector of the Education Department) gave a comprehensive report on the work of the department to preserve the health of school children. The provision of milk for the children, she considered, had had an excellent effect on the children's health. The children had regular medical and dental examinations, and most of those at primary schools had their teeth examined twice before leaving. In this connection she said the value of the child's temporary teeth had still to be realised. The rhythmic exercises and dances in use in the schools had caused a noticeable improvement in the carriage and walk of the girls. As regards the care of children between the ages of two and six years, she thought they could best be reached by the medical officers of the department. Each medical inspection of a school was followed by a parents' meeting, and parents had then often brought to her younger children for her examination. Inspection of the younger brothers and sisters of school children by the school medical staff could be encouraged, but would require a much larger staff if it were to be done as a general rule.

Future Arrangements.

The commission will leave for Perth tomorrow morning, where they will hear evidence and will then proceed by the afternoon train to Perth. On Monday May 25, they will arrive at Port Pirie and return to Adelaide on the following day.

All the difference between the old world and the new, between the flowing periods and polished wit of graceful old age and the earnest enthusiasm of youth, was exemplified by the respective representatives of the Oxford Union and the Adelaide University during the debate in the Adelaide Town Hall last night.

Though Mr. J. W. Woodruff in point of age there was little difference between them, the experience of the Oxonians gave them many years' advantage over their comparatively untried opponents, while their team work was a tireless piece of machinery, smooth running, and perfectly co-ordinated. The attitude of the debaters toward their subject was in itself a study. Oxford treated it as an invigorating mental exercise, speaking little among themselves, but writing rapidly and often; Adelaide made the subject of a personal matter, and urged their cause with the fervor of a Robert Emmett.

From an oratorical standpoint Adelaide was most at a loss when airy persiflage clouded the issue, for then they could produce only a bludgeon to parry their opponents' rapier thrusts. In passing it was noted that eloquence was by no means synonymous with elegance, and that the Oxford manner was a spiritual father than a sartorial quality.

CALM AND POLISHED

Mr. J. W. Woodruff, the leader of the Union men, is a brilliant speaker, with the bulging shirt-front and hanging forelock of genius. He approaches his subject with a graceful negligence which utterly disdains an appeal to the emotions but the insidious strength of his personality, his delicious wit, and mastery of debate enable him to sway his hearers as he wills. He gives the impression of being inevitably and unalterably right in fact. At times he confutes his opponent's arguments with the air of an adult gracefully destroying the illusions of a young and very foolish child.

His enunciation is faultless, save for a slight difficulty with the "w" which he invariably pronounces as "v" and, consciously or unconsciously, he gains his points with the effectiveness of a finished actor.

Mr. M. C. Hollis, Oxford's second man follows his leader's effortless oratory with a vigorous attack, blending sarcasm with a nice sense of humor. Though his clipped accent usually tends to precis style of delivery, Mr. Hollis has combined this with a smooth diction which is very pleasing.

More demonstrative than Mr. Woodruff, he has a set of gestures which will ceaseless repetition have come to resemble early morning exercises—a lightning flash from hip to shoulder, concluding with quick flourish.

SOX AND SOCIALISM

Mr. Malcolm MacDonald brings up the rear with a smashing attack of the straight-from-the-shoulder variety. There is no languid toying with the subject, his style. He is impassioned, denunciatory, overwhelming. At the height of his eloquence he keeps up a ceaseless series of short springs. Though a Socialist Mr. MacDonald approximates more nearly to the traditional Oxonian than any of his colleagues, the vividness of his being the only outward and visible sign of his socialistic leanings.

The leader of the Adelaide group, Mr. D. P. McGuire, was responsible for a fine performance. Convincing, finished, and graceful, he favored the "plain, unvarnished" style of oratory, avoiding rhetorical embellishments, and presenting his case clearly and concisely.

Somewhat aggressive, Mr. C. C. Cru made an able lieutenant. His reiterated "Now, sirs," gave his delivery rather comic-opera touch, and his voice is naturally adapted for public speaking. Nevertheless, he made a good show, and if he did rather overdo the "fore-eloquence," his matter was good and reasoning sound.

Diffidence rather hampered Mr. L. Melville, Adelaide's third man, but grew valuable and even reminiscent as the debate progressed.



Mr. J. W. Woodruff



Mr. D. P. McGuire

not true! very bold!