

**A University Authority Speaks.**

The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Adelaide was speaking yesterday before a group of some 500 people upon the interview with Sir Leslie Howse and others concerning the ravage of cancer, and the investigations which are being pursued in order to elucidate it.

The Dean said:—"I think this is a most fortunate moment for public attention to be drawn to the cancer which is so high in this respect, yet anything more than the nature of the statements are made to be regretted. There is some confusion as to the nature of the disease from without, but whatever the ultimate cause may prove to be, there seems no doubt that the cancer cells are directed to different parts of our own bodies, and that instead of keeping within bounds, they are able to multiply and eventually dominate some vital part, when the result, of course, is death."

"But the public is distinctly underdone by the public," continued the Dean, "that this process, whatever its ultimate cause, is not a disease which comes from a very distinct separation must be made between the apparent and true increase in the death rate from cancer. As the disease is spread by a general increase of hygienic measures, the theoretical term of medical science, the theoretical term of which is that the death rate from cancer will die of accident or senility, but as the diminution in frequency of such causes as the infantile diarrhoea, the epidemic typhus, the pulmonary tuberculous, it means that a relatively greater proportion of the child and adult population is living longer which cancer is prevalent. It would, therefore, surprise me none if the crude death rate from cancer is on the increase almost in the same proportion as the rates of the other diseases have diminished. But to determine if a true increase in the death rate from cancer is present, allowance must be made for this factor. There are other causes of considerable importance also recorded, such as the greater general incidence of diarrhoea, which has also recorded a greater percentage of actual cancer deaths than was formerly the case. The same is true of typhus, which has also in the statistical treatment of the problem cannot be estimated, so the cancer to the problem of the increase of cancer is to determine what remains constant in some particulars. The impression of many workers, however, is that there is a true increase in the death rate. The only philosophical attitude to adopt at present is to be grateful for the past records, that we have not all died, and to endeavour to determine what may be spared, even if our end may be cancer."

Cancer and Cure of Cancer.

The research work directed to the cause of cancer is prodigious. It is a problem that, as far as we know, is still unsolved. The amount of the sum total of which is life. But though a little understanding may be long due, our only knowledge of the disease is rapidly increasing, and with many discoveries in medicine the explanation may appear suddenly. Of course, the real goal is the prevention of cancer, but in the past 20 years has shown that cancer can certain types and in certain areas is cured, and almost every practitioner can save an instance of cancer. The various methods of the procedures in medicine are very their purpose, and it is very much doubt if the knowledge we possess of any of the points in the body is final and complete. It is a matter of essential attacking the cancer problem.

What the University is Doing.

At the University of Adelaide, the council of the University was approached to form a committee to investigate the treatment of cancer, and this committee it recently appointed. The committee, with many a serious and onerous one, being to investigate all legitimate claims for cancer therapy. The committee has been studying the procedure believed in, and whether curative or preventive, money, but it will not support an activity which is in Adelaide. Doubtless Sir Neville Howse will help to see that the medical side of the University is fully aware of the position, and are attempting to do their part in this great work.

Four papers were submitted to the members of the Royal Society of South Australia (incorporated) at the monthly meeting in the society's rooms, Institute Building, North terrace, Adelaide, on Thursday evening. Professor Cleland presided. There were 40 members present. Professor J. A. Prescott and Sir Douglas Mawson were nominated delegates to the Royal Society meeting next January of the Australasian Association of Anatomists, and Professor J. A. Prescott and Sir Douglas Mawson were nominated. Mr. H. C. Trumble, M.A., was elected as the astronomer of the Waite Institute of the University of Adelaide. Dr. S. W. Penney, D.Sc. (Lecturer on Physical Chemistry, University of Adelaide), and Dr. C. E. D. Patten (Physicist, R.C.S. (Eng)) was elected a Fellow of the society.

Sir Douglas Mawson read a paper by Sir R. F. G. Hoare, B.Sc., on "The Mammun graptolite and associated basic dykes." He said that the outcrop was the best on the Murray for hundreds of miles, and approached to the form called edmondites with dykes of lamprophyre. There were numerous granite outcrops on the eastern side of the Murray, and the ranges, which were being examined by petrology, and it was hoped shortly to have a full account of all local granites.

Mr. G. M. W. Jones read a paper on the aboriginal rock carvings and shelters at three localities on the lower Murray. He said the markings were in cliff craves, and were of the kind known as petroglyphs. The caves showed signs of long-continued habitation, and the floors contained a thick deposit of bone and ash, and a number of burnt rocks were covered with smoke carbon.

Professor Harvey Johnson read a paper on the life history of the fish, the Australian Siluriform fish—the freshwater catfish *Tanaisius of the Queensland rivers.* He said they were flukes similar to those found in the rivers in India and Japan, and that parasites infested the swim bladder of the fish.

Mr. E. R. Waite recorded the occurrence of caferobes at the Finnis River, South Australia, which had been collected by members of the Aquarium Society.

Dr. J. B. Cleland and Mr. W. Champion Hackett gave an account of a new pure-bred dog breed, which was a cross of the Irish Wolfhound and the Cairn Terrier. It was about the average weight and size. The hair was abundant and curly.

The introduction of insects was exhibited by Mr. A. M. Lea, which included several new species from New Guinea, and introduced from the Government Entomological Bureau which they considered was probably ejected by one of the larger birds of prey. Dr. G. H. Patten read a paper on the highly mineralized bones of some large marsupial from Hamilton Downs, Alice Springs, found by Mr. E. W. C. O'Shaughnessy. The bones were found in the trees were always sterile, and the only remedy was to tear them up.

Mr. Waite showed, on behalf of the Government, a number of specimens from the Diamantina River district, and described its use and the accompanying ceremony. He also exhibited a number of photographs from the Kimberley district, where the trees had been laid bare by erosion and containing carvings of animals of great antiquity.

REC. 15-7-27  
**STUDENTS AND FREE PASSAGES.**

To encourage University graduates to continue their studies and research abroad, the P. and O., Orient, Blue Funnel, and Aberdeen Lines, annually grant 19 free first class return passages to the University of Australia, to students who are going to Brisbane, Adelaide, and Perth, and two to Tasmania. This generous grant of the shipping companies is greatly prized, and competition within the University is keen. The conditions and regulations are made by the University Council. The free passages for 1927 have been awarded to those following graduates of the University of Adelaide—Miss Yvonne Barr, B.A., M.A., Miss L. E. O'Flaherty, B.Sc., Miss Wai Ming, and Miss M. E. O'Flaherty. Miss Wai Ming intends to further her knowledge of modern languages abroad, and will study at the Sorbonne in Paris, and will study the French language and French literature. Mr. O'Flaherty is a Bachelors of Science, who graduated with first-class honours in Physics in 1923. He is now proceeding to Cambridge, where he will continue his research. Miss Yvonne Barr will continue her research in education in London, and is interested in Australian graduation. These lines, together with the New Zealand Shipping Company and the Shaw

Savill Line, also grant nine free passages to students of the Universities of Great Britain and Ireland accepting temporary teaching appointments, engaging in research into the problems connected with the development and the resources of Australia and New Zealand.

NEWS 15-7-27  
**BUILDING UP PASTURES**

Address by Prof. Robertson

**SCIENTIFIC NUTRITION**

Scientific investigations into the nutrition of animals directed particularly toward modification of wool production, was detailed by Prof. T. Braithford Robertson, of Adelaide, to the members of the Rotary Club at its weekly luncheon. The Chairman for the day was Dr. R. Pallen.

"The Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in response to requests from many sources has decided to undertake extensive research on the nutrition of animals in Australia, with a view to assisting the pastoral industry," he said.

"In many parts of this country it is found that the pasture is deficient in qualities necessary to produce the highest quality of wool or to give the best yield. Apparently animals have been developed by intensive breeding for many generations to furnish extraordinary yields, and such animals place an extraordinary tax upon the soil, regions which would be adequate to support less remarkable animals can no longer support the demands that selective breeding has produced."

**Mineral Deficiencies**

Deficiencies fell into two classes, namely those of nitrogenous substances, namely those of proteins in plants, and deficiencies in mineral substances, such as phosphorus. Prof. Braithford Robertson explained the methods by which the protein deficiencies would be investigated. These would be conducted from fodder plants and administered to animals. By experiment and comparison it would be possible to grade the values of the proteins of the leading fodder crops of Australia, and to discover what fodder plants might be utilised to supplement the deficiencies of others.

Problems of mineral deficiencies in fodder plants were also discussed. Prof. E. V. Richardson (Director of Waite Agricultural Research Institute), the Director of the Agricultural Research Station and Mr. Braithford Robertson (Chairman of the Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and the Empire Marketing Board in Great Britain) were the speakers.

In addition to problems of mineral deficiencies, it was proposed to investigate the mineral deficiencies of the soil. The Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research proposed to erect a large laboratory upon the grounds of Adelaide University in which these problems would be investigated.

**Research Endeavour**

In 1929 a number of South Australians, many of them pastoralists, contributed money to form a permanent endowment entitled the Animal Products Research Foundation. The aim of this foundation is to assist research in the Department of Biochemistry in Adelaide University on the growth and nutrition of animals. It was located in the Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, which the work was assigned to Adelaide.

Important results have been obtained in preliminary results will be published toward the end of this year. This work will now be identified and supported by the Animal Products Research Foundation, but in close collaboration with the Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

In addition to laboratory investigations field investigations would be undertaken at various stations in the Waite, Wills, and the Mount Lofty ranges. A flock of sheep would be maintained at Waite Institute under the joint supervision of Dr. Richardson and Prof. Braithford Robertson.

Experiments would be made to ascertain the nutrient requirements of the wool-bearing sheep, and to what extent it might be possible to modify the quality of wool by the addition of accessory substances to the diet.

An interesting address was given to the Rotary Club at the Grosvenor, North-terrace, on Friday, by Professor Braithford Robertson, on "Research Work in Nutrition." The chairman for the day was Dr. R. Pallen.

The speaker said that during the war the Bureau of Scientific and Industrial Research was formed in Melbourne, for the object of assisting industries to become better organized in a scientific sense to solve scientific problems regarding developments which were being made in their development as regards similar industries in other countries. The scheme was a long time before it was put into effect, but for the magnitude of the work. Early last year, the Commonwealth Government asked Sir Frank Heath, the secretary of the corresponding British organization to report and suggest the proper way of organizing the bureau. His report was adopted in substance, with the result that the Commonwealth Council of Scientific and Industrial Research was formed. It was given a quarter of a million to extend the investigation into the conditions of the various industries in Australia, and further sums had been added. The council undertook to conduct extended investigation into the conditions of the various industries in Australia, and further sums had been added. The council undertook to conduct extended investigation into the conditions of the various industries in Australia, and further sums had been added.

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