

On Monday afternoon the Adelaide Hospital Board decided to recommend the Government to appoint Dr. C. Yeatman as medical superintendent of the Adelaide Hospital in succession to Dr. de Crespigny. For several years Dr. de Crespigny has discharged the duties of medical superintendent of the hospital to the complete satisfaction of the board and of the public, but owing to the great increase in the work of the bacteriological and pathological departments of the institution it has been deemed necessary to appoint a separate officer for the position of medical superintendent. Dr. de Crespigny will now be able to devote his whole time to the responsible work attaching to the directorship of the new Government laboratory and his other positions as clinical pathologist to the hospital, honorary physician to the infectious diseases block, and honorary



Dr. Yeatman.

pathologist to the hospital. Dr. de Crespigny was paid £600 per annum for his services, but, owing to the rearrangement of the duties of the medical superintendent, the salary of that officer has now been fixed at £400. Dr. Yeatman, who is a native of Auburn, was educated at St. Peter's College, and obtained his medical degrees at the Adelaide University. Although only 25 years of age, he has displayed considerable ability as a medical man. During 1911 he was a house surgeon at the Adelaide Hospital, and last year he was stationed for six months at the Children's Hospital. At present he is acting as locum tenens for Dr. J. E. Good, of Prospect, and some time ago he officiated in a similar capacity for Dr. D. S. Scott, of Unley. Dr. Yeatman has always been fond of athletics, and he played for the University Lacrosse Club during part of last season.

TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.
PORT PIRIE, February 14.—At the opening demonstration in connection with the Port Pirie School of Mines and Industries, the President (Mr. H. N. Barwell) made some important remarks concerning technical schools in South Australia. He said that for many years he had expressed the opinion that country technical schools in this State were conducted in a most unsatisfactory manner. The schools were controlled by boards of management, which were responsible to no one, and there was no real supervision for or in behalf of the Government, who supplied the money for the maintenance of the institutions. There was a lack of a uniform system of instruction, and there was no common standard of examination. So unsatisfactory did they at Port Pirie consider this state of affairs that years ago they brought the local school of mines into line with the South Australian School of Mines by adopting its syllabus for each subject taught. So successful was this that local examinations were abolished, and students put through the same examinations as those in the Adelaide school. An attempt was later made to have the Port Pirie School established as a branch of the Adelaide institution, but no satisfaction was obtained from the Government. They were still anxious for this affiliation. None of the other country school of mines had come into line with Adelaide. They granted their own certificates to students, which, to his mind, should not be allowed. The diplomas and certificates of the South Australian School of Mines were a hallmark of efficiency all the world over, and if such diplomas were issued by other technical schools in the State there was a possibility, if granted upon a lower standard of efficiency, of such diplomas lowering the value of their worth outside of South Australia. This would be obviated if all the schools were brought under the control of the Government, and a uniform standard of teaching and examinations was provided. He considered it would not be advisable to allow the Director of Education to have control of the country schools, as proposed by the last Government in their Education Bill. One man could not possibly control both branches of education with satisfaction. He was strongly of opinion that a Director of Technical Education should be appointed. South Australia was lamentably behind the rest of the world in respect to technical education, and even the other States. The high schools had not yet bridged the gap which existed between the primary schools and the School of Mines. The high school had not proved a feeder to the School of Mines, as nearly all of the training at the former was directed at fitting students to pass the University junior examination. Of course the extra schooling was not wasted, but the time occupied by the boys might be more profitably employed. The majority of the Port Pirie boys had a natural or acquired taste for technical studies, but instead of this being fostered it was smothered by the high school. Only about 1 per cent. ever entered into a University course. The high schools should be turning out a constant stream of skilled tradesmen and artisans. He trusted that the Government would before long introduce a Bill which would bring all the educational institutions into co-ordinate relationship, and then he would look forward to the evolution of a system which would do much to add to the success and happiness of the people.

DEATH OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION.

The Late Mr. Alfred Williams.
A Fine Career.

The deepest regret will be felt throughout South Australia at the announcement of the death of the Director of Education (Mr. Alfred Williams), who passed peacefully and painlessly away at his residence, Torrensville, on Tuesday evening. For several years after a complete breakdown, which necessitated long leave of absence and change of scene, Mr. Williams had carried the burden of ill health, and had struggled bravely in the face of intermittent periods of weakness to retain a comprehensive grip of the affairs of the large and highly important department of which he had the organization and control. It was generally believed that in his keenness to advance the educational status of South Australia, to keep abreast with progress being made in the other States, and to improve the conditions under which the teachers were working, the Director in the first place attempted to cope with a volume of laborious detailed work which might have been left to others, and that he severely overtaxed his physical capacity. In other words, he sacrificed himself in his devotion to his duty, and found too late that overstrain had seriously undermined his constitution. He continued, however, at work until Friday last, and then collapsed, and on Tuesday morning sank into a condition of unconsciousness, which remained unbroken to the end.

—Career as a Teacher.—

Mr. Williams had occupied the position of chief executive officer of the Education Department since the beginning of 1903. Prior to his acceptance of the position at the instance of the then Premier and Minister of Education (late Hon. Thomas Price), he had an exceptionally successful career as a teacher. He was born at Kanmantoo in 1863, and entered the service of the Education Department at Moonta Mines as a pupil teacher in 1876, became a student in the Training College in 1881, and after passing all the requisite examinations was awarded a certificate by the department. He also passed with credit in chemistry at the Adelaide University. In January, 1882, Mr. Williams was appointed assistant master at Moonta, and was transferred to the Norwood School four years later. In July, 1885, he was promoted to the rank of head master, and placed in charge of the Victor Harbour School. He remained at the southern seaport until September, 1889, when he was transferred to Wallaroo Mines. About two years later he was appointed head master of East Adelaide School, and fulfilled the duties of that office with credit for nearly nine years. Mr. Williams was promoted to the responsible position of head master of Norwood School in January, 1900, and was there for six years. He took an active interest in all matters relating to the progress of primary education, and gained the respect and goodwill of his fellow-teachers, as well as the approval of his superior officers. He was an active officer of the Teachers' Union for several years, and President of the Adelaide Teachers' Association. He was a member of the board of management of the Public School Teachers' Superannuation Fund, and one of the most active workers in connection with the Public Schools' Floral and Industrial Society. It was understood that toward the close of his headmastership at Norwood he had the offer to take charge of a training college in one of the other States.

—Importance of the Primary School.—

In 1905 as retiring President at the congress of teachers, Mr. Williams delivered a striking address, in which he sharply criticised the methods of the department. His attitude to education was indicated in the following remarks:—"In South Australia during recent years interest in primary education had become very much more widespread, and saner views of the mission of the school were more widely held. It was coming to be more generally believed that the purpose of education was 'to make the most of every human life, to develop it to the limit of its powers, to enrich its production and sweeten its existence,' and that on the influence of the primary school did those great issues largely depend. To the able advocacy of the press that greater interest was mainly due. . . . Properly equipped schools, presided over by enthusiastic teachers, professionally qualified both in theory and practice, would certainly do much to exalt a nation. That was the goal which would



THE LATE MR. ALFRED WILLIAMS.