

ADELAIDE: TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1927

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Within recent years the world has gained a fine conception of the value and urgency of research work not only in regard to the investigation of diseases of human beings, but those affecting stock.

Wastage of life through war has always appalled civilised people. Wastage consequent upon disease was until a decade or so ago accepted more or less as fate. Research in the main was left to a few ambitious scientists.

America has spent millions of money in building, equipping, and staffing laboratories. A highly commercialised nation, it has spent lavishly to further industries. Indeed, in its quest for wealth it has paid greater attention to industry than to human life.

Australia with its meagre population and struggling industries cannot afford to neglect either. Research, too, is urgent in regard to the preservation of life among its flocks and herds. Twenty years ago mortality among sheep in Australia was due almost solely to starvation or old age. Today disease is rampant. The economic loss is beyond estimation.

Impetuous States cannot be expected to establish, staff, and maintain costly laboratories. That is the duty of the Commonwealth, for success reflects to the benefit of all.

In its desire to establish an experimental laboratory in South Australia the Federal Government has shown that it realises to some extent its obligations. It is an illustration, too, that it is not attempting to retain in its coffers all the money gathered by way of taxes from South Australia.

The building of a laboratory at Mount Gambier may provoke some criticism because of its geographical position. A location nearer the Adelaide University so that scientists could more easily collaborate would perhaps have been more desirable. That, however, is no reason why the action of the Federal Government should not be endorsed.

Research is too vitally urgent to be delayed. In this, as in many other things, Australia must keep in step with progress if it is to become a world power.

Increased Interest Expected

NEW TERM BEGINNING

The Workers' Educational Association, in conjunction with the University Tutorial Class Department, has made arrangements for the 1927 session. Last year a record number of students (1,148) attended classes at the University, Fort Adelaide, Trades Hall, and in the country. It is hoped that this total will be exceeded this year.

The year's work will be opened by an Educational Conference at Gawler on Saturday. Mr. D. C. Connor (Mayor of Gawler) will declare the conference open. The questions to be discussed at the evening session are "Education and Trade Unionism," "Education and Progress," "Education and Morality." In the evening Mr. E. G. Biaggi, M.A., will speak on "The Past and Reason in Human Affairs." Students and friends will go to Gawler by railcars leaving Adelaide at 1.40 o'clock.

As is the custom prior to the opening of the tutorial classes several free public lectures will be delivered in the Institute Lecture Room, North terrace, on March 13 (Rev. C. Parkin, M.A., B.D.) will take as his subject, "Propaganda and Public Opinion." On March 22 Prof. Hilda will deal with "The Sources of War." On March 24 Mr. E. G. Biaggi, M.A., will, with a fine selection of lantern slides, relate "Oxford University and the Peace Movement."

In connection with the tenth annual conference on Wednesday, March 30, (omnis) in an address of welcome, dealt Prof. Hancock will lecture on "The Danger of Mediocrity." The annual conference will be held on March 31, when discussion will centre on the extension of the Workers' Educational Association to attract more students. A resolution, submitted by the Women's Non-Party Association, "That in future the officers and the committee of the Workers' Educational Association be elected by proportional representation," will be dealt with.

There will be an outing to Morialta Reserve on Saturday, April 2. The 34 tutorial class meetings in the University and city will be similar to those conducted last year. There will be two additional classes, one a music class, studying theory and harmony, under Mr. E. H. Wallace Packer as tutor; and the other in general physiology (plant and animal), under Mr. C. S. Dawbarn, B.Sc., will be the tutor.

There will be three classes in English literature, with Dr. G. H. Wright, Mr. J. C. McDonnell, M.A., and Mr. A. F. Mackay, M.A., as tutors; two classes in psychology, under Rev. L. C. Parkin, M.A., and Rev. A. C. Stevens, M.A.; two in public speaking, with Rev. G. E. Hale, B.A., as tutor; two in economic geography (tutor, Mr. A. G. Price, M.A.); international relations (Principal E. S. Kirk, M.A., B.D., as tutor); singing and music (tutor, Mr. E. H. Wallace Packer); economics (tutor, Mr. E. G. Biaggi, B.A.); philosophy (tutor, Rev. L. C. Parkin, M.A.).

Two classes will be held at Port Adelaide—one in public speaking under Rev. G. E. Hale, B.A., and one in economics with Mr. H. L. Ward as tutor.

Classes will be conducted weekly at Riverton and Murray Bridge, under Mr. E. G. Biaggi, B.A.; one class at the Trades Hall will study finance and industry under the guidance of Mr. E. G. Biaggi.

A circle in history will be conducted at Anzacton with Rev. Dwellwyn Lewis as tutor. Occasional lectures will be given at various country centres, including Barmera, Walkerie, and probably Renmark.

Classes are being well carried for the city and Port Adelaide classes.

REG 11-3-27

INTERMEDIATE" EXAMINATION.

From "IMPRIMATUR"—I do not suggest the elimination of the English course, but of placing it on the same basis as the other studies. Even if made a compulsory study, of which I approve, the necessity of making the "pass" compulsory to acquire the intermediate certificate need not follow, presuming the requisite number of other subjects is passed. The meaning of the word "illiterate" is "ignorant so that I cannot agree with 'Xpurgatorius' that a lad who passes in 'maths' and other subjects is illiterate because he fails in English.

MR. ROY S. BURDON, B.Sc.,
Instituting professor of physics at Adelaide University, who has been appointed secretary for South Australia to the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science in succession to Dr. L. Keith Ward.

REG 12-3-27

COMMERCE STUDENTS WELCOMED.

There was a large gathering of commerce students at the University on Friday night when "freshers" were initiated into the University Association. Mr. W. Herbert Phillips occupied the chair. Mr. A. G. Mackay (lectures in economics) was the guest of honor. He addressed the students in an address of welcome, dealt with the meaning of the University motto "Beneath the Cross—light" which he said was capable of many interpretations. The meaning he translated as "Knowledge or understanding, held in the leash of spiritual responsibility," and stressed the responsibility of the student to help in the process of education in the University and outside. The President of the Association (Mr. C. H. Bressler) welcomed all freshers and past students. He stressed the need for the establishment of a chair in commerce. He said 25 years ago lectures in commercial subjects were established and the advanced commercial certificates granted under the Board of Commercial Studies. In 1903, Mr. Joseph Fisher had paid £1,000 into the University to promote the study of commerce, and with the income derived therefrom to award a medal to the student considered most distinguished for the particular year. The Adelaide University was the first in Australia to recognise the necessity of a high form of education in commercial subjects, and the first to create a Diploma in Commerce. The secretary (Mr. C. H. Anderson) gave a resume of the association's activities and enjoined all present to affiliate themselves immediately. The Vice-President (Mr. J. G. Thomas) spoke of the University magazine and the Commerce Bulletin. Supper was served in the north hall of the Conservatorium. The annual general meeting will take place at the University on March 21.

REG. 9-3-27

COMMERCE STUDENTS.

After the meeting of all students in commerce at the University in the Prince of Wales Theatre on Friday evening, the Commerce Students' Association will hold a "freshers" meeting in the south hall of the Conservatorium for the purpose of introducing all new men into University life and activities. Supper will be served in the north hall of the Conservatorium on March 21 the annual general meeting will take place in the union room of the University.

REG. 10-3-27

"INTERMEDIATE" EXAMINATION.

From "XPURGATORIUS"—"Imprimatur" seems to think that skill in English is as infectious as influenza. All we have to do is to "move in a fairly educated circle" and indulge in "the right type of reading." Is there not a primary need, that of preliminary patient study? Your correspondent's commiseration is excited by the sight of a youth who failed three times at the intermediate examination in that compulsory subject, English. Perhaps he is to be pitied, but are not the examiners to be commended? The community may have lost for a while the services of an illiterate constructional engineer or an ignorant ship's captain. But why shed tears at that? All now, we have progressed quite well with engineers, and mercantile marine officers who can write and speak English. In the fierce competition to-day we need to raise standards rather than lower them. Even mathematicians and scientists in embryo cannot disagree with the King's English, consequently, I consider the examination authorities are right, and "Imprimatur" amiably, but atrociously, wrong.

From "STUDENT"—I should like to point out to "Imprimatur" that it is the University authorities at the Selects who make up any body, that make it essential for some subject to be passed at the public examinations. Ever since the inception of the University it has always been the rule that candidates should pass in English, and it is regarded by all educational authorities as being necessary, and largely assimilative. Does he mean that the art of writing and speaking is largely unimportant? Does he mean that if one has a good knowledge of English literature, one has something to lose in English, as I know of others in the same boat; on the other hand, there are plenty who can pass in English and in other subjects, but who are not only in a state of mathematics; but that is no reason why mathematics, if compulsory, should be eliminated from the list of compulsory subjects. With regard to memorising poetry, in the Intermediate examination in 1925, only 8 marks in 100 were given for writing out a few lines of poetry, most of the marks being given for literary style—i.e., manner in which it was expressed—and it is due to this fact that many candidates fail.

ADV. 10-3-27

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting for the appointment of officers, adoption of reports, and arrangement of the programme for the year will be held in the South Hall of the Conservatorium on Monday evening, March 21. Mr. J. G. Re-man will preside. This association of past and present students exists for the general betterment or music in South Australia, the encouragement of original composition, and the fostering of a spirit of fraternity among those who have at any time been identified with the Conservatorium. Its scope extends far and wide, and such an association must necessarily exercise a powerful influence on musical taste and education. In order that past students may be more fully encouraged a cordial invitation is extended to all who have ever studied at the Elder Conservatorium to be present at this meeting. Should they for any cause be unable to attend they are asked to send as soon as possible their names and addresses to the secretary, who will communicate with them.

NEWS 10-3-27

Prof. Kerr Grant, M.Sc., has been appointed a member of the council of the School of Mines and Industries in place of the late Prof. Kenzie.