

Nov. 21. 10. 25.

NATIONAL HEALTH.

The work the League of Nations is doing in promoting national health throughout the world was expounded by Dr. F. S. Hone at the weekly luncheon of the South Australian League of Nations Union at the Regal Cafe on Tuesday, at which Mr. Howard Vaughan presided. Dr. Hone explained that the League was publishing and distributing throughout the world a series of handbooks regarding vital statistics, public health services, and specific problems. As a result he said first-hand information was obtained of the greatest value to Australia, which was vitally interested in her neighbors, the Eastern nations. Thus the Commonwealth received early intimation of outbreaks in Eastern countries of such diseases as cholera, plague, and smallpox epidemics, and was enabled to take necessary precautions. The articles of the Convention provided that the League must take steps for the prevention and control of disease. By the dissemination of news periodically showing the condition of health in various centres of the world, statistics regarding occupational diseases and so forth, the League was doing a wonderful work in the cause of humanity. There was a great danger of its programme becoming too ambitious, and that as a result the activities of the League might be spread over so wide an area that it might become superficial and unscientific. For that reason there had been a reduction of the grant for health purposes, so that for the time being the campaign against disease might be made intensive rather than extensive before a further campaign was initiated.

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LEAGUE OF NATION'S HEALTH ORGANIZATION.

The weekly luncheon of the League of Nations Union was held at the Regal Cafe, Grenfell street, on Tuesday. The President (Mr. J. Howard Vaughan) occupied the chair. Dr. F. S. Hone spoke of the health organization of the League of Nations. He stated that that work was of a very diverse character. It was on a standard of equality with the work of the League regarding labour, in fact, the health work had progressed even further than some of the other activities of the League. The work had become so widespread that it was considered that it might become too ambitious, so as to make it superficial and unscientific, and to combat that, there was now better direction of the activities, which, however, did not mean a lessening. Illustrations of some of the work, such as literature, were given by the speaker. A new departure had been made by the League this year. Disease in Eastern countries owing to increased travelling was now of more vital interest to Australia, and the League had established an Eastern Bureau, and weekly bulletins regarding health and conditions in the Eastern countries were sent to the League by that bureau. The Commonwealth Government gained information regarding health conditions in Australia by means of the health administrations in the various States. The activities of those administrations, however, were sometimes interfered with by politics, considerations of which were frequently placed before health considerations. Health was the paramount factor in the importance of human nature. The League would also devote more attention to maternal hygiene, by which 1,500 lives could be saved annually in Australia. He appealed to members of the League to assist in that direction.

NEWS. 20. 10. 25.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Perth University Interested

PERTH, Today.

The Perth University Senate debated the question of physical education in connection with University training on American lines. Professor Whitfield declared that many students overdid sport, while others did not get enough. In America students took advice in physical training, and were keen to their great personal advantage. Archbishop Riley disagreed with any proposal to turn sport into drill. He thought that all young Australians practised sport of one kind or another. A sub-committee consisting of Dr. Atkinson, Dr. Jull, and Professor Whitfield was appointed to report on the question.

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ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

The operatic performance, under the sponsorship of Mr. Clive Carey, which is scheduled for Monday evening next, in the Elder Hall, has been postponed until November 29 and 30, and will then be held in the Norwood Town Hall. In place of this performance, a students' recital has been arranged, for which an exceedingly interesting number of instrumental items is promised, which will be rendered by the students' orchestra, together with several violin and vocal items. It will be at S. Marshall & Sons', Gawler-place.

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Professor F. Wood Jones, Professor of Anatomy at the University of Adelaide, was reported on Tuesday to have received an offer of the Chair of Anatomy at the Sydney University. When questioned on the subject, the professor did not deny the accuracy of the report, but stated that he had no intention of leaving Adelaide.

Nov. 23. 10. 25. ST. MARK'S COLLEGE.

The ladies' furnishing committee of St. Mark's College, Adelaide University, met under the presidency of Mrs. Ernest Good to decide on plans to meet the rapid extension of the college. A report, presented by the master, showed that the committee had raised nearly £1,200, which had completely furnished quarters for the master, the 16 students in residence, and a domestic staff of four, as well as equipping the dining hall, common room, and kitchens. The great progress of the college during 1925, and the large number of entries received for 1926, had compelled the council to build 20 additional rooms for students, which would enable the college to accommodate 30 men. The meeting decided unanimously to hold a fete, dance, and bridge evening during April, in conjunction with the opening of the new wing. Conveners of the principal stalls were appointed, and many offers of help received, so that it is anticipated that the efforts of the committee will supply the funds required to furnish the building and provide additional equipment needed in the present house. The rooms under construction are of artistic design and will be fitted with built-in furniture and thoroughly equipped for the comfort of the students. The new wing, which is three storeys in height, will form the first section of the main quadrangle, to be built on the two acres of land acquired by the college in Kermode-street, immediately behind the Pennington-terrace frontage. By using the present house, 40 men can be provided for without constructing a new dining hall and kitchens, but the ultimate plan contains plans for a chapel, common room, lecture rooms, dining hall, kitchens, and students' quarters for a college of 150 men. The growth of the residential college system in Australia can be seen from the fact that the four large colleges in Melbourne contain 100 men each. They are drawing plans to extend their accommodation to take 200 to 250 students each. In both Victoria and New South Wales the Governments have given all the colleges extensive sites and sports ovals in the University grounds, and in New South Wales the Government heavily subsidises the work of every college. In Adelaide the system has come into existence through the generosity and public spirit of a number of private citizens, and the immediate need for the extension of the first University college shows that they rightly foresaw the necessity and value of its foundation.

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REG. 24. 10. 25

RESEARCH IN OBSTETRICS.

Dr. J. B. Dawson's Report Praised.

Referring on Friday to the report by Dr. J. B. Dawson on his investigations in Great Britain into obstetrics and allied subjects, a summary of which was published in The Register on Friday, the Chief Secretary (Hon. J. Jelley) said he had perused the document with intense interest. He was particularly impressed with the thoroughness with which the investigations had been made, and the number of hospitals which the doctor had personally visited. He had evidently attacked his work with the determination to make it as helpful and valuable as possible for the people of this State, as well as to the medical practitioners. It was very gratifying to the Government, in view of their policy to erect an up-to-date women's hospital in the State, to have recommendations of the character supplied by Dr. Dawson, as a guide. He had long been of the opinion that the science of obstetrics had not attained the place in medical science in this State that its importance warranted, and for that reason the Government had adopted the policy of building a women's hospital, as stated. It was of special interest because the subject was now under consideration by a special committee which was going into the matter most thoroughly with the object of presenting a report to the Government on the best means to be adopted for the establishment of the proposed institution. As soon as that report was received, the Government hoped to lose as little time as possible in proceeding with the work.

The Chief Secretary, continuing, said his attention had been attracted by that portion of Dr. Dawson's report which set out that, in spite of the fact that practically all the parturient women in South Australia were attended by medical practitioners, and that, generally speaking, the women were better fed, healthier, and better housed than their English sisters, the maternal mortality was 1 per thousand higher in South Australia than in England. That, he contended, justified the policy of the Government in the establishment of a women's hospital in which prominence would be given to the obstetric department, where conveniences would be at hand for providing experience for medical men and nurses in midwifery. In such an institution the history of cases could be recorded scientifically so that the difficulties and dangers of motherhood could be minimised. Possibly the lack of such an institution and training was responsible to some extent for the mortality in parturient women. He regarded the report as a fine contribution to the efforts that had been made from time to time by medical men to relieve suffering, and reduce maternal mortality, and felt confident that the medical authorities in South Australia would all agree with the value of his estimation of Dr. Dawson's contribution to the subject, and that it would be of practical use to the Government Hospitals Department as well as to medical practitioners, who took a special interest in the obstetric branch of the profession.

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STUDENTS' RAIL TICKETS.

A new bylaw, which has been approved by the Executive Council, deals with fares, rates, and charges imposed by the South Australian Railways in respect to the conveyance of passengers, parcels, luggage, and so on, also live stock by passenger trains. The South Australian practice in regard to pupils' concession tickets has hitherto been varied, but in future the following scale will apply:—Where a pupil or student is under the age of 16 years, the fare for the return journey will be two-thirds of the single fare, and for the single journey, one-third of the single fare; where the students or pupils are 16 years of age and over, the full single fare will be charged for the return journey, and half the single fare for the single journey. In respect to season tickets, students under 16 years of age will be called upon to pay one-third of the full adult fare, and those of 16 years and over, one-half of the full adult fare. In respect to the luggage allowance, the pupils who pay half fare, or less, will be allowed one-half of the luggage allowance granted to holders of full-fare tickets. The bylaw will be operative from November 1.

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Three free public lectures are to be delivered, under the auspices of the Workers' Educational Association, in the Prince of Wales Theatre, University. Next Tuesday night Dr. A. C. Garnet will speak on "Some psychological insights."

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UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENTS.

BENEFACTION TO THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY.

The late Col. Oswald Watt, of New South Wales, who died in May, 1921, left an estate valued for probate purposes of over £175,000, and appointed the Perpetual Trustee Company as executors and trustees. After leaving many bequests and numerous legacies to friends and institutions, the testator bequeathed the residue of his property upon trust to the senate of the University of Sydney "for such uses for the benefit of the institution as the senate, in its absolute discretion, should determine." The trustees have now informed the university that the estate has to a great extent been realized and that after the realization of some further assets and the death of certain annuitants, a sum approximating to £109,500 (of which sum £46,000 has already been paid over) will ultimately be received by the University.

In view of the above, it is interesting to compare the list of benefactions to the University of Adelaide. Although there is no single amount as great as Col. Watt's bequest, still the list contains several magnificent endowments. The value of the Waite bequest, which is stated nominally at £100,000, might safely be placed at a much higher figure; and, of course, its potential value is unlimited. Sir Thomas Elder's gifts and bequests amounted in all to nearly £100,000. Sir Langdon Bonython has given £40,000 for a great hall, which will be available in 1930. Then there are the important bequests to the Medical School of the late Mrs. Jane Marks, £30,000; and of Mrs. A. M. Simpson and Miss Keith Sheridan, of £20,000; and the gift of the members of the Darling family of £15,000 for buildings. The late R. Barr Smith and the members of his family provided an endowment of £20,000 for the library. There have been many other gifts to the University, including £20,000 by Sir Walter Watson Hughes, £10,000 by the late J. H. Angus, and £15,000 by Mrs. G. A. Jury. The total private endowments to the University is about £300,000. These form a splendid list, which is worthy to be placed beside that of the University of Sydney.

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THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP.

The distinction of being selected as a Rhodes scholar is an eagerly sought honor. Applications have been received by the selection committee, and it is expected that the committee will find its task difficult. The terms of the Rhodes bequest stipulate that not only academic distinction, but athletic skill must be taken into consideration in awarding the scholarship. It is possible that no decision will be reached until the examination results are made available in December. This was the practice adopted last year. The original value of the scholarship was £300 per annum, but after the war this was supplemented by an annual bonus of £50, and was further augmented a few weeks ago by a second bonus of £50, thus bringing the total value up to £400, tenable for three years at Oxford. One scholarship is thrown open annually in each State of the Commonwealth. The qualities of candidates to be taken into account by the selection committee are:—(a) Ability in scholastic attainments; (b) force of character for leadership, as shown by "manhood, truth, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for and protection of the weak, kindness, unselfishness, and fellowship;" and (c) physical vigor, as shown by "fondness for and success in manly outdoor sports."

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THE ENNIS MEMORIAL.

A beautiful memorial to the late Professor J. Matthew Ennis, Mus. Doc. and Mrs. Ennis has been erected in the West Terrace Cemetery, and will be viewed on Sunday afternoon by members of the memorial committee, who would be pleased for subscribers and friends to accompany them. They will meet at the main gate at 3 p.m. A brass tablet in memory of Dr. Ennis has been placed on the northern wall just inside the western entrance to the Elder Conservatorium, and may be seen at any time.

Nov. 27. 10. 25

Professor E. H. Rennie, of the Adelaide University, was a passenger on the express which left for Melbourne yesterday. After spending some time in that city, he will proceed to Sydney. He expects to return to Adelaide in December.

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Professor Wood-Jones, of the Adelaide University, who is at present at Kangaroo Island, whence he is expected to return on Friday next, has made arrangements to leave for England on November 12. The professor, who will be accompanied by his daughter, will be absent during the long vacation, and it is anticipated will return in time for the first term of the University in the New Year. Professor Wood-Jones was recently offered the chair of anatomy at the Sydney University.