

THE TINLINE PLATE

HISTORIC MEMENTO RETURNED.

Nearly 75 years ago the citizens of Adelaide presented Mr. George Tinline with a substantial cheque and a service of plate in recognition of his services in restoring public and private credit when South Australia was in a critical financial position, due largely to the exodus of population to the Victorian goldfields.

To-day a silver, included in the plate, which was bequeathed by the late Mr. Tinline to the Adelaide Public Library, is expected to be returned to Adelaide. It was forwarded by the Agent-General (Mr. J. L. Price) by the liner Moreton Bay. This interesting memento recalls one of the most romantic stories connected with the early history of South Australia. The late Mr. George Tinline, at the time of the Victorian gold diggings in 1831-2, was manager of the Bank of South Australia

Belfer (grade VI), who had to respond to an encore. Beautiful rhythmic dancing was next given by the girls of grades VI. and VII. The school choir sang choruses and songs in unison and created amusement by their rendering of "Pussy in the Well." A realistic production of



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in Adelaide. The province was then in a period of financial crisis, although there had been an abundant harvest and there was plenty of gold in private hands in the form of dust and nuggets, which the holders declined to sell at the then ruling rate obtainable locally—58/ to 60/ an oz., and it could not be got into circulation. Mr. Tinline suggested that the Government should purchase the gold, assay it, and issue stamped ingots at a fixed price, to enable merchants to purchase it as currency, and so relieve the monetary stringency. After considerable discussion the Bullion Act was passed, fixing the price of gold at 72/ an oz., and constituting an Assay Office to make the gold, when stamped, legal tender. The expedient had the desired result of saving the situation, and in 1833 a handsome

1835 at No. 12 Pembridge square, Bayswater, London, at the age of 79 years, leaving estate valued at £40,000. The presentation service of plate, which Mr. Tinline valued highly, was left to his son (James Madder Tinline), and after the latter's demise to Mrs. Janet O. Vetch (daughter of the banker), with eventual reversion to the trustees of "The Public Institute, Adelaide, for preservation as an interesting memorial of the early history of the colony." Mrs. Vetch died last year, and a diligent search was made for the plate in her home at Hyde Park Gate, without success. Nearly 12 months later the precious memento was discovered in the vaults of the Goldsmiths Company in London, and the solicitors for the estate handed it over to the Agent-General.

The Norwood Town Hall held an appreciative audience last Tuesday on the occasion of the annual concert, when an attractive programme was presented, and super-primary certificates and trophies distributed. The overture was played by Miss Doris Schermer, who gave part of a Beethoven sonata with artistic feeling. The infants sang four charming little songs under the direction of the infant mistress (Miss Lawrence) and later in the evening were seen in rhythmic exercises. In different coloured caps of crinkled paper, they made a very effective picture. An unusual song was a song in Hebrew

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THE LIBRARY MOVEMENT.

At the conference of interstate librarians in Adelaide in 1926 it was resolved to form a Library Federation for Australia and New Zealand, the object being to come into line with the Institutes Association of South Australia, Victoria, acting on the recommendation of Mr. A. E. McMicken (librarian of the Prahran Public Library) was the first to emulate the example of this State. The Victorian association, which is representative of various educational interests, has the support of the Government, and much useful work had been accomplished. Queensland has followed Victoria and launched a vigorous organization. A constitution has been approved, and officers have been appointed, with Mr. R. J. Linnett (secretary of the Brisbane School of Arts) as chief executive officer. New Zealand is taking keen interest in the movement, and has invited Mr. F. E. Meleng to contribute a paper on the work of the South Australian institutes, to be read at the conference of the Libraries Association of New Zealand at Christchurch next February. The librarians of the dominion are favourably impressed with the work accomplished in this State in the interest of the libraries. New South Wales intends to deal with the matter early in the new year. Professor E. Morris Miller, of the University of Tasmania, who is also Chairman of the Tasmanian Public Library, is wholeheartedly in favour of the federation, and is anxious to promote the welfare of the smaller libraries. The President of the Institutes Association of South Australia (Sir William Sowden), who suggested the federation, is supported by a progressive committee, anxious to give effect to what promises to be a nation-wide organization for the intellectual advancement of the people through the medium of thousands of libraries.

Miss Eleanor Wemyss, M.A. (Parkin College), not content with taking her B.A. degree in 1921, and M.A. in 1924, continued her studies, went in for law, and then proceeded to achieve a degree of Bachelor of Divinity. The student has only one more subject, that of Hebrew, to take, ere she attains the distinguished B.D. degree, and that will be accomplished early in the year. Then Miss Wemyss will have the honour to be the first South Australian girl to possess such a title. The first portion of the B.D. examination was passed last year, in all the five subjects. Now, Miss Wemyss has received intimation that she has just passed the following subjects in the final:—Old Testament general, New Testament general, comparative study of religion, and Christian ethics. In her first B.D. her subjects comprised:—Bible, in English; Greek New Testament, Hebrew Old Testament, church history, and apologetic. It is noteworthy that this student is now half-way through the University course for the degree of Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.). The Melbourne College of Divinity is the only institution in Australia empowered to grant degrees in divinity, its examiners and students being in all States of the Commonwealth. It is an examining body, but lectures in the course for B.D. are given only at Parkin College, of which the Rev. Principal Kiek, M.A., B.D., is head. A fine spirit of brotherhood rests upon the students there, who number many different denominations. When asked if she intended to follow in the footsteps of the Rev. Winifred Kiek—first woman minister in South Australia—Miss Wemyss said that at present the Church of England—of which she is a member—does not admit women to the ministry. Yet Miss Maude Royden, the most distinguished woman preacher in the world, is herself an Anglican, and is still not admitted to the ministry. That Miss Wemyss possesses other talents also is shown in the fact that recently she has had a song, "Golden Wattle," set to music by Edith Harry (Mrs. Daly), formerly of Wales, and now of Melbourne. Miss Eileen Castles, who is broadcasting songs from Melbourne, has selected "Golden Wattle" among the numbers. Miss Harry is broadcasting a second song of Miss Wemyss, "The chalice of life," the score composed by Mr. A. B. Mortimer. Both songs will be shortly published. Miss Wemyss received some of her first literary encouragement in "The Bookshelf," conducted by "Maggie" (Miss Scott), in the columns of The Observer and Saturday Journal. She has been a regular contributor to The Register also.

The Empire Board, by means of the parasitic "soo" it has established at Cambridge, is giving close attention to the breeding of insects which are the natural foes of the parasites playing such havoc with the Empire's crops. The value of this method of combating pests is illustrated by the use made by the fruitgrowers of California of the Australian aphid-eating beetle known as the ladybird, which they have imported and bred by millions, with results of which Mr. Ranger (manager for the Committee of Direction of Fruit-marketing) cannot speak too highly. This is only one of many proofs of the need of taking advantage of nature's law, whereby

Big fleas have little fleas
Upon their backs to bite 'em.
And little fleas have smaller fleas,
And so ad infinitum.

Then there are insects whose function is the elimination not of other insects but of vegetable plagues like the ragwort and St. John's wort, and last, but certainly not least, the prickly pear, in the eradication of which, as the recently issued report of the Council tells us, invaluable work has been done by the cochineal insect, especially in Queensland. These insects and chemical means between them have already checked the spread in the northern State of the prickly pear, which was adding to the area of its depredations at the rate of a million acres a year. Even putting the value of these acres at 5/ each a year, which is a low estimate, the curtailment of the spread of the pear represents a saving to the State of £250,000 per annum. Within the short period of its existence the Council claims to have discovered through its investigations the cause of tomato wilt and the means by which it is spread, and it is now only a matter of ascertaining the best steps to be taken for extirpating a disease which has laid waste whole plantations. "Bunchy-top," which had threatened the entire banana industry in Queensland and New South Wales, has been brought under control, and valuable results have accrued from the researches with regard to the buffalo fly pest of Northern Australia, parasitic insects which destroy its larvae having been obtained through the Imperial Bureau of Entomology. The mastery of the lucern flea of South Australia and the underground grass grub of Tasmania is considered certain.

Much of the work accomplished represents the results of the labor of decades, a great deal of it ante-dating the general realisation of the value of scientific enquiry. We are reaping the fruit of the exertions of such entomologists and plant pathologists as Henry Tryon, of Queensland, and Walter Froggatt, of New South Wales, and a multitude of laboratory workers less known. The idea underlying the organisation of the Federal Research Council is that it shall act as a liaison not only between the Australian States but between the Commonwealth and other countries. It will be a "clearing-house" for research work, in the active prosecution of which it will assist by its grants of aid to agencies concerned in the work and in the training of experts for it. Its operations during its first year have not been confined to plant life. It has helped the Veterinary Research Institutes of the States in various ways, and its report on animal diseases is eminently satisfactory. The Kimberley horse disease is no longer a mystery, though no definite statement of the means for its prevention can yet be made. As thirty per cent. of the horses in the northern parts of Western Australia die from this malady, the injury to settlement in that region can well be understood. Professor T. B. Robertson, of the Adelaide University, is credited with making headway in the solution of problems of animal nutrition, and the co-operation of the Waite Institute and the Empire Marketing Board promises the best results as regards the cure of mineral deficiencies of pastures, a problem whose interest is by no means confined to Australia. The productive industries, again, have profited by the manufacture of paper from Australian trees, and by the experiments conducted in the Western State in the manufacture of new tannin extracts. The potentialities of cold-storage are by no means exhausted, and this is a matter of paramount importance in connection with the expansion of our marketing facilities. A report on the position from Dr. F. King, of Cambridge, and Dr. W. J. Young, of Melbourne, will

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SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

In the belief that all or most of our productive and industrial shortcomings are largely due to the neglect of science, the Federal Government a year or two ago established a new authority to replace the Institute of Science and Industry. Critics have doubted whether the field was not already adequately covered by the existing research institutions and departments in the several States, and in any case whether the Commonwealth is constitutionally entitled to occupy this province of government. They have not been entirely reassured as to the need of expending £250,000 to meet the necessities of this new investigation by the official explanation that it was intended to supplement and not to supersede the work done in the States. But as a tree is judged by its fruits, so the results of the Federal policy will be tested by experience, and it will be learned during the next few years how far the claim is justified as to the necessity of establishing a "real co-operation between all engaged in applying research to industry" and avoiding overlapping and waste of effort and money. As to the necessity for research work by whomsoever performed, there is, of course, no dispute. It is recognised by the British Government in their grant of a million a year to the Empire Marketing Board, to be expended on such work. This scheme it is that has brought to Australia Dr. A. W. Hill, the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, in London, it being requisite to co-ordinate the work of the Australian Council with that of the Marketing Board, especially with regard to the cultivation of plants of economic value.