

OXFORD DEBATERS

Arrival in Adelaide

CIVIC RECEPTION

Members of the Oxford University debating team, comprising Messrs. J. D. Woodruff, Malcolm J. MacDonald, and M. C. Hollis, were tendered a civic reception by Mr. C. R. J. Glover (Lord Mayor) in the Adelaide Town Hall this morning.

In welcoming the visitors the Lord Mayor said the citizens of Adelaide prided themselves on the fact that Adelaide had produced many good things. They desired to show their appreciation of the visit of the team, because it was the first occasion, he believed, in the history of Australia that a debating team from an English University had visited this country.

"On your tour through Australia," said Mr. Glover, "you will find Australia as much British as any other part of the English speaking world. I trust the tour will be of pleasure, profitable, and of great educational value. I hope this visit will be the forerunner of more."

Cr. McEwin remarked that Adelaide had always kept its end up in debating. Adelaide possessed a strong literary Societies' Union years ago, and it was the centre in Australia of debating. The visit of the Oxford men should encourage the Adelaide debating societies. It would also stimulate the interest of Australians in the affairs of the old world.

Sir Joseph Verco said he was sorry that Professor Mitchell (Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide) was not present because he was head of the literary and arts department of the University.

"We have been looking forward with interest to the visit of the members of the Oxford team," said Mr. F. P. Adams on behalf of the University of Adelaide team. "We have watched with interest their successful and somewhat triumphal progress through America and now in Australia. We are anxious to hear some of the sparkling wit which has been such a pronounced feature of the debates in the eastern State. The opportunity of meeting the members will be entirely to our advantage. We will also have a chance of seeing the debating system of Great Britain. It has been freely stated that the Oxford type of debate is superior to any in the world. The methods adopted are the best possible."

In a brief response on behalf of the Oxford team Mr. J. D. Woodruff said they were grateful for the welcome. Debates in England were conducted on the model of the sessions of the House of Commons.

LABOR AND EDUCATION

Comparison of Movements

(By J. Cameron Porter)

One of the South Australian Labor Parliamentarians not long ago in "The News" advocated the need for something of the nature of an Education Week, without venturing an opinion concerning what education really stood for in the Labor movement.

It was evident that in his opinion any kind of education was a good thing for everybody. But is this really so?

As a working class educationist with a passing acquaintance of the subject both in Great Britain and Australia, I should like to clear away a little of the mental fog which hangs round the question in South Australia.

In the first place, we may take it for granted that there is no dispute anywhere regarding the need for education among the wage-workers. The controversy, which is a burning one, especially in Britain, centres round the kind of education, the chief combatants in the field being the Labor College movement on the one side and the Workers' Educational Association on the other.

BITTER STRUGGLE

I do not think it is as generally known as it should be in Australia that ever since the inauguration of the Labor College movement in England 15 years ago its pioneers have had a bitter struggle, not against declared opponents of workers' education, but against the University people, who all along have engineered the official Labor leaders into an acceptance of university education, to be subsidised, as the Workers' Educational Association is everywhere, by Government grants. This is to make it certain that Labor should not instruct its students in the principles of working class education.

South Australian Labor will be none the worse for an explanation of the great dividing line between the two educational movements—the Labor College and the Workers' Educational Association.

The case for the Labor College movement depends not, as some of our Labor leaders here imagine, on that of giving university education, but on the question of what kind of education the workers need.

It proceeds upon the reasonable assumption that so far from any kind of education being necessarily good, certain kinds are a danger to the workers. It boldly asserts that an education explicitly aimed at helping the organised workers to emancipate themselves as a class from the yoke of capitalism is of chief importance to the Labor movement.

LABOR COLLEGE OBJECTIVE

Labor College education bases itself on the principle of the class struggle which is inevitable in capitalist society. It aims at being a weapon for one side in that struggle. It teaches history and economics from the point of view of that struggle, believing that that point of view is the true view.

The Workers' Educational Association takes up the stand that this is propaganda, not education, a point of view which is based upon the assumption that everything is propaganda which in any way opposes the existing social order.

I fail to see how this view can appeal to working class leaders like Messrs. Birrell and Whitford, who know the elementary fact that, just as the Labor movement itself most emphatically opposes the existing social order and exists to overthrow it, any teaching of the ideas on which the movement is based must be propaganda or be useless. It is not all education propaganda, more

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in unfair opposition to, and competition with, outside teachers and organisations whose practical ability is equal to, and whose aims are as high as their own? Unfair opposition and competition because the prestige derived from the universities is used as a lever to secure business. It appears to be a malignant musical growth which, for the honor of Australia, it would be wise to extirpate before it goes further. There is much latent indignation among professional teachers on this matter.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

ENCOURAGING RESEARCH WORK.

UTILISING THE MATERNITY BONUS.

The Federal Royal Commission on Public Health resumed its sittings at the office of the Commonwealth Health Department, Peel-street, Adelaide, on Wednesday morning. Sir George Syme presided. During the morning the commission visited Colonel Light Gardens.

Dr. H. Simpson Newland (lecturer on clinical surgery at the Adelaide University) said too much money was being spent on the laboratory research, and not sufficient on encouraging research by medical men in practice. Where sufficient aptitude was shown general practitioners might be subsidised or helped on the lines adopted by the British Medical Association in England. There should be a central body to co-ordinate the results of such research, and that body might be appointed partly by the British Medical Association in Australia, and partly by the Commonwealth authorities. For the purposes of research the hospitals should be in the closest connection with the University, although that was not sufficiently realised in Adelaide. The spirit of enquiry should still be kept alive in medical men after they had left the University, and students should not have the idea that when they were at the hospital they had finished with the University. Facilities were given to graduates in this State for carrying on research.

Dr. P. T. S. Cherry (assistant Quarantine Officer and Health Officer of the Port Adelaide Local Board of Health) said his appointment under the Board of Health was a part time one. That was not satisfactory, as there were 30,000 people at Port Adelaide, and the time at the disposal of a practitioner was limited. Moreover, his practice was liable to suffer, but on the other hand, as an officer of the department, he felt that he had his duty to that department. He had no evidence to show that general practitioners failed to notify cases of infectious diseases. Many more inspectors under the Board of Health were needed, but all his representations to the Local Board had been met with the plea that no money was available. In Port Adelaide there were only two inspectors. He had not the power to insist on sufferers from tuberculosis following the directions given them to prevent the spread of the disease, and in Port Adelaide 50 cases were reported last year, compared with a little over 30 the previous year. The segregation of those who disregarded instructions should be enforced, just as in the case of sufferers from small-pox. The notification of infectious diseases led to a large amount of co-operation between himself and the general practitioners of Port Adelaide, and this, he thought, could be made compulsory and extended over the whole State.

Dr. B. H. Morris (Inspector-General of Hospitals) said a very great deal could be done in the prevention of the diseases incidental to maternity. There was inadequate provision of facilities for the training of students and midwives, and any increase in the maternity allowance could be profitably used in subsidising training schemes for students in the diseases of women. He thought that experience of the attempts made in England to set up self-supporting colonies of tubercular cases, had proved that the idea was unworkable. Climate had little to do with the prevalence of the disease, and he knew of no place in the State, especially inimical to the disease. Housing and food, on the other hand, had a marked effect on the incidence of the disease, and this was most evident in the supply of milk and milk products. The provisions of the Venereal Diseases Act of 1920 had never been proclaimed. A clinic had been established at the Adelaide Hospital. The proclamation of the Act would materially increase the work of the clinic without increasing its resources. He had several times pressed for greater facilities, and the proclamation of the Act. During 1922-1923, 533 cases had been treated, and there were 5,752 attendances at the clinic. The patients left over from the previous year were 229 and 324 fresh cases had been treated. During 1923-1924, 433 cases were treated, and 7,665 attendances recorded. Those remaining from the previous year

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NATIONAL HEALTH.

Research and Maternity.

Better Facilities Required

Important evidence was given before the Federal Royal Commission on Public Health in Adelaide on Wednesday, particularly regarding facilities for medical research, maternity, and midwifery, and the combating of venereal disease. One witness remarked that the State Health Act needed amendment in order to enable health officers to deal more satisfactorily with big epidemics, but another said that the arrangements in South Australia for training midwives and medical students to deal with maternity cases were inadequate.

The commission comprised:—The Chairman (Sir George Syme), Drs. F. S. Hoad, R. H. Todd, and Jean Greig, and the Hon. S. R. Innes-Noad, M.L.C.

Dr. H. Simpson Newland (Lecturer on Clinical Surgery at the Adelaide University) gave evidence regarding research in South Australia. He said that too much money was being expended in laboratory research, and that encouragement should be given for research by medical men in practice. Where sufficient aptitude was shown, general practitioners might be subsidised or assisted on similar lines to those pursued by the British Medical Association in England. A central body to co-ordinate the results of individual research could be appointed, partly by the B.M.A. in Australia and partly by the Commonwealth authorities. The hospital should, he considered, be in the closest connection with the University. That fact was not sufficiently realized in South Australia. Medical graduates should be encouraged to keep alive the spirit of enquiry after they had left the University. Improved facilities for research were now being given for graduates in this State, and the study of preventative medicine occupied a prominent place in the University curriculum. There should, he thought, be closer co-operation between general practitioners and the Health Board.

Health Officers.

Dr. P. T. S. Cherry (Assistant Quarantine Officer at Port Adelaide and Health Officer for the local Board of Health at Port Adelaide) said that the part-time system for health officers was unsatisfactory for a populous area like Port Adelaide, which, with a population of more than 30,000, demanded more time than a general practitioner could devote to it. He had repeatedly asked the local Board of Health to provide more inspectors for the Port Adelaide district, where there were one male inspector and one female inspector. It had been impossible to cope with the recent measles epidemic, in which more than 1,000 cases had occurred. Dealing with tuberculosis, he stated that, although the local health committee—all laymen—loathed the name of the disease, it did little to prevent its spread. In 1923 there were 30 odd cases in Port Adelaide, and last year there were 50 cases. He thought that compulsory co-operation between private practitioners and the health authorities would be practicable, and that medical men would welcome it. "The Health Act needs a good deal of amendment," the witness added. "It should make provision for the treatment of disease carriers, and for the control of infectious diseases by the possible closing of places of public entertainment during a big epidemic. Control should be vested in a central body, not in a local committee of laymen."

"Inadequate Maternity Facilities."

After having heard evidence by Dr. B. H. Morris (Inspector-General of Hospitals) the Chairman remarked that there seemed to be a lack in South Australia not only of free accommodation for maternity cases, but also of facilities for training in midwifery.

Dr. Morris, in his evidence, said a great deal could be done in regard to maternity. The first and most important step was to provide the best facilities not only for midwives, but also for practitioners. If the Federal maternity allowance were discontinued the money thereby saved could be devoted to no better cause than to the training of nurses and practitioners. After having dealt with the history of the Venereal Diseases Act of 1920, Dr. Morris said that the clinic at the Adelaide Hospital was doing considerable work under somewhat disadvantageous conditions. They desired that financial provision should be made and improved facilities granted for combating venereal disease, and that the Act should be proclaimed. South Australia did not share in the Federal Government's subsidy for coping with venereal disease. During 1922-23 the attendances at the clinic

MUSIC EXAMINATIONS AND THE UNIVERSITIES.

From EDWARD HOWARD:—In connection with the letters on the above subject which appeared in your issues of April 28 and May 9, on which no adverse comment has been made, I have sent a letter, a copy of which appears below, to the councils of all the Australian universities. A question of principle is involved, which should be dealt with openly, as it concerns the interests of the public in general, though they may not realise it at the moment. That the present position of affairs tends to promote cliquism is being illustrated in our own State just now. Instead of a South Australian Musical Association being formed, embracing all bona-fide members of the musical profession, an Elder Conservatorium Association is being organised, of which any child over 16, who has paid a term's fee at the Conservatorium may be a member, while none of the outside experienced professional teachers are eligible. If I may be allowed to use the expression, "It is too funny for words." At the same time it has a serious aspect.

[Copy of letter.]

To the Members of the Council, Gentlemen—May I draw your attention to the enclosed copies of letters on "Music Examinations and the Universities," and ask on what grounds it is justifiable that the professors of music of the Australian universities are allowed to place themselves at the head of organisations such as those in question, which are run on a commercial basis, and that