

ORCHESTRAL MUSIC.

PAN-PACIFIC CONGRESS

Mr. Frederick Bevan, of the Elder Conservatorium, who has been on a visit to

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH.

In another column we publish an appeal which should not be lost on a music-loving centre like Adelaide. For some years the South Australian Orchestra has rendered valuable service in educating musical taste, but its work will be made more effective if it can be placed on a stronger financial basis. To this end Mr. Percy Grainger, the world-famous Australian pianist, whose performances have delighted audiences in Adelaide and other cities of the Commonwealth, suggests the inauguration of a fund in memory of his mother, Mrs. Rose Grainger, a native of this State, to which he himself, as an initial donation, will contribute £500, with a promise of further assistance in the future. Mr. Grainger is at one with other authorities in holding that a competent orchestra is necessary for the complete musical education of a community. Without such an orchestra much of the best music of such masters as Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, and to come to modern times, Elgar and Santock, and other writers, must remain practically unknown. Their orchestral works can only be adequately interpreted by a combination which possesses all the elements of color and expression that are to be found in a full band. Unfortunately for the art, the cost of such an organisation is considerable and tends to become greater. Few of the famous orchestras of the world are self-supporting. In America endowment funds are generously contributed to by wealthy patrons, so that there is nothing unusual in Mr. Grainger's appeal. Australia from time to time has had quite a number of orchestral combinations in its capital cities. Mr. Marshall Hall's orchestra in Melbourne enjoyed for some years a well-merited reputation, and its concerts attracted large audiences and did much for the musical culture of Victoria. More recently the famous orchestra of which Mr. Verbruggen was the talented conductor raised the musical standard of New South Wales almost to a level with that of the art centres of Europe. Conductors of his ability are rare, and America, which has always a flair for men of conspicuous genius, was able to outbid the senior State in the figure offered for his services. In Adelaide Mr. Heinicke conducted combinations with great success and much acceptance to the public. Mr. Davies will also be remembered as giving a series of highly creditable performances, and Mr. Brewster Jones's efforts in the same direction are recalled with pleasure. The present South Australian Orchestra, which was founded by Professor E. Harold Davies, Mus. Doc., has done distinctly meritorious work, both in purely instrumental concerts and in connection with the Bach Society. Under the able batons of the Professor and Mr. Foote, classical writers, including Russian, have been made better known to a fairly wide public. With funds available there is talent enough in Adelaide for that frequent performance of scholarly works without which there can be no hope of illustrating the characteristic features of the great orchestral writers. It may be hoped, therefore, that musical Adelaide will not belie its reputation by a stunted response to Mr. Grainger's appeal.

Australian Professor to Attend

MELBOURNE. Today.

On the way to the Pan-Pacific Science Congress in Tokyo, Prof. G. E. Nicholls, of the University of Western Australia, has arrived in Melbourne. He is Professor of Zoology.

The third Pan-Pacific Science Congress convened in Tokyo on October 27 will be in session until November 9 under the auspices of the National Research Council of Japan. The first conference was held in Honolulu in 1920, and the second was called by the National Research Council of Australia.

Prof. Nicholls said that the University of Western Australia had recently received between £400,000 and £500,000 under the will of the late Sir Winthrop Hackett. The money was badly needed and the university would now be able to build suitable buildings.

Since its foundation 15 years ago the university had been carrying on in inadequate buildings and under heavy handicaps.



Prof. G. E. Nicholls



Mr. Frederick Bevan

England, will reach Adelaide by the R.M.S. Orama from Sydney to-morrow.

ANIMAL PESTS AND DISEASES.

Melbourne, September 22.

One of the matters on which the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has decided to concentrate efforts is the investigation of animal pests and diseases. The Council has not been able to obtain any comprehensive figures to show the total annual loss entailed through the various pests and diseases, but there is no doubt that it runs into some millions of pounds. It is estimated that in a bad year the loss from the sheep blowfly pest alone is as much as £4,000,000.

Investigations on many of the most serious pests and diseases have already been initiated at one or other of the veterinary research institutes in the Commonwealth. Further progress in their control and eradication can generally be made only as a result of fundamental scientific investigation as to the nature of the diseases, their causes and the agencies by which they are spread. The Council therefore convened a conference last month at Sydney of the leading veterinary pathologists in order to obtain advice as to what action could best be taken in the matter. The Vice-President of the Executive Council (Senator Pearce) states that as a result of the conference it has been decided to offer financial assistance to the veterinary research institutes in order to enable them to employ competent workers to carry out investigations on a number of problems which now cause great loss to pastoral industries.

For example, it is proposed that investigations shall be carried out at the Glenfield Animal Research Institute, New South Wales, on (a) paralysis in pigs, which occurs specially in young pigs being topped off for the bacon factory, and which is a matter of great concern to the dairying industry; (b) toxæmia plethora, which causes high mortality in the best lambs, and of which the cause is unknown; and (c) sterility in cows, which is also of very serious concern to dairy farmers. At the Sydney University veterinary department it is proposed to continue work on Braxy diseases in sheep, which occur under different names in several of the States, and also to initiate investigations on Caseous lymphadenitis in sheep, which is extremely prevalent in Australia, and which is becoming of serious importance in connection with the export of frozen sheep. At the Melbourne University veterinary research institute it is proposed to carry out work on bovine pleuro-pneumonia and tuberculosis in cattle, and in Adelaide on other diseases.

Senator Pearce states that the above proposals are in accordance with the general policy of the Commonwealth Government, namely, that the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research shall utilise existing institutions wherever practicable. The Council also hopes to cooperate in its work on animal problems with Dr. W. A. N. Robertson, the Director of Veterinary Hygiene, Commonwealth Department of Health, and with Mr. Allen, the veterinary officer of the Department of Trade and Customs. The question of investigations on the improvement of stock (animal genetics) is also under consideration by the Council. This is a matter of great importance to the dairying and beef export industries. The investigations would, however, involve substantial expenditure of money, and it would probably be several years before results of value could be obtained.

NEWS. 22.9.26

Scientist and Public Servant

Mr. Ralph Walter Segnit, M.A., B.Sc., is a young man who has crowded much into his life. He was born at Parkade, South Australia, and received his education at public schools in Broken Hill.

Later he attended the South Australian School of Mines and Industries and the South Australian School of Arts and Crafts and studied mechanical and electrical engineering subjects.

He enlisted as a private in the Australian Imperial Forces and left Australia in May, 1915. He served in the Gallipoli area, Egypt, and France, and became a lieutenant of the 10th Battalion.



Mr. R. W. Segnit, M.A., B.Sc.

At the end of the war Mr. Segnit entered Balliol College, Oxford, with a military scholarship. In 1920 he graduated as a bachelor of arts in the final honors school of natural science at Oxford, and then, returning to Australia, obtained his discharge from the military.

In the same year he was elected to the Orient Travelling Grant by the University of Adelaide, and returned to Oxford to continue his studies. He was awarded the Burdett-Coutts Post-graduate Research Scholarship in Geology by the University.

In 1921 he was selected as a member of the Oxford University expedition to Spitzbergen, and was elected to the War Memorial Research Studentship by Balliol College. The following year Mr. Segnit graduated as a bachelor of science with first-class honors for research at Oxford, and this year as a master of arts.

He has also graduated as a bachelor of science at Adelaide University.

Mr. Segnit is a Fellow of the Geographical Society, London, and in 1921 was awarded half of the Daniel-Pigeon award by that society. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of South Australia.

He is employed as assistant electrical and mechanical engineer in the Architect-in-Chief's Department. Mr. Segnit is keenly interested in rowing and tennis.

NOV. 28.9.26

A FORESTRY APPOINTMENT.

Sydney, September 27. Mr. Jolly, who was formerly in charge of the Federal Forestry School at Canberra, has accepted the position of State Forests Commissioner at a salary of £1,500.

REG. 22.9.26

Mr. Joshua Addison Hargrave, solicitor, member of an old and highly respected South Australian family, died suddenly while on a motor drive with friends at Mount Gwynne, on August 22. The deceased was a son of the late Charles Townshend and Jessie Hargrave, of Norwood, where he was born 61 years ago. After completing his education at St. Peter's College, he took up the study of law at the Adelaide University. He was admitted to practice as a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court in October, 1890. After serving articles with Messrs. Grundy & Pelly, he went to Victoria, and in February, 1892, became a practitioner of the Supreme Court in that State. In 1895 he was married at St. John's Church, Camberwell, to Miss Ada Sanderson. There are three children of the marriage—Jessie Maud, William Wallace, and Phillip Addison. About 30 years ago Mr. Hargrave purchased from Mr. Cambrae Stewart a practice in Yarrowonga, where he resided continuously till his death. The late gentleman took a prominent part in public matters. He was one of the oldest members and a Past Master of the Yarrowonga Lodge of St. David (Freemasons), and a staunch supporter of St. Cuthbert's Church of England, of which he was secretary for nearly 30 years. He was a member of the committee of the Mechanics' Institute, and occupied the position of Chairman for 18 years in succession. He was a foundation member of the Yarrowonga Bowling Club, in which he took an active interest until about two years ago. He had also been President of the Yarrowonga Rifle Club for a number of years, and a member of the council of the Yarrowonga Agricultural Society. He was a justice of the peace for New South Wales, Coroner for the Mulwala district, a notary public, and a commissioner for taking affidavits for the High Court of Australia, and for the States of Victoria and New South Wales, and also solicitor to the shires of Yarrowonga and Tungamah.

NEWS 23.9.26

Mr. A. N. Roupell, M.A. (secretary to the Advisory Council of Science and Industry) has been appointed officer of examinations in the department of the Public Service Commissioner.

ADV. 28.9.26

HISTORICAL SOCIETY FORMED.

With its objects the encouragement of research and the preparation and discussion of papers on any topic of historical interest, the South Australian Historical Society was formed at a largely attended meeting at the Public Library on Monday night. Professor W. K. Hancock presided, and after the rules and constitution had been decided upon, the following officers were elected: President, Professor W. K. Hancock; secretary, Miss B. Threadgill; treasurer, Mr. W. Oldham; committee, Mr. A. G. Price, secretary, and Mrs. Falkweather. Prior to the closing of the meeting Professor Hancock delivered an address on "The Last Century of Italian History."

REG 23.9.26

ANIMAL PESTS AND DISEASES.

One of the matters on which the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has decided to concentrate efforts is the investigation of animal pests and diseases. The council has not been able to obtain any comprehensive figures to show the total annual loss entailed through the various pests and diseases, but it is officially believed to run into some millions of pounds sterling. In a bad year the loss from the sheep blowfly pest alone is probably as much as £4,000,000. Investigations on many of the most serious pests and diseases have already been initiated at one time or other of the Veterinary Research Institutes in the Commonwealth. It is now proposed that investigations shall be carried out at the Glenfield Animal Research Institute, New South Wales, on (a) paralysis in pigs, toxæmia plethora (which causes high mortality in the best lambs and of which the cause is quite unknown), and sterility in cows, which is also of very serious concern to dairy farmers. At the Sydney University Veterinary Department it is proposed to continue work on braxy diseases in sheep. At the Melbourne University Veterinary Research Institute it is proposed to carry out work on bovine pleuro-pneumonia and tuberculosis in cattle, and in Adelaide on other diseases. The question of investigations on the improvement of stock (animal genetics) is also under consideration by the council.

REG. 24.9.26

BRITISH SCHOOLBOYS.

VISIT TO URRBRAE.

The British schoolboys had a busy day on Wednesday. They spent the morning at the Waite Agricultural Institute, Glen Osmond, lunched at Messrs. Elder, Smith and Co.'s wool store at Port Adelaide, and were the guests of the Mayor of Glenelg in the afternoon.

Urrbrae was at its best when the lads arrived. With them were Rev. G. H. Woolley, V.C., and Dr. Talbot Rogers. The party was received in the old ball room by Professor J. H. Prescott, who after a brief speech of welcome, explained how Australia's climate affected its agricultural production. Under the guidance of Professor Prescott and Mr. Geoffrey Samuel a tour of inspection of the grounds was then commenced. In the experimental beds the glasshouses, sun recorder, and evaporation gauges, the boys evinced great interest. In the field devoted to the study of natural grasses Mr. H. C. Trumble gave a brief talk on the work being accomplished, and showed the remarkable differences in the plots which had been treated with manures and those which had been "untreated." In the chemical laboratories Mr. C. S. Piper demonstrated the working of several pieces of apparatus. Here many of the boys were "in their element," and Mr. Piper was besieged with questions. The study and cultivation of plant diseases were also explained. The inspections were brief, and the talks short, but full of interest. Before leaving the lads cheered their hosts heartily. It had been an enjoyable visit.