

# MALE HEAD FOR GIRLS' SCHOOL

## Dr. C. W. Atkinson Appointed To M.L.C.

The Rev. Charles W. Atkinson, M.A., Litt.D., of Melbourne, has accepted an invitation to become Principal of the Methodist Ladies' College, Wayville. He will take charge of the institution next year.

This is the first appointment of a male head to the Methodist Ladies' College, but the treasurer of the committee (Mr. J. W. Gillingham) said yesterday that the practice of appointing a male head had been adopted with great success by Melbourne and Sydney Methodist girls' schools. Dr. Fitchett was Principal in Melbourne for many years, and at present the position was held by the Rev. J. W. Grove. Burwood College, Sydney, was also in charge of a male principal. The success of these schools had influenced the committee in its choice.



Dr. Atkinson has been closely associated with the Methodist Ladies' College, Melbourne, and was acting Principal for about twelve months after the death of Dr. Fitchett. He has made several visits to Adelaide, where he has relatives, and will attend the anniversary celebrations of the Archer street Methodist Church next month. He is 58 years of age, and an honor man in the schools of philosophy and classical philology in the University of Melbourne. He was awarded a Doctorate of Letters in 1918 for a thesis on "The Philosophy of Descartes."

He was a Methodist minister on the west coast of Tasmania from 1899 to 1901, and after spending three years in England, was engaged in Victorian circuit work. He was president of the Victorian and Tasmanian Conference in 1932.

Dr. Atkinson will succeed Miss C. N. Ashworth, who is going to New Zealand. Mr. W. A. Atkinson, of North Adelaide, is a brother.

### "No Preconceived Ideas"

Interviewed in Melbourne last night, Dr. Atkinson said:—"I appreciate the honor of being invited to assume the position of Principal. I am coming without any preconceived ideas or intent, and do not intend to apply any particular theories. I will do my best to serve the church and State by serving the school to the best of my ability."

### Adv. 14-10-33

At the annual meeting of the Royal Society, Mr. J. M. Black, one of the best known botanists of Australia, was elected president. Mr. Black was born in Scotland in 1855, and came to South Australia in 1877. He first interested himself in farming, and between 1863 and 1902 was engaged on the literary staffs of Adelaide newspapers. He then engaged in the study of botany, and has since become known as one of the leading botanists of Australia. He is honorary lecturer in systematic botany at the University, a fellow of the Royal Society of South Australia, and a former chairman of the Field Naturalists' section of the society. Mr. Black has published a number of works on the flora of South Australia. He was awarded the Sir Joseph Verco medal of the society in 1930, and the Ferdinand von Mueller medal in 1932.

### Adv. 14-10-33

Mr Cecil T. Madigan, Lecturer in Geology at the Adelaide University since 1911, will be 44 tomorrow. He was born at Renmark and educated at the Adelaide University. He was the Rhodes Scholar for this State in 1910, and took his M.A. degree at Magdalen College, Oxford. He served throughout the war with the Royal Engineers, was mentioned in dispatches, and twice wounded. From 1920 to 1922 he was engaged in the Sudan Civil Service. He accompanied the Australasian Antarctic Expedition, 1911 to 1914, and has since done much exploration work in Central Australia. In 1929 he made an aerial reconnaissance of a portion of the interior; in 1930 and the next year he led geological expeditions into Central Australia, and last year visited The Granites to ascertain their possibilities.

# How Sir Langdon Bonython is Fit at 85

Sir Langdon Bonython, K.C.M.G., one of the most successful and picturesque of many eminent Australians, will be 85 on Sunday.

For a man who has led such an active life as he has by reason of his connection with "The Advertiser" and politics and his association with educational and other institutions, his vitality, both physical and mental, is astounding.

What is his secret of long life? Simply this—work hard, don't worry, and sleep when you go to bed.

When the great William Ewart Gladstone went home from the House of Commons he had the ability as it were to close the door of his mind on the affairs of State. For the time being he ceased to be the Prime Minister of England.

Sir Langdon had that same ability. He had plenty to worry him when he was proprietor of "The Advertiser" if he had wanted to worry, but he would not worry. A friend once said to him: "You possess an invaluable faculty. When you leave the office you treat yourself as your printing presses are treated. You put yourself out of gear and for the time being the troubles of the office are non-existent."

In the war time he found himself in the position of having little more than two days' supply of paper, caused by the loss through fire of stocks of the value of £100,000. The question was whether fresh supplies would arrive in time. The managing printer was distraught, but Sir Langdon took the matter philosophically and did not allow it to cause him loss of sleep. A ship with paper arrived in time. He was sure it would, but there was only a margin of a few hours.

"Of course this is temperament," says Sir Langdon. "Some people meet troubles half-way. Very foolish of them, especially as so many of the troubles worried about never arrive."

Of course, he had financial responsibilities. There must have been times when he was very heavily in debt. That never gave him any serious concern. He was sure everything would be all right. And everything did turn out as was expected. Today Sir Langdon is a very wealthy man.

## No Holiday for 15 Years

YEARS ago in Sydney the editor of one of the great dailies said to him: "I have watched your career with interest. I could never have done what you have done. There must have been a time when you were up to your neck in debt. The worry of your financial liabilities would have killed me."

Sir Langdon replied that that aspect had not presented itself to him until that moment.

Well, after a point blank refusal to worry, what comes next in the recipe for the long, healthy, and vigorous life of this youthful octogenarian? Hard work. Sir Langdon did work hard, as all who know him can testify. He kept an eagle eye on the journalistic and business side of his paper if ever a newspaper proprietor did. And he did not keep it up for a year or two, but for more than 40 years. Until the early hours of every morning the light could be seen in his office.

About 40 years ago "The Bulletin," Sydney, announced that he had not had a holiday for 15 years, and that if he did not cultivate the holiday habit something gruesome would befall him. Nothing happened. Experience has convinced Sir Langdon that work never hurt anybody; in fact, he seems to have thrived on it. Today he climbs a flight of stairs as briskly as he did 20 years ago.

## Fewer Opportunities Now

One would expect a man with the record of achievement which Sir Langdon has to his credit to say that if he were starting life afresh he would repeat his career of success. He thinks he would, but he is not disposed to be sure or to be boastful. He realises that times have changed.

The opportunities for advancement do not exist now as they did. He set out without the proverbial silver spoon in his mouth to reach a goal, and by determined effort he got there. He has disciplined himself. He has not smoked, gambled, or consumed intoxicating liquors. Sport has not interested him.

He is not at all keen on hobbies. He cannot understand why the person with the stamp collecting hobby should pay a fabulous amount for a stamp just because it is slightly different from all other stamps. And he regards as extremely foolish the craze for first editions of the works of authors of no special renown.



SIR LANGDON BONYTHON

OF the many institutions with which Sir Langdon has been associated none has occupied so much of his time as the School of Mines. Since 1889 he has been the official head of the school, which occupies a leading place among the technical institutions of the Commonwealth. Its establishment practically originated with him, the school having been fostered, encouraged, and developed into practical shape, and having won its high prestige through his personal influence, his monetary assistance, his active vigilance, and wise presidency. Except when on visits to England he has not missed one meeting of the council of the school in 44 years. He provided the school with its chemical and metallurgical laboratories, which are the most up to date in Australia. For many years he has been a member of the council of the Adelaide University. He gave £20,000 to endow the Chair of Law, and has provided the £45,000 required

for building the Great Hall on North terrace. He was one of the most prominent contributors to war funds. Among his other numerous benefactions was £3,000 for the installation of stalls and the Bishop's Throne at St. Peter's Cathedral.

Time moves on. The name of Sir Langdon is not associated in the mind of most people with Federal politics, but it should be, as he was a member of the first Federal Parliament. The election was held 33 years ago. He came second on the poll, Charles Kingston, the then State Premier, having headed it. Sir Langdon was returned unopposed for Barker at the next election, and retired at the end of that Parliament, as he had no wish to interfere with the independence of "The Advertiser." For that reason he has never been a Minister of the Crown, although offered office.

## In the Reporters' Gallery

HE also knew something of the State Parliament, for as a reporter in his young days, 65 years ago, he went there to report the debates. It is doubtful if there is anybody in South Australia who can go as far back as he can in his recollections of the State Parliament.

"I heard Adam Lindsay Gordon deliver his now famous address in the Assembly, about which there was doubt whether it was an English speech with Latin quotations or a Latin speech with English quotations," said Sir Langdon. "It was the first time I had ever heard anything of the kind, and as a lad I was fairly aghast. I can point out in the present library, then the Assembly Chamber, the exact spot where Gordon stood."

"I was also in the reporters' gallery when members who found themselves excluded from a division by locked doors, forced their way in amid the noise of crashing woodwork and falling glass. As may be imagined, there was great consternation at such an unparalleled outrage."

For 20 years, from its inception in 1908 until 1929, Sir Langdon was president of the Commonwealth Literary Fund. Positions he occupies in England are president of the Royal Institution of Cornwall, vice-president of the Devon and Cornwall Record Society, and vice-president of the Empire Society.

He was created a K.B. in 1898, C.M.G. in 1908, and K.C.M.G. in 1919.

Sir Langdon will receive many congratulations on his birthday. It is something after so many years of hard mental toil to be still hale and hearty at 85.