

NEFACTORS TO RESEARCH.

MELROSE LABORATORY.

IN CEREMONY AT WAITE INSTITUTE.

marked practical interest in the activities of the Waite Agricultural Institute was indicated by an influential gathering at the Waite Institute on Thursday morning, when the foundation stone of the handsome John Melrose Laboratory was laid by Miss Lily Melrose at the request of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor (Sir George Murray), who is also Chancellor of the University of Adelaide. Seated on a raised platform in front of the foundation stone were His Excellency, Mr. John Melrose (founder of the building), Miss Melrose, Mr. W. R. Birks, B.Sc. (Principal of the Agricultural College), Mr. J. F. Bailey (Director of the Agricultural Bureau), Mr. F. H. Weston (Registrar, Adelaide University), Mr. Peter Waite's Bequest.

Keeping the proceedings His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor said:—"It is a privilege this morning to invite Miss Melrose to lay the foundation stone of this laboratory, which is the first instance to endeavour to endow the stock of knowledge relating to agriculture in its widest sense, and pass it on to those who were engaged in agriculture as farmers, gardeners, or stockmen. Direct teaching, we thought, was deferred until a later stage. The deliberations have been the result of the Waite Institute for Research. It is one of our aims, ever, to found a Research Institute, another thing to make a success of this must depend upon the selection of those to be put in charge, and the selection of its destiny. We resolved to establish two professorships—one of Agriculture and the other of Agricultural Chemistry. Still we were faced with the difficulty of finding men to fill the chairs. We were in no hurry. We wanted the best that could be obtained. At length we favoured us, and we secured the services of Professor A. E. V. Richardson. Professor J. A. Prescott, who are on their own merits, well known to us. Professor Richardson we made director, and we have in Professor Prescott a valuable substitute whenever Dr. Richardson is away. As plant pathologist we called Mr. Geoffrey Samuel, and other members on the staff are held by an enthusiastic body of young workers, of whom we are very proud."

Practical Help.
Sir George Murray referred to the assistance the institute had received from Government and public bodies and private individuals. "Beginning with the last, His Excellency said, "Mr. John Melrose has given £10,000 for the erection of a laboratory. (Applause.) Mr. T. Mortlock £2,000 for its furniture. (Applause.) Machinery firms in Australia and Victoria have promised to supply and implement worth £10,000. The Superphosphate Association of Australia has given all the fertilizer necessary for the cultivation of the soil in addition to a contribution of

£250. (Applause.) The British Government through the Empire Marketing Board has contributed £3,000 toward the cost of the laboratory, and has agreed to provide £1,875 a year for five years for pasture research. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has provided £3,000 towards the laboratory, and a subsidy of £900 a year for five years for pasture research, and has also given £1,000 for the erection of a glasshouse for investigation into tomato wilt. Furthermore it has met the cost of the soil investigations on the River Murray. The State Parliament, at the instance of the present Government, has recently passed an Act to appropriate funds for 10 years for the development and expansion of work at the institute. This generous assistance will enable the institute to develop rapidly and render effective service to the agricultural industry of the State. The subject of economic entomology will receive special attention during the year. The Vice-Chancellor (Sir William Mitchell) will make enquiries in England for a highly trained entomologist to take charge of the department.

Mr. Melrose's Generosity.
"The John Melrose Laboratory," His Excellency went on, "forms the south wing of the entire building. It is particularly gratifying to me that Mr. Melrose, who has been a lifelong friend of mine, should have shown his interest in the work of the institute in such a practical and generous manner. He is a man of strong individuality, and was probably moved—as I have said before—by his admiration for and faith in the judgment of that great benefactor to this country, the late Mr. Peter Waite. I ask Mr. Melrose to accept the profound thanks of the University for his kindly and splendid gift. (Applause.) Mr. Melrose thanked His Excellency for the way in which he had spoken of him, and particularly his kindly reference to their lifelong friendship. To Sir George and members of the University Council he thought South Australia had cause to be thankful. The work they were doing at Urrbrae would be helpful to all parts of Australia. At this stage a light drizzling shower set in, and Mr. Melrose, emphasizing the value of it at the present juncture added, amid laughter, "It can rain all over us and plenty of it."

Well and Truly Laid!
In asking Miss Melrose to lay the first foundation stone on the property since it has been in the possession of the University the Chancellor remarked that beneath it, in addition to other things, would be deposited samples of the finest wheats raised in Australia—Federation and Gluyas—and another bottle containing some virgin soil from Urrbrae. He was sure Miss Melrose would derive gratification to know that her name would be perpetuated with that of her father, the founder of the laboratory.

Inscribed on the stone are the words, "This stone was laid by Lily Margaret Melrose, daughter of John Melrose, the donor of this laboratory, January 26, 1928." After Miss Melrose had performed the ceremony with a silver trowel, which had been presented to her, she remarked that she had much pleasure in declaring the stone well and truly laid. She was pleased to be associated with the ideas of Mr. Peter Waite. That in itself was a great honour. In other countries they grew wheat 150 bushels to the acre. It seemed to her that they might aim at that here. She hoped that the experiments would be of service, and even teach sheep to grow two fleeces a year. (Laughter.)

Example of Good Citizenship.
The Minister of Agriculture, in proposing a vote of thanks to Miss Melrose, said that South Australia had been fortunate in the numbers of her public-spirited citizens. Of all the institutions in the Commonwealth, none would help to develop the national resources to a greater extent than the institute—the outcome of Mr. Peter Waite's fine inspiration. Mr. Melrose had shown an example of good citizenship by his magnificent gift.

Future Activities.
Professor Richardson seconded, and expressed gratitude to Mr. Melrose. Less than three years ago the Waite Institute had begun its official career with a staff of six in improvised laboratories in the coach house, outbuildings, and basement of the homestead. By the time this building was ready for occupation a staff of 24 persons would be eagerly waiting to occupy it. A group of workers would be engaged upon soil problems, the classification of South Australian soils, and the investigation of soil fertility problems facing the settlers and the irrigation authorities

along the Murray River, so that methods of reclamation and systems of soil treatment may be placed on a more secure and scientific foundation. The plant pathology division would be engaged upon the investigation of the diseases of farm crops, particularly spotted wilt of tomatoes, takeall in wheat, the peculiar no-growth disease in the Murray mallee areas, and the grey speck disease in oats in the south-eastern districts.

Plant Breeding and Agronomy.
The plant genetics division, the professor continued, would be engaged upon the production of improved varieties of cereals, both as regarded yields and resistance to fungus diseases. The production of improved types of pasture plants by selection and hybridization would receive attention. The agronomy division would continue its investigation of the principles underlying the profitable production of farm crops, and the influence of varying systems of rotation, tillage, fertilization, time, and rate of sowing on the yields of farm crops. It was also testing the efficiency of different methods of conducting field tests, in order to develop a system of field technique that would give accurate and reliable information.

Pasture Research and Entomology.
A co-ordinated group of workers would be occupied with pasture research, from many different angles—from the chemical, ecological, agronomic, and genetic point of view. The best methods of improving natural and artificially seeded pastures were being investigated, and many species of pasture plants, indigenous and exotic, were being studied to determine their suitability for Australian conditions. The mineral deficiencies of pasture land and pasture grasses would be investigated. Finally, it was hoped during the present year to establish a new division—that of economic entomology. This division would investigate the insect pests affecting our farm crops and fruit trees with a view to their more effective control.

Imperishable Asset.
South Australia, by the recent passage of the Agricultural Education Act, Dr. Richardson continued, had determined that it should keep in line with the progressive movements in other countries of the world. The soil of South Australia was an imperishable asset of vital importance to the whole community. Let them endeavour to use it to the fullest advantage, both for the present generation and for the generations yet unborn, by bringing all the resources of science and invention to bear on its systematic exploitation. The members of the staff of the institute, who would be privileged to work in this laboratory, which would forever bear the name of its donor, sincerely hoped that the result of their labours would fully and completely justify the magnificent generosity of Mr. John Melrose. (Applause.)

In acknowledgment, Miss Melrose remarked that it had been said that they wanted more buildings, and facetiously added, "Well, upon looking round, I can see plenty of people here who might follow my father's example." (Laughter.)

MAIL 4. 2. 28 The Lieutenant-Governor

Sir George Murray, who since the departure of Sir Tom Bridges has been discharging the duties of Lieutenant-Governor in fulfilment of the terms of the commission which he received nearly 12 years ago, has been on more than one occasion the King's representative in this State since April, 1916, when he succeeded the late Sir Samuel Way in the viceregal capacity soon after his elevation to the vacant Chief Justiceship.

His Excellency enjoys the distinction of being the first South Australian born person to become Lieutenant-Governor, as he was the first native of this State to be raised to the Supreme Court Bench of South Australia, the first graduate of Adelaide University to be made King's Counsel, and the first South Australian to be chosen Chancellor of the University of Adelaide. In his twentieth year he proceeded as South Australian Scholar to Cambridge, there to further distinguish himself in his academic career.

Sir George's keen interest in and support of higher education have always been manifest, particularly since he has been Chancellor of the University, where he founded the Tinline scholarship for historical research. He values highly his election last year as honorary foundation fellow of St. Mark's College, which is affiliated to the University. His Excellency has a fine library at his home, Murray Park, Magill.

MR. JOHN HORNER. Joining Conservatorium Staff.

Mr. John Horner, the newly-appointed teacher of organ and piano, who is to take the place formerly held by Mr. Harold Wylde at the Elder Conservatorium, arrived at the Outer Harbour on Saturday morning by the R.M.S. Cathay. He was met by Mr. I. G. Reimann (acting director of the Conservatorium), Mr. George



MR. JOHN HORNER.

Pearce, Mrs. Pearce (Miss Sylvia Whittington), and Mr. John Dempster, and was motored to the city. During an interview at the Conservatorium Mr. Horner said that his voyage had been pleasant, for there had been scarcely a rough day. He had enjoyed helping with concerts on board, and with the music at the services, conducted by the Rev. K. J. F. Bickerstitch, of St. Peter's College, who joined the ship at Colombo.

When asked his impressions of Australia, Mr. Horner said:—"I had a day at Perth. Mr. A. Lockie showed me around, and the view from King's Park was beautiful, with its avenue of scarlet-flowering gums and the water below. When I went to Australia House I looked up things about South Australia; I was not prepared for anything like that in Perth." Like many other musicians, Mr. Horner said he had planned a different career, and studied accountancy. But the war interfered. He joined the R.A.F., and was for a while a second lieutenant and observer on the Italian front.

"The war made things seem different when I went back to England," said Mr. Horner. "I thought I would like to take up music, so studied and took my L.R.A.M. as a pianoforte performer. I studied the piano under Miss Agnes Millar—the best woman teacher in Scotland. I also studied under Mr. John Pullen, Dr. Stanley Marchant (the new organist at St. Paul's), and Professor J. C. Bridge. Since then Mr. Horner has been teaching at the Athenaeum School of Music, Glasgow, and has been organist of Woodlands Church, Glasgow, and sub-organist of St. Mary's Cathedral. His concert work has included piano recitals, accompaniment, and solo work with the Scottish Orchestra.

Music and Musicians.
Asked about musical affairs in Glasgow, Mr. Horner said that they were flourishing. There were numerous concerts by international celebrities. He conducted the Glasgow University Amateur Orchestral Society for two seasons, and there was broadcasting. They gave fine programmes and secured the best musicians, because it meant a regular position at good pay." Mr. Horner expressed interest in the future of broadcasting in Australia and other forms of musical work, especially orchestra. For himself, he seemed equally fond of piano and organ, and said that he intended to give piano recitals as well as a series of organ recitals already planned. Broad in his sympathies, he did not care for the more extreme developments of modern experimentalists, but liked much that was recent, although now as ever the old classics hold their own. Bach, he said, remained king of the organ. During the chat there were interesting references to various movements and musicians of today. Among those mentioned were Sir H. Walford Davies, Cyril Scott, Holst, Armstrong Gibbs, Howells, and others. The interest in Elizabethan music, Mr. Horner continued, was keen, and he had accompanied Dr. Fellows in some of the Tudor songs on which he was the great authority. "The others," Mr. Horner said, "he accompanied himself on an ancient lute—not much sound, but it suited the songs." Among Australian musicians he had met he mentioned Dorothy Helmrich a soprano, and Elma Moody a violinist. Speaking of the Beecham opera