

UNIVERSITIES ABROAD

Adelaide as Progressive

The University of Adelaide is as progressive as those of Britain and the Continent, especially in agricultural research work done by Waite Institute and the Laboratory of Animal Nutrition.

With Mrs. Eardley he returned by the liner Bendigo today after an absence of nine months on a visit to Europe.

While abroad I made enquiries of university management, and ascertain that the problems there were much the same as those confronting our own staff, said Mr. Eardley.

"I thoroughly agree with the old platitude that everything unfavorable about Australia seems to be cabled to Britain consequently the people there are astoundedly ignorant of Australian affairs.

"A glorious opportunity is being missed in neglecting properly to place Australia's canned fruits on the British market. Great difficulty is experienced in getting it to shops, which stock much of the California product."

Mr. and Mrs. Eardley also visited Padua, the Rhine, Northern Italy, and Switzerland.

ADV. 13.12.30

ENGLISH UNIVERSITIES

IMPRESSIONS OF ADELAIDE REGISTRAR

During a holiday trip abroad, Mr. F. W. Eardley, the registrar of the University of Adelaide, who returned yesterday by the Bendigo, visited several universities in London and in the Provinces.

Although it was vacation time, Mr. Eardley saw a good deal of the administrative side of the work. Students in London, he said, seemed more inclined than formerly to remain close by their schools, in order to be in touch with their activities.

Mr. Eardley was surprised to notice the wide publicity given by certain English papers to extremist cables concerning Australia's financial position.

REG. 15.12.30

Sir Charles Martin, successor to the late Professor Brailsford Robertson as Chief of the Animal Nutrition Division of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in Adelaide, is expected to arrive here in the Ceramic in February, after having visited South Africa.

The Register NEWS - PICTORIAL

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1930.

EXAMINATION OR EDUCATION?

THERE will be many parents to echo the lament of Mr. Stokes, the headmaster of Queen's College, that "the examination incubus" is threatening the cause of true education.

likely to suffer from less emphasis

upon pass lists, but the schoolmaster has also to consider future vocations. At present competitive examination is the only gateway to most professions, and it is rapidly coming to be the open sesame to business life.

GIRLS' schools have a relatively greater freedom from the pressure towards examinations, since they are not required to equip all their pupils for earning a livelihood.

SO far no acceptable substitute has been found for examinations as a gateway to certain callings, but at least the system could be modified with advantage.

Adm. 16-12-30 QUEEN'S COLLEGE Examination System Condemned VALUE OF LANGUAGES

Pointing to the crippling effect of the examination system on true education and the need to develop training on more individual and practical lines, Mr. E. Stokes, headmaster of Queen's College, stressed several of the disadvantages and drawbacks of the present system at the college speech day yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. Stokes received parents and friends at the college, and Mr. A. Grenfell Price (master of St. Mark's

Continued

College) presided. In distributing the prizes Mr. Price congratulated Mr. Stokes on his report, which was, he said, the frank views of one of the most experienced educationists in the State.

Examination System a Curse

"What have the past three decades accomplished in our public examination system? In India a great mistake was made in 1851, when an unsuitable Western system of education, together with the baneful test of its worth by examinations, was imposed upon a population which was and will always be essentially rural.

Evils of Cramming

"The fetish of examinations—to be seen in the impelling desire to cram students through intensive competitive tests, and in some cases primarily to secure the highest places in these tests, regardless of true educational worth—has of necessity crowded out real values in education, and has foisted upon a stereotyped system of education.

Importance of Languages

"Recently in England, a committee appointed by the Government to consider markets and salesmanship, a specially vital subject in these times of easy commercial depression, made its report, and let me quote:—'In almost all markets, and these were especially pre-dictpal, if representatives, whether principals or subordinates, cannot converse freely with the customer in his own language, as well as read his own newspapers and trade journals; and perhaps an equal handicap if correspondence from headquarters is not conducted in that language.'

Adv. 18-12-30

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS SYSTEM UNDER REVIEW

UNIVERSITY MAY DISCONTINUE THEM

Each year at speech-day gatherings of secondary schools strong protests against the present system of public examinations are voiced, and this year has been no exception.

The headmaster of Queen's College (Mr. Stokes) on Monday roundly condemned the whole system, and the following day the headmistress of Crewe School (Miss Cussen) suggested that the intermediate examination should be abolished, as it imposed too great a strain on children at the age (between 15 and 16 years) at which they normally sat for it.

System May Be Changed

The chairman of the Public Examinations Board of the University (Professor McKellar Stewart) said yesterday that the whole system of public examinations was under review.

Measure of Efficiency for Schools

The master of St. Mark's College (Mr. A. Grenfell Price) stated that the community owed a great deal to the University public examinations, a system which as a whole provided a fine curriculum, an incentive to work, and a measure of efficiency for all schools.

English Public School System

In England matters were different, for the great public schools worked upon their own syllabuses without external examinations, and most of their students took the University matriculation (which were often comparatively easy) in their stride.

University Examinations

Mr. Price declined to comment upon the examinations within the University, except to say that, as the scope of knowledge was increasing very rapidly in some subjects, it appeared important for the health of undergraduates that increasing weight should be placed upon practical work and tests throughout the year, in order to prevent augmenting the great strain of the final test.