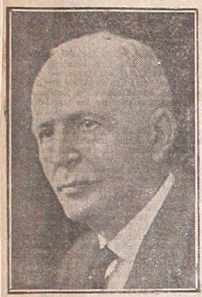


shortly be made the basis of action by the Council. There are people who consider that the work done in other countries obviates the need for any special effort in the Commonwealth. Certainly the work done elsewhere, especially in America, has an enormous range. No laboratories are so well equipped as those of the United States; but though their discoveries are universally available they are not all of value to Australia, which has its own research problems, on the solution of which its industrial future and economic security largely depends.

ADV. 22-12-27

Professor Sir William Mitchell will leave for England to-day, and expects to be absent from the State for about six months. He has been Vice-Chancellor of the Adelaide University since 1916. He is a native of Invercrown, Banffshire, and had a distinguished career at Edinburgh University, where he took the degrees of Master of Arts and Doctor of Science. In 1886 he was appointed lecturer in ethics at the Edinburgh University, and later he went to University College, London, as lecturer on education. For some time he was examiner for degrees in philosophy at Edinburgh University, and for the theory of education at Cambridge University. In 1894 he was appointed Hughes Professor of Philosophy and Eco-



Sir William Mitchell, economics at the Adelaide University, and in 1896 he became a member of the University Council. His work at the University has been of great benefit to the educational interests of the State. He retired from the Chair of Philosophy at the end of 1922, and the council marked its appreciation of his services by appointing him Emeritus Professor of Philosophy. A few years ago he visited Europe to deliver the Gifford lectures at the University of Aberdeen. On his return journey he visited Canada and saw something of the Canadian Universities. He has taken an active interest in the Students' Union movement at the University.

PUBLIC SERVANTS ADMITTED TO ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY
Applicants in Commerce, they are:—Back Row—Messrs. A. G. H. Brinkman (Registrar of Companies in South Australia) and A. McKee (Taxation Department). Front Row—Mr. G. A. Jessup (Registrar-General of Deeds Department), Mr. W. R. Chettle (Registrar-General of Deeds Department), Miss Holmes (Audit Department), and Mr. E. A. Messent (Surveyor-General's Department).

THE NEWS

ADELAIDE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1927

WHY EXAMINATIONS ARE NECESSARY

Mr. W. T. McCoy (Director of Education) has returned from a trip to Britain and America imbued with the idea that in the South Australian education system far too much value is placed on examinations. He quotes with approval the fact that in Canada and the United States girls and boys are admitted to universities by means of a certificate from their head master.

Because of his position the opinions of Mr. McCoy are entitled to some weight.

Still, there is another side to the question which has been ably expressed by Mr. W. R. Bayly (principal of Prince Alfred College) and Miss M. E. Patchell (head mistress of Methodist Ladies' College).

The views given by Mr. McCoy are not new. Other educationists have made similar statements before. Unfortunately, however, no one has ever been able to suggest an adequate substitute for examinations.

There are serious objections to the proposal to promote scholars on a certificate from a teacher, the most vital being that the standard of education varies in different schools and among different teachers. The examination system fixes a common standard to which all students must conform. If it were left to individual teachers to recommend promotion on the work of the year it would be impossible to secure uniformity.

Miss Patchell pointed out the vital fact that examinations provide an incentive to effort. For that reason she holds them to be indispensable. Further, she believes that it would place far too much responsibility on individual teachers if they were required to recommend promotion by certificate.

Humanity is prone to adopt the line of least resistance, and it would be much easier for a good-natured teacher to pass a favorable verdict on a student than to explain to the parents that the boy or girl was not fit for promotion.

It is admitted that a nervous child is under a disadvantage in the examination room. But the whole of life is more or less of a competitive test, and as a general rule it is the children who do best in school examinations who make good in their jobs when they go out into the world.

Parents by encouraging their children and taking an interest in their school work could assist them greatly. If the pupils are given the idea that there is little value in examinations they will certainly not work for them. At all events, until a more efficient plan is evolved the examination system will still be generally regarded as the most effective method of ensuring proficiency and promotion.

"RECENT ADVANCES IN ANATOMY."

Reviews of Professor Woollard's Book.

Concerning the book "Recent Advances in Anatomy," just published by Dr. H. H. Woollard, now of Adelaide, The Baptist Medical Journal of November 5 writes as follows:—

The character of the contents . . . is rather unexpected, for it deals mainly, though not quite exclusively, with microscopical structure; the profuse, indeed, confesses that many aspects of anatomy, such as the racial and constitutional, anthropology, large areas of comparative anatomy, and much embryology—are either omitted or mentioned only incidentally. Much that is usually taught in physiological courses is set forth clearly and attractively in its well written volume—for example, the chapter on coxtra, ovulation, and menstruation, the account of the origin of the blood cells, and the description of the cerebro-spinal fluid. The first chapter, entitled "microdissection," deals with the instruments employed in the dissection of individual cells and then with mitochondria, the recently discussed Golgi apparatus, and the chromosomes. . . . The second chapter is devoted to a description of tissue culture, and in another the morphology of nerve fibres is considered. In the chapter on "growth centres and organizers" some of the problems recently investigated by experimental embryologists, especially in connection with the eye, are set out and illustrated by pictures taken from Spemann's papers. The reticulo-endothelial, on as it is preferably called, the macrophage, system is fully described, and the various types are well marked—vital staining, phagocytosis, and amoeboid movement—but its functions are admitted to be completely unexplained. The anatomy of the extra-pyramidal system is given in some detail, with an account of S. A. K. Wilson's work on the fibre connections of the corpus striatum and Elliot Smith's researches into the comparative anatomy. The symptoms of extra-pyramidal disease are summed up as muscular rigidity unaccompanied by any change in the reflexes or in sensation, and involuntary movements ranging from tremor to atetosis. In the chapter on prophylactic and eperitic sensation the subject, as represented by Sir Henry Head's opinions in 1921, is reviewed in the light of the more recent publications of Professor Stoford, Dr. E. D. Adrian, and Sir John Dawson. The last chapter deals with X-ray anatomy, and first points out the number of body variations which may initiate fractures. The association of metabolism with pseudo-epiphyses, atypical epiphyses, and accessory tarsal elements is cautiously discussed. Reflexes are made to be thrown by radiology on the position of the normal stomach, and the existence of two forms of stomach—the hypersthenic or highly placed and the asthenic or very low stomach—depending on bodily constitution. This constitutional aspect of the contents, and the same types of position have recently been shown to exist in the College, London.

"A Brilliant Exposition." The St. Bartholomew's Hospital Journal (London) for November says of the book, inter alia:—It appears that anatomists have tended to wander off into the humanizing side-tracks, so that the term "anatomy" has come to connote something quite different from its real meaning. . . . How this has happened is a little obscure. . . . But under the influence of transcendental anatomy, which, in the early part of last century, seemed to have been mainly concerned with the search for metaphysical archetypes and the like, the anatomist separated himself from the world, and withdrew from the physiologist, and concerned himself with unraveling the details of structure with little reference to function. . . . Wherein lay the error? . . . perspective to biological sciences, suggesting a rational basis for the evolutionary problem, morphologists were still more stigmatized in the same direction, though approaching their problems from a slightly different point of view. . . . Hundreds of them set to work looking for vestiges, homologies, variations, and so forth, and, filled with the ardour of a new adventure, they tried to explain every anatomical feature of the human body by reference to supposed ancestral conditions. In many cases they were carried away too far, and even to-day candidates for the primary fellowship are being taught to learn about homologies of muscles and ligaments which certainly cannot exist. It is time for anatomy in England to return to a more sober and scientific frame of mind and to pay attention to those subjects within its scope which have in many cases been taken over by the physiologist. . . . More anatomists have read the book some time, and none more than the author of the book now under review, Professor H. H. Woollard. This anatomist is known to his friends as "Woollard."

REC. 22-12-27

Professor H. H. Woollard, M.D., has been appointed honorary consulting pathologist and Dr. C. H. G. Ransbottom honorary assistant physician at the Adelaide Hospital. These appointments were approved by Executive Council on Wednesday.