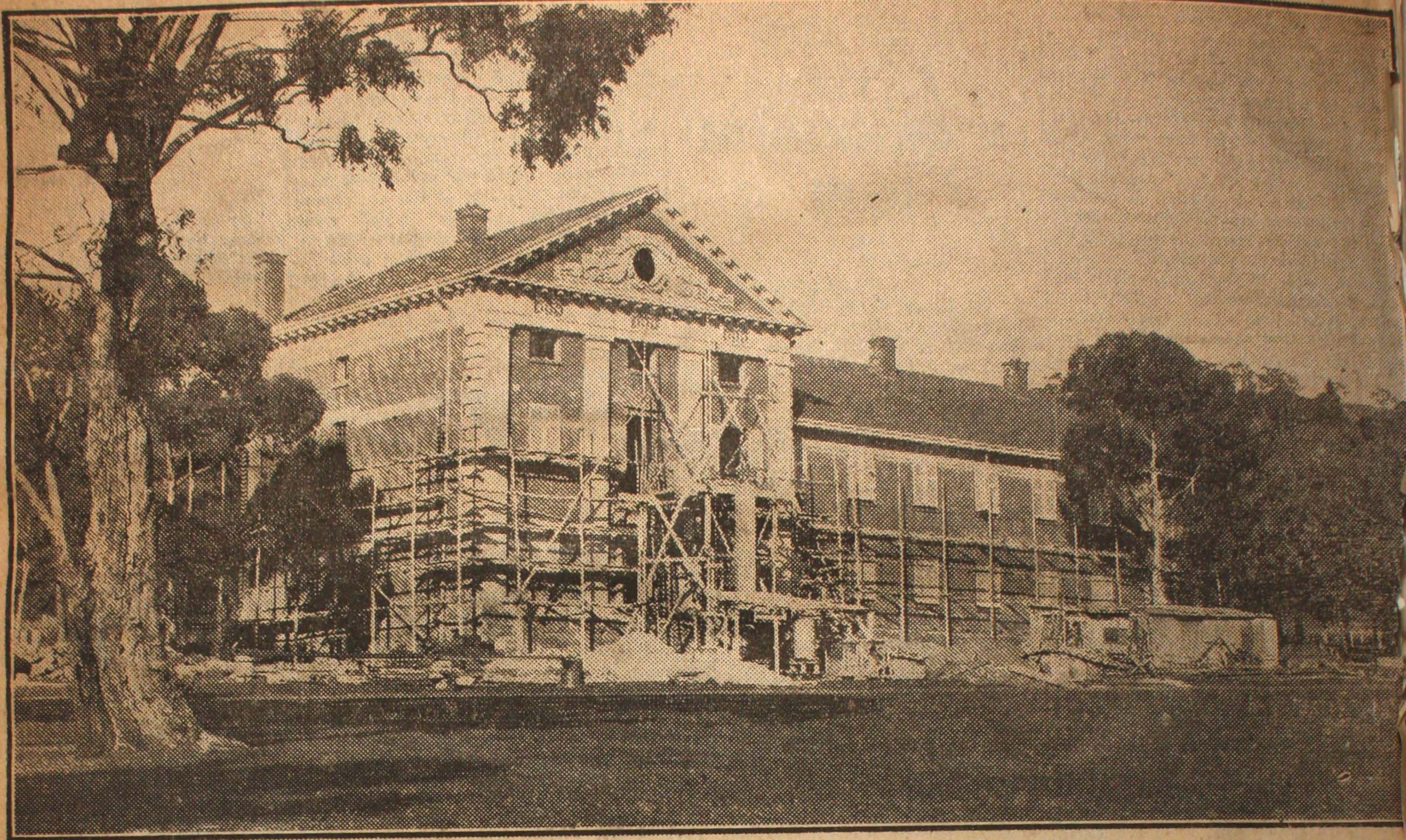


THE WAITE RESEARCH INSTITUTE.



THE MELROSE LABORATORY.

The Melrose chemical laboratory, which was built as a result of a gift of £10,000 by Sir John Melrose, will form the south wing of the complete block of research laboratories at the Waite Institute for agricultural research. The sum of £2,000 was given by Mr. J. P. Mortlock for the equipment of the laboratory. foundation-stone was laid in January of this year by Miss Margaret Melrose, and the building is now approaching completion. —Krischock photo

NEWS 13. 7. 28

ENGLISH EXAMINATION

Opinion of Mr. L. C. Hunkin

CONFIDENCE IN TEACHERS

Referring to the invitation of Sir Archibald Strong for teachers to submit papers on English literature containing the types of questions they consider best calculated to test the knowledge of their students, Mr. L. C. Hunkin, who recently drew attention to the decline in the number of passes in this subject at the leaving examination, said:—

"I am delighted to know that the matter has received attention, and that the conference between Sir Archibald Strong and representatives of the teaching profession has resulted, to use the words of Sir Archibald, 'in clearing up a great deal of misunderstanding.'

"I sincerely hope that the ultimate result will be the permanent alteration of a state of affairs which seemed to indicate a disturbing deterioration of the mental capacity of the average child, or incompetency in the teaching profession.

"Happily these conclusions have been shown to be incorrect by the admission of Sir Archibald Strong that the unsatisfactory position could be explained in part, if not wholly, by the 'reduction of the interval between the intermediate and leaving examinations from two years to one,' and the unreasonable cramming consequent thereon.

Requests of Teachers

"Personally, I do not accept this as a complete explanation. I attach more importance to the following requests of the teachers:—That the questions should be so framed so as not to bewilder the students; that authors should be chosen who present no unusual features of style; that constructive rather than destructive criticism would be welcomed from the examiners."

"I do not agree that the case is stated completely in the three choices submitted by Sir Archibald, because he excludes the possibility of the examination being too abstruse for the child mind. However, his expressed desire to 'meet the wishes of the teachers in every way' and my absolute confidence in the teachers, make me feel sure that this important question will be settled speedily and satisfactorily.

"My article on the subject created much interest. I have received many messages approving my action in drawing public attention to the position.

Correspondent Approves

"One correspondent—an eminent King's Counsel and scholar—wrote:—

"I thoroughly agree with most, if not all, of your criticisms. Anything more ludicrous in such an examination paper than three of the questions can scarcely be imagined. The only parallel of which I know is the fanciful one on page 477 note 2, of Sir Walter Scott's Journal Edinburgh edition, 1910. I felt that I must let you know that you had one sympathiser in your crusade against what you aptly describe as 'that sort of stuff.'"

"I published my article with some diffidence and much regret. In the first place I have the highest respect and regard for the University and the many eminent scholars who grace its faculties, and also because I felt that the high traditions of the University suffered because this urgent matter had not received the attention it importance demanded.

"I publicly expressed my opinion on this matter only because the evidence that something was radically wrong with this examination seemed incontestable. Recent developments have justified the stand I took and I am satisfied to leave the matter in the competent hands of our teachers.

CONTINUED

Dr. Hone (who is chief quarantine officer for South Australia) stated in his letter:—During the past few years considerable attention has been directed to the rapidly rising death rate in Australia from cancer, which is in such marked contrast to the fall that has taken place in the last 30 years in infantile mortality and the death rate from pulmonary tuberculosis. Following on this, attacks on the cancer problem have been initiated from different aspects. These attacks are generally summarized under the term "cancer research." But it must be remembered that in regard to cancer, research includes investigation into different methods of treatment as well as into causation and prevention. In New South Wales, for instance, the Sydney University Committee which has raised £100,000 during the last five years, is called the Cancer Research and Treatment Organization. In Queensland, a somewhat similar committee, unconnected with the University, aims at installing X-ray plants for treatment in three large centres of population in addition to research work.

Similarly the Commonwealth authorities, who have during the past few years made money available in each State for research into problems connected with cancer, have at the same time purchased several grammes of radium, for loan to the several States in an attempt to standardize and improve treatment and investigate results of treatment.

South Australian Position.

In South Australia the position, roughly speaking, is as follows:—

(1) The Commonwealth Department of Health is at present arranging to lend to the Adelaide Hospital one-half gramme of radium to initiate a campaign of treatment locally along the lines determined upon at a conference held in Melbourne early this year. But if the campaign is to be carried out in complete accordance with the resolutions of that conference, a local committee is required to supervise treatment and act in conjunction with Dr. Burrows (the expert from England) in regard to post-graduate work and other activities. A plant for deep X-ray therapy is also required for the Adelaide Hospital, for which it is said no funds are available.

(2) The Adelaide University two years ago constituted a cancer committee with the primary purpose of supervising experimental treatment of cancer by colloidal lead, though its functions were not limited to that. This committee has not been functioning with any great activity. It is felt in various quarters that the enquiry into this method of treatment is worth prosecuting vigorously, and that the committee should be enlarged and strengthened.

(3) Professor Brailsford Robertson is continuing the research work which he began three years ago under the Commonwealth grant to the University. Professor Hicks has also some experimental investigations in hand, and Professor Kerr Grant is anxious to investigate certain physical problems connected with radium, and in particular the possibilities of high tension X-ray apparatus. It would seem wise for the University to provide opportunities for other

workers who may have ideas of investigation likely to prove fruitful.

(4) During the past year a bequest of nearly £20,000, subject to a life interest in the estate, has been made to the University "for medical research work in such a way as the council of the University may in their absolute discretion decide," and without limiting their choice a wish is expressed that the moneys coming to them under this bequest shall if practicable at the time be used chiefly for research work in connection with cancer.

Immediate Necessities.

The immediate necessities here are therefore:—(1) The raising of money by private and public subscription to provide a plant at the Adelaide Hospital for deep X-ray therapy and for such other investigations as may prove necessary. (2) The formation of a local committee to supervise treatment in conjunction with Dr. Burrows. For evident reasons such a committee should be vitally connected with some legally constituted authority, and for many reasons the University would seem to be the most suitable body. (3) Vigorous exploration of the possibilities of the colloidal lead method of treatment of cancer. (4) The maintenance of the research work into natural history and causation of cancer at present being conducted at the University.

The more remote necessities are:—(1) The provision of money to maintain and extend these and other investigations. (2) The provision and trying out of an organization to utilize to the best advantage the above bequest when it becomes available.

Committee Suggested.

In an attempt to meet these various needs I beg to propose the appointment by the Adelaide University Council of a cancer treatment and research committee in connection with the Adelaide University, consisting of the chancellor, vice-chancellor, chairman of the finance committee, medical members of the council, Professors Kerr Grant, Brailsford Robertson, Cleland, and Hicks, the directors of lectures in medicine, surgery, and obstetrics, the Inspector-General of Hospitals, the Medical Superintendent of the Adelaide Hospital, the Director of South Australian Government Laboratory, the chairman, deputy chairman, and pathologist of Adelaide Children's Hospital, the president and two other members of South Australian branch of British Medical Association (to be elected annually), and the Lord Mayor of Adelaide, Dr. A. A. Lendon, the Hon. Walter Duncan, and Messrs. H. W. Crompton and A. A. Simpson, with power to add to their numbers, the registrar to be convener. The committee to carry out the following functions either in itself or by delegation to special committees appointed for specific purposes with the approval of the council:—

(1) To arrange with the Commonwealth Department of Health and the Adelaide Hospital authorities for supervision of can-

REG. 17. 7. 28

CANCER RESEARCH.

DR. HONE'S PROPOSAL.

Committee Being Formed.

The council of the University has adopted a report of the Faculty of Medicine recommending that a cancer treatment and research committee be appointed to carry out the proposals contained in a letter addressed to the Dean of the Faculty by Dr. F. S. Hone.