

Seventh Annual Conference  
of  
The Royal Australian College of Surgeons.

—Adelaide Feb. 1934—  

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## CONFERENCE OF SURGEONS

### Opening Session Tomorrow Night

The seventh annual conference of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons—the first to be held here—will open in the Rennie Theatre, at the Adelaide University tomorrow night, when His Excellency the Governor (Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven) will deliver an address. Sir Henry Newland (president of the S.A. branch) will occupy the chair. At the conclusion of the meeting supper will be served in the University Refectory.

Operative demonstrations of interest to surgeons will be given, papers on surgical subjects read, and surgery trade exhibits shown during the remainder of the conference, which will conclude on Saturday.

Between 40 and 50 surgeons, some of whom will be accompanied by their wives, will arrive today, tomorrow, and Thursday. The interstate delegates include Drs. K. C. Ross, Arthur Brown, V. Hurley, Maclure, E. J. Egan, Felstead, Hennessy, Quick, H. D. Stephens, R. M. Downes, Craig, Colquhoun, R. Cato, Robert Fowler, E. White, Professor Harold Dew (Melbourne University), Drs. J. R. Kelly, John Gray, Wishart, F. C. Fitzpatrick, Mervyn Thomas, Marjory Thomas, R. W. Johnson, G. P. Dixon, H. Harris, and E. D. Ahern.

### Surgeons' Conference

The seventh annual conference of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons was continued yesterday. The proceedings consisted chiefly of operations and demonstrations of various phases of surgery, and many visited an exhibition of latest appliances in the Lady Symon Hall, Adelaide University. The business meeting was held at night. A report of yesterday's proceedings, and the programme for today, appear on Page 25.

### GOVERNOR TO OPEN SURGEONS' CONFERENCE

The first conference of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, to be held in Adelaide, will open on Wednesday night in the new Rennie Theatre, Chemistry Building, at the University. Between 40 and 50 surgeons from other States will attend. Dr. H. M. Jay, who is making the preliminary arrangements, said yesterday that his Excellency the Governor (Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven) would open the conference, which would continue until Saturday. Operative demonstrations of interest to surgeons would be given at the public hospitals, and papers on surgical subjects would be read. Trade exhibits of interest to surgeons would also be on view.

### SURGEONS TO CONFER

Between 40 and 50 surgeons from the various States are expected to attend the annual conference of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, which will open in Adelaide on February 28. Sir Henry Newland (president of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in S.A.) will preside at the inaugural meeting in the Elder Hall. The conference, which will be continued on March 1, 2, and 3, will include demonstrations and the reading of papers. Dr. H. M. Jay, who is organising the arrangements for the conference, said yesterday that it was not the intention of the surgeons here to embark on any elaborate social programme.

## CONFERENCE OF SURGEONS

### Concluding Session Today

Surgeons attending the seventh annual conference of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons spent a busy time yesterday at the Adelaide and Children's Hospitals.

Four lectures on general surgery were given by Drs. R. B. Wade (N.S.W.), R. M. Downes, J. B. Colquhoun, and H. Douglas Stephens (Vic.), during the early morning session at the Children's Hospital. Later, at the same hospital, there were demonstrations of surgical cases by Sir Henry Simpson Newland, Drs. H. Gilbert, L. O. Betts, and G. H. Burnell. Lectures in the students' laboratory at the Adelaide Hospital were given by Drs. S. H. Harris (N.S.W.) and L. C. E. Lindon (S.A.).

In the gynaecological block at the Adelaide Hospital, Dr. Roland Beard performed operations which were followed by discussions. These lasted three hours. Between 2.30 p.m. and 5 p.m., in the same block, Dr. Rex Matters operated. A combined discussion on the eye, ear, nose and throat was held in the students' laboratory from 9.30 a.m. till 12.30 p.m. at the Adelaide Hospital, and mastoid demonstrations were given by Dr. H. M. Jay. During this session Dr. F. J. B. Miller gave a paper on "Iridocyclitis with Tension," and Dr. W. Sangster one on "Nasal Surgery in Asthma." In the No. 2 theatre at the Adelaide Hospital in the afternoon, exhibits of diseases of the eye, nose and throat were on view.

A combined meeting of surgeons was held in the Rennie Lecture Theatre at the University last night, when Sir Henry Simpson Newland was in the chair. Dr. H. Hume Turnbull, of Melbourne, read a paper on "Post-Operative Pulmonary Complications." Dr. R. V. Hennessy (Melb.), who opened a discussion on the subject, spoke mainly on the nose and throat. Dr. Gilbert Brown (Adelaide) spoke from the point of view of the anaesthetist.

An exhibit at the technical exhibition in the Lady Symon Hall, University, shows the "anti-vene" tiger snake bite. Among other exhibits are a portrait of Dr. Crawford W. Long, of Jefferson, Jackson County, Georgia, U.S.A., who was the first anaesthetist, and a portrait of Hickman, who from 1821 to 1828, performed experiments on animals without pain.

### Today's Programme

The conference will conclude shortly after noon today, when operations and demonstrations will be performed at three hospitals. At Calvary Private Hospital North Adelaide, an operation followed by a discussion and a demonstration, will be performed in connection with general surgery. An operation followed by a discussion will take place in the gynaecological block at the Adelaide Hospital. Later in the morning, in the students' laboratory at the same hospital, gynaecological films will be shown.

At the Children's Hospital demonstrations and operations will be performed.

Many of the surgeons from the eastern States will leave by this afternoon's express.

### SURGEONS' CONFERENCE ENDS

The conference of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons concluded on Saturday, when there were operations and demonstrations at the North Adelaide Private Hospital, the Adelaide Hospital, and the Children's Hospital. A feature of the technical exhibition held in the Lady Symon Hall at the University was a camera used for motion pictures in medical sciences. Several sessions were devoted to surgical slides, and motion picture films were shown at the Adelaide Hospital by members of the College of Surgeons. When certain films were shown a talking version was also given. The films reflected the actual colors of the skin, blood, and bones. Practically all the surgeons who attended the conference returned to other States on Saturday afternoon.

## SURGEONS TO MEET TONIGHT

### How Australasian College Was Founded

### CONFERENCE TOMORROW

In the Rennie Theatre, at the University of Adelaide, tonight, many surgeons from Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, and Adelaide will gather for the seventh annual conference of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. His Excellency the Governor (Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven) will declare the meeting open, after which new members will be formally admitted.

Later the presidential address will be delivered by Sir Henry Simpson Newland. At the conclusion of the inaugural meeting, guests will be entertained at supper in the Refectory. Tomorrow the annual business meeting will be held.

Some of the Perth delegates arrived on Monday by steamer, and other Western Australians are expected by plane today. Most of the eastern States delegates, some of whom will be accompanied by their wives, will arrive by the express this morning. Others are coming by ship tomorrow.

The formation of an Australasian College of Surgeons was first suggested by Professor (now Sir Louis) Barnett, of Dunedin (New Zealand), in a letter to the secretary of the section of surgery of the Australian Medical Congress held in Brisbane in August, 1920. He proposed that action should be taken to obtain a higher grade of efficiency in surgical work, and to provide for the bestowal of some hallmark on efficient medical men. The section of surgery of the congress, believing that the honor and interests of specialties could be better promoted by the formation of sections within the various branches of the British Medical Association in Australasia, rejected this proposal.

It suggested, however, that a section of surgery should be formed in each branch, and, further, that an attempt should be made to obtain uniformity in the regulations governing admission to the senior surgical degrees in the Australasian universities. Those resolutions were not carried into effect, and nothing further was heard of the proposal to form an Australasian College of Surgeons until after the visit to Australia, in 1924, of Dr. William J. Mayo and Dr. Franklin Martin. Those surgeons, at a meeting held in Melbourne, had outlined the ideals, aims, and objects of the American College of Surgeons, and had offered a Fellowship of the College to some leading surgeons on a charter membership basis, an invitation which was accepted by 25 surgeons in Australia and New Zealand.

### Suggestion Revived

Some of these newly-elected fellows of the American College revived the proposal that an Australasian college should be established. In July, 1926, a letter, signed by Sir George Syme, R. Hamilton Russell, and H. B. Devine, was sent to all senior surgeons holding office in clinical schools in Australasia. The advantages of the establishment of a college of surgeons were described, and the recipients were invited to become provisional members. The replies were unanimously in favor of the proposal, which was then submitted to, and approved by the surgical section of the New South Wales branch of the B.M.A. and the Victorian Surgical Association.

Meetings of surgeons were held in the chief States and in New Zealand, at each of which two delegates were appointed to attend a meeting held in Sydney in August, 1926. The meeting elected a provisional executive committee, comprising Sir George Syme, R. Hamilton Russell, H. B. Devine, and A. L. Kenny (honorary secretary). It drew up a provisional constitution, selected 40 of the senior surgeons of Australasia as founders of the college, and appointed Sir George Syme provisional president.

## THE NEWS

ADELAIDE: WEDNESDAY, FEB. 28, 1934

### Conference Of Surgeons Will be a Success

IT is a habit with us to hold conferences. Farmers, pastoralists, clergymen, trades unions, lodges, Premiers—in fact, almost every male adult finds himself at some period of his life at the conference table reviewing the past and planning for the future.

The critical have enquired whether the results justify the expenditure. In many instances they probably do not. Apart from the adoption of a number of pious resolutions and an exchange of views, nothing is achieved. It will generally be conceded that the conference of surgeons from all parts of Australasia to be opened in Adelaide tonight is not of that variety. It cannot be barren of results. The mere fact that a group of keen, earnest, highly qualified, and experienced men are to gather to compare notes on their observations in surgical wards is a guarantee that a widening of knowledge must come from their collaboration.

The science of surgery is never constant. By careful, painstaking research and prolonged experiment in laboratories new theories are being developed on the cause of the diseases to which the flesh is heir, and the remedies to be applied. Scientists in Britain, Germany, France, America, Russia, and elsewhere are always adding to the sum of knowledge. Activity was never so marked as it is today. Modern instruments and equipment have placed in the hands of the research workers facilities for study of the human body which were undreamed of by their predecessors.

The surgeon of today, if he is to keep himself abreast of the times, must be a reader of a wealth of information which pours forth from a multitude of experimenters. He must acquaint himself not only with the causes of and remedies for disease, but also with the use of the very efficient instruments for operations which are at his command.

We are fortunate in Australia in having a body of surgeons and physicians whose code of ethics and whose qualifications are not excelled in any part of the world. Theirs is a noble profession, taking in as it does the vast field of illnesses, real and imaginary, to which we are likely to fall victims. Very often they receive no reward for their labors, and any discovery they make brings them no monetary gain.

The conference beginning in Adelaide tonight will be a success because there is so much to learn and so many eager to learn it.

## First Meeting

The first annual general meeting of the college was held at Canberra on March 31, 1928. His Excellency the then Governor-General (Lord Stonehaven) presided. In order to emphasise the Imperial significance of the college, an application was made on September 18, 1930, for the prefix "Royal" to be added to the title of the college, and the council was informed on December 23, 1930, that his Majesty the King had approved this application.

### Prominent W.A. Doctor

Dr. R. W. Johnson, of Perth, accompanied by his wife, arrived by the Katoomba on Monday. Dr. Johnson is surgical registrar of the Perth Children's Hospital, an honorary surgeon at the Perth Public Hospital, and a divisional surgeon of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. He graduated as M.B.B.S. at the Melbourne University in 1924, and in the following year gained his M.D. degree. In 1931 Dr. Johnson obtained his F.R.C.S. in Edinburgh, and last year was admitted to the Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. Dr. Johnson will be formally admitted tonight. Dr. Johnson and his wife will leave for Melbourne and Sydney on Monday.

Dr. H. Stewart, who is expected to arrive by plane from Perth today, has just relinquished his position as medical superintendent of the Perth Public Hospital, which he held for three years. He graduated at the Melbourne University, where he gained his M.D. degree, and in England he obtained his F.R.C.S.

Dr. S. E. Craig, who is also expected by plane from Perth today, is an honorary gynaecologist at the Perth Hospital, and is also in private practice.

The Western Australian secretary of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (Dr. F. J. Clark) will also arrive by plane today. Dr. Clark is an honorary in-patient surgeon at the Perth Public Hospital, and at the Children's Hospital.

Among the arrivals by the express this morning will be Professor H. R. Dew, since 1930 the Bosch professor in surgery at the University of Sydney.

The following delegates are staying at the Hotel Richmond:—Professor Dew, and Drs. S. C. Fitzpatrick, J. R. Kelly, R. W. Johnson, John Gray, Edwin Cato, Robert Fowler, E. White, H. B. Devine, Craig, H. D. Stephens, Colquhoun, and