

UNIVERSITY GRADUATES' AL FRESCO LUNCHEON.



A happy hour spent under the cool shade of plane trees. More than 150 guests participated in the function.

REG. 15 12 27

DR. HILL AT URRBRAE.

Praise for Research Institute.

Views on North Terrace Elms.

"I think South Australia is wonderfully fortunate to have a place like this for working out agricultural and other problems," Dr. A. W. Hill (Director of the Royal Kew Botanic Gardens, England) remarked on Wednesday morning during a visit to the Waite Agricultural Research Institute. Dr. Hill was piloted over the institution by Professor J. A. Prescott in the absence in Melbourne of the Director (Professor A. E. V. Richardson). The doctor was greatly impressed by the grass plots where special investigations are being made in the suitability of imported and native fodder plants. Mr. H. C. Trumble and Professor Prescott explained various grasses. The visiting director stressed the importance of the study of our native flora and the appointment in the different States of systematic botanists and State herbaria so that this flora can be properly worked out scientifically. It was, however, no good having these herbaria unless they were maintained by adequate funds, and with competent people to look after them. He paid a tribute to Professor Richardson's work and energy, and, referring to the Waite Research Institute, said:—"I do not think you could have a much better illustration than you have here of the value of research, the study of the possibilities of pasture grasses, and the various difficulties with which you have to contend. If the sheep did not eat so much it would not matter, but they do, and you must necessarily find out the best fodders that will withstand their perpetual appetites."

"There is a general realization of the importance of scientific research going on throughout the Empire, and I suppose that anything we manage to do at home has its reflection in the dominions. The folk out here apparently feel that it is worth supporting financially. Even if they have to pay a little more taxes for it they get the money back indirectly, notwithstanding the fact that it is difficult to make people realize it."

After having inspected the chemical and plant pathological laboratories, Dr. Hill conversed with Mr. Geoffrey Samuel about his investigations with tomato wilt, and examined the plots where the plants are being studied and tested. He also visited the pot culture house and new glass house and the pasture paddocks.

A Keen Horseman.

Dr. Hill is a lover of the horse, and enjoys nothing better than an early morning ride. While at Koonamore last week the manager (Mr. J. P. Henderson) selected a horse for the doctor, who went out as far as Mount Victor and back before breakfast. He remarked on Wednesday when passing the Victoria Park Racecourse that he would like to have a ride on the track, and suggested that it would be a great idea if even Adelaide had a "Rotten Row" such as London has. It would be much better than riding along these hard roads. The doctor added that Miss Bowman had kindly placed a hack at his disposal.

Doubt About Elm Trees Removal.

Conversation led to the controversy in Adelaide concerning the proposed removal of the elm trees on North terrace. The doctor said that on the previous day he had walked in the shade of these fine trees back to the Adelaide Club. When asked to express an opinion on the matter, Dr. Hill ventured the suggestion that if ash trees were to be put in why not let the elms remain and then remove them when the former had reached a decent stage of growth. He doubted whether these elm trees could be transplanted elsewhere effectively, and even if that were possible the expense of such procedure would be prohibitive.

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UNIVERSITY YEAR.

Conferring of Degrees.

There is perhaps no more pleasing day in the whole of a university student's career than commemoration day, when he or she receives that piece of parchment which confers a degree on the successful scholar.

The Elder Hall was thronged on Wednesday afternoon by parents, friends, and students. The proceedings were impressively formal, and the gowned members of the senate, the professors, the Vice-Chancellor (Sir William Mitchell), the Chancellor (Sir George Murray), in that order, as they passed up the centre aisle to the platform, while Mr. Harold Parsons, Mus. Bac., pealed out "The song of Australia," formed a procession redolent with dignity.

Academic success sits lightly on the shoulders of some of the new graduates, and while waiting gowned for the moment when the Chancellor should hand them their degrees, they did not seem to bear signs of the strain. It was a well-knit healthy band of young men and women who answered to the deans of the various faculties presenting candidates.

Chancellor's Address.

The Chancellor's address, as always sketched the history of the University year, and Sir George had much to chronicle. He explained at the outset the reason for the absence of the customary address by one of the professors—the growing length of the proceedings and the bad acoustic properties of the hall. However, he expressed the hope that such lectures would not be lost to the community, and that some other time and place would be found for their delivery. After referring to the honours conferred on the Vice-Chancellor and Professor Chapman, the visit of His Royal Highness the Duke of York, the deaths of several well-known persons who had been identified with the institution, Sir George dealt with resignations from and new appointments to the University staff. He said Dr. A. K. McBeth, of Durham University, would take the place of the late Professor Rennie. Professor T. G. B. Osborn was leaving them for Sydney, where he would assume the Chair of Botany, but his removal would not affect his interest in the work begun at Koonamore, where the regeneration of Australian arid flora was being studied. Regret was expressed at Mr. William Fuller's retirement as lecturer in histology, and the completion of Mr. Clive Carey's term as singing teacher. Appreciative reference was made to Pro-

fessor H. H. Woollard's occupancy of the Chair of Anatomy, as successor to Professor Wood Jones; to Professor Darnley Naylor's work; to Professor Richardson's experimental labours at Urrbrae; and to the excellent research work into the nutrition of animals and the origin of cancer of Professor Brailsford Robertson.

A considerable portion of the address was devoted to references to benefactions received during the year. During the year Mr. T. E. Barr Smith had given £20,000 for the erection of a library building, to be completed within five years. Mr. John Melrose had given £10,000 for the creation of a chemical laboratory at Urrbrae. He was pleased to report that the University boundaries had been extended, but they were in need of still further land, and more buildings were required. The Chancellor also touched upon the progress made by the Students' Union building, the Lady Symon building, St. Mark's College, and the foundation of another university college at Strathspes, Mitcham.

ADV. 15 12 27

UNIVERSITY MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

A special meeting of the Senate of the University was held in the Prince of Wales Theatre of the University on Wednesday afternoon, to consider an alteration in the regulations governing the final examinations for the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, passed in December, 1922. The Warden of the Senate (Mr. Justice Angus Parsons) presided. At the instance of the Dean of the faculty of medicine (Dr. W. Ray), seconded by Dr. F. S. Hone, the following regulation was adopted in lieu of the present regulation VII:—"The ordinary examinations shall be held in or about November, and the supplementary examinations in March. The fourth examination may also be held in May or June." In moving the adoption of the regulation, Dr. Ray said there was a real necessity for the extra examination proposed to be held in May or June. The medical curriculum was getting longer, and the extra months of study would be of great advantage to students. The supplementary examinations in March did not work so well as they would like, as there was no opportunity for study at the University between November and March. The examination in the middle of the year would be held only for students in the final year, and would be an ordinary final examination and not a supplementary one.

ADV. 15 12 27

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide (Sir William Mitchell) will leave for England at the end of the month, to pass his Gifford lectures through the press. Professor R. W. Chapman will act as Vice-Chancellor in his absence.

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DR. HILL'S VISIT.

Since his arrival in Adelaide the director of the Kew Botanic Gardens (Dr. A. W. Hill) has been fully occupied. On Wednesday morning he paid a visit to the Waite Agricultural Research Institute, and was much interested in the work of the institution. He stated that he believed it would achieve important results which would be beneficial to the people of Australia. The experiments and investigations of the institute were being closely followed by scientists in the United Kingdom. Dr. Hill attended the graduates' luncheon in the Botanic Park, and having already inspected the gardens, he said the State was fortunate in having Mr. J. F. Bailey as director. There was a remarkably fine collection of native trees, and noteworthy specimens of exotic plants, and the lay-out was admirable. He had noticed discarded paper and other things lying about and his advice to the people of Adelaide was to keep the place tidy. Adelaide was favored in having such a beautiful garden, and it could not be praised too highly. The co-operation of the public was needed so that it might always look its best. After the graduates' luncheon Dr. Hill attended the University commemoration, at which an honorary degree was conferred upon him. He will leave Adelaide for Melbourne to-morrow.

ADV. 30 11 27

STUDENTS' CONFERENCE.

An important conference of students from the various scholastic institutions throughout Australia will be held in Adelaide from January 4 till January 12, under the auspices of the Students' Christian movement. The president is Mr. D. K. Picken, master of Ormond College, Melbourne, and the local chairman is Professor McKellar Stewart. The last conference was held in Adelaide four years ago, and would have been held here again sooner but for the fact that a suitable meeting place was not procurable. The conference next year is to be held at the Presbyterian Girls' College, Glen Osmond. It is anticipated that there will be an attendance of over 200, and discussions of great interest to students will be conducted. Study circles will be formed. The gatherings will be addressed by prominent educationists, and it is expected that among the delegates will be the leading teachers of the Commonwealth.