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Continued

Among Famous Tomes

WHILE in England for the centenary meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, the Superintendent of Technical Education (Dr Charles Fenner) lunched at New College, Oxford, with the last three Rhodes Scholars South Australia has sent abroad—Dr B G Macgrath and Messrs B W Hone and L C Wilchar. The German Rhodes Scholar, who is a close friend of the South Australians, also lunched with them. "Our Rhodes Scholars are getting right into the heart of things at Oxford" said Dr Fenner this week. "They are making the utmost of the tremendous opportunities that students at Oxford have. For instance, they have unrestricted access to the famous Bodleian Library which simply reeks with literary and other treasures of the Old World."

Adv. 1-2-32

PROF. KERR GRANT RETURNS

Met Leading Physicists Of World

Professor Kerr Grant, Professor of Physics at the Adelaide University, who returned from London on Saturday by the Moldavia, said that the centenary conference of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, which he attended in England, was a wonderful opportunity to scientists to meet and discuss their discoveries and ideas in their own particular branches of work.

"Contact with many of the leading physicists of the world," he said, "has given me a number of new ideas, which I intend to apply in my work at the University. The new developments that interested me chiefly are concerned with geophysics and atomic structure."

He said that while in London he had an opportunity of discussing television with some of the leading men in the radio world, but they were doubtful about its having any immediate commercial success. There were enormous difficulties ahead of experimenters.

Radio Improvements

"I was most impressed with one recent development in radio," added the Professor, "and that is the micro-ray short wave system. I saw the apparatus used between Dover and Calais, and the instruments make for great secrecy in transmission, as well as using a minimum of energy."

"The transmitting valve is set in a kind of a mirror reflector, which enables the ray to be directed to a given spot with great exactness, instead of being broadcast to all quarters of the compass, as in ordinary radio. There is much work to be done, however, before the system will be perfected."

Professor Kerr Grant said he inspected the huge broadcasting station at Rugby, and was highly interested in the latest developments in valve construction. He saw the largest valve in the world, of 500 kilowatts, which was used at the station for world transmission, and a short wave valve generator of great power. The two instruments were typical of the great advances made in radio science. He said that in physics important work was being done in Britain to ascertain how different sorts of matter were constituted, and how electrons were constructed. In these researches very ingenious and elaborate apparatus had been devised for measuring the number and range of the alpha particles emitted by radio-active substances.

News 5-2-32

LET US HAVE MORE ORGAN RECITALS

Sir—A reference to the programme of the 20 midday organ recitals given by Mr. John Horner last winter recalls the great pleasure which they gave to large audiences. May we hope for a similar series in the coming winter? The outstanding feature of the programme was the one Bach number each week, and the sequence of these was certainly ingenious, and worthy of repeating.

Beginning with a prelude and fugue in A major, he followed with A minor, B minor, three in C major, three in C minor, two in D major, two in D minor, E flat major, E minor, F major, F minor, G major, and two in G minor. Bach alphabetically!

Another feature worthy of comment was the exceedingly well registered transcriptions of orchestral compositions, notably the "Egmont," "Ruy Blas," "Fingal's Cave," "Figaro," "Magic Flute," and "Oberon" overtures, the Largo from Dvorak's "New World" Symphony, the second movement of Schubert's "Unfinished" Symphony, and Sibelius' tone poem, "Finlandia."

ORGANIST.

Adelaide.

Comparison of Educational Work

From "Free Education," St. Peters:—In view of the interest in the annual expenditure by our State Government on free education, the public should be officially informed the total number of students who passed and the number who sat for the recent Intermediate examination; also the number who passed from each of our State schools and privately owned colleges, and the number that failed from each of them.

ADV. 5-2-32

School Of Mines Fee Increased

A correspondent has written complaining that the School of Mines fee for mathematics I. (Associateship) has been increased to £1 1/2 a term, whereas last year it was 14/ for the day class, and 10/ a term for the evening class. He points out that many students who attend evening classes earn their living and attend the School of Mines to improve their efficiency in their work. The majority of those students had suffered heavy reductions in wages, and would be unable to pay the increased fee.

The Principal of the School of Mines (Mr. F. W. Reid) explains that the standard of mathematics I. at the school has been raised and is now equivalent to first year mathematics at the University, the fee for which is £5 5/ a year.

ADV. 6-2-32

IMPORTANT WORK AT OBSERVATORY

Hopes That It Will Be Retained

PROPOSED ECONOMY

In view of the importance of the work done at the Adelaide Observatory it is hoped that it will not be one of those sacrificed when the Federal Government carries out its intention to reduce the number to two as an economy move.

During the past two or three years there have been suggestions for affiliating the Observatory with the University. When the Commonwealth took over the meteorological section of the Observatory in 1908 it was with the recommendation that the Astronomical Department should be maintained by the State Government, and, preferably, that the institution should be affiliated with the University. A similar recommendation was made in regard to all the State Observatories. So far the State Governments have maintained them as State institutions.

To deal with the proposed affiliation of the Adelaide Observatory with the University, an observatory committee was formed by the University Council at the request of the Government to advise the Government concerning the Observatory. Professor Kerr Grant was associated with the Government Astronomer (Mr. G. F. Dodwell) in dealing with the work of the Observatory, with a view to its development in the study of astro-physics.

Valuable Work

Important work has been entrusted to the Adelaide Observatory in the examination of variations of latitude in relation to movements of the earth. The work is being done in conjunction with the observatory at La Plata, in the Argentine. The International Commission supplied the instruments for 10 years, and the investigations are being conducted by the Government Astronomer and his staff.

The instrument employed is a fine zenith telescope, formerly used at the International Latitude Observatory at Mizusawa, Japan. It was shipped to Adelaide 18 months ago. Observations of zenith stars are made several nights a week, and the results, together with those from La Plata, and five of the international latitude stations in the northern hemisphere, are the subject of special study by the Latitude Commission, which is investigating the earth's movements.

Other work which links the Observatory with internationally organised scientific investigation is the continuous recording by means of the seismograph of earthquake waves.

The Observatory has also for many years carried on a magnetic survey of the State, though the work was recently suspended owing to the cost.

Not the least important work of the Observatory is the accurate determination of time which is sent throughout the State and given to shipping.

MACE FOR SURGEONS

Orontes Passenger Bringing It To Australia

A great mace, a gift from the Royal College of Surgeons of England to the Australasian College of Surgeons, is being brought to Australia by Mr. C. H. Fagge, a passenger on the Orontes, which is due here on Saturday morning.

Mr. Fagge, who is accompanied by his wife, is a member of the council of the Royal College of Surgeons, and will make the presentation at a general meeting of the Australasian College, at the University of Melbourne on February 17, when he will also deliver the Syme oration. The mace is to mark the association of the English body with the Australian, and bears the inscription, "As from brothers to brothers."

Mr. Fagge is joint author with Dr. Pyc-Smith of a "Theory and Practice of Medicine," which has long been a standard work.

ADV. 9-2-32

BRILLIANT SURGEON TALKS OF PROFESSION

Nothing To Teach Us About Cancer

AUSTRALIAN'S WORK

Mr. Charles Herbert Fagge, the London surgeon, who is visiting Adelaide, owns nearly a score of degrees and diplomas, but is a typically modest scientist. Surgeon to Guy's Hospital, the mammoth London institution for the sick, founded in 1721 by the philanthropist, Thomas Guy, he enjoys world-wide repute; and his standing in the profession in England is indicated by the fact that he is senior vice-president of the Royal College of Surgeons.

Guy's, perhaps, is one of the greatest centres of surgical experience in the world.

Surgery In Australia

Mr. Fagge is paying his first visit to Australia. His wife, formerly Miss Dora Metcalfe, is from Sydney. Asked yesterday what he considered the most outstanding feature of the year in surgery, he replied decisively, "The work of Vernon Royle, of Sydney, on the sympathetic nervous system."

Dr. Royle's investigations had formed the basis of various operations for the treatment of many different types of vascular lesions of the limbs, such as gangrene, and similar diseases.

Treatment Of Cancer

On the subject of cancer, Mr. Fagge spoke with extreme caution. "We have nothing to teach you here about cancer treatment," he said. In dealing with the disease radium and deep X-rays were important; but the knife was still paramount. He thought, possibly, cancer was on the increase, but that belief might be due to methods of diagnosis becoming more exact.

On being reminded of statements that science was on the eve of a discovery of a cure, he shook his head. "There is no evidence of that," he remarked. "How can we discover a cure until we know more about the cause of the disease? So far we know nothing of the primary cause of cancer, though we do know something of the contributive factors."

It was at this stage that Mr. Fagge made his only voluntary statement in the course of the interview. "One of the objects of the Cancer Campaign, of which I am a delegate from Great Britain," he remarked, "is to impress on the public the all-important necessity of consulting a doctor at the very first sign of anything at all resembling cancer. Patients should not themselves be the judges in this matter. The worst thing about the disease is that cancer is practically painless in its early stages, and therefore patients are inclined to disregard the signs."

Brain And The Chest

Of recent years there had been a tremendous advance in the pathology of brain affections, he said, and this was largely due to the invention of a number of ingenious devices aiding access to the brain, chiefly instruments for removing portions of the skull. Some of these were electrically driven, and enabled operations to be successfully carried out which a few years ago would have been decidedly risky. There had been a similar revolution in the surgery of the chest since the

war, owing to a better understanding of its physiology. Nowadays artificial electric lights, introduced through a hole into the cavity of the chest, played an important part in operations.

Prejudice Against Woman Doctors

On his attention being drawn to complaints made by women doctors in England of prejudice against them on the part of their male colleagues, Mr. Fagge said he was unaware of any such feeling. "On the contrary," he added, "I have examined a very large number of women for the M.R.C.S. and the F.R.C.S., and also for the London University. Some of them were extremely brilliant candidates. But I do not think women generally prefer female doctors. Women in medicine have filled a definite want, which, no doubt, they will continue to do, but I think that possibly the phenomenal success of a few brilliant ones has drawn into the profession a large number of their sex for whom there is an insufficient demand, and that during the past few years, the supply has overrun the demand."

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