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PROTESTS ABOUT DENTISTS' BILL

Board Members Threaten Resignation

Drs. A. P. H. Moore and H. T. Edwards, who are members of the Dental Board and the Faculty of Dentistry at the Adelaide University, and examiners in the Dental Board examination, said last night that following the passing of the amending Dentists' Bill that morning, they felt their services could be of no value either to the profession or the public. They said it was not their intention to be members of a board which had to enforce such retrogressive legislation.

Dr. Moore said the Bill would result in some dental assistants being registered as properly qualified dentists, although the examiners had reported they had not given satisfactory evidence that they possessed the necessary ability. He objected to the standard of a pass being taken by the Government out of the examiners' hands and changed to 40 per cent. instead of 50.

Dr. Moore said Parliament appeared in the role of a highly specialised examining body. The only justification for the Bill would have been some proof that candidates had not been treated fairly. Accusations unfounded and based on statements made by unsuccessful candidates, were made against the Dental Board by Mr. Tassie in the Legislative Council, and the Commissioner of Crown Lands (Mr. Richards) in the Assembly, yet the Chief Secretary (Mr. Whitford) had made no move to defend the officers of his department, or even to obtain a report on insinuations against them.

Differentiation

The measure would not affect genuinely qualified members of the profession, but it was tragic from the point of view of the public, who were entitled to protection. For their benefit it was to be hoped that those assistants whom Parliament had passed under the legislation, and whom the examiners considered incompetent, might be distinguished from those who had undertaken the prescribed course of training. Such a rule had been in force in Great Britain.

Dr. Edwards said he had been a member of the board for more than nine years. It had always directed its activities towards the raising of the status of the profession and safeguarding the public interest. The Bill which had just been rushed through Parliament was tragic in many respects, and the public would have to pay the piper. Accusations and insinuations concerning the board and the examiners were freely made by members who supported the Bill. The board was responsible to the Government, and should expect to be supported by the Chief Secretary. If the board had been guilty of victimisation, as suggested in the House, he should have instituted an enquiry. Such action, he felt sure, would have been approved of by the board. Neither support nor censure was forthcoming. Apparently Parliament knew more concerning the qualifications necessary to practise dentistry than those whose training fitted them for the work.

Forty Per Cent. For Pass

In the Assembly an amendment moved by Mr. Anthony (L.C.P.), which was accepted by the Attorney-General (Mr. Denny), provided that a dentist's operative assistant, who had obtained 50 per cent. in any subjects would be considered to have passed them, and would have another opportunity of sitting for any subject in which he had failed. This was again amended in Committee to reduce the standard to 40 per cent. Mr. Anthony's amendment, with the alteration to 40 per cent., was agreed to.

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with the Government Astronomer (Mr. G. F. Dodwell) at the Observatory. That many others were watching was indicated by the number of telephone enquiries received, mostly from women. The first meteor flash was observed at 2.4 a.m. curving up in a parabolic line above Regulus and Mars, in the north-eastern section of the sky. This was followed by a lesser one. Then, at 2.46 a.m., came the most spectacular—a great glowing thin line of fire which swept directly over the heads of the watchers, causing them to exclaim in admiration. Eleven minutes later a splendid meteor dropped perpendicularly in the south-eastern section. By 3.15 a.m., a heavy bank of clouds had drifted up from the west and the watchers went home.

If astronomic conditions had been more favorable, hundreds of meteors might have been visible, as they were to Humboldt in 1833. However, this Leonid meteor shower, which comes into vision only once every 33 years, is notoriously uncertain in its path. Effects on it by planets, such as Jupiter, make it difficult to forecast just how it will behave.

DISAPPOINTMENT AT MT. STROMLO

Only Few Strays Sighted

CANBERRA, November 17.

Scientists attached to the Commonwealth Solar Observatory at Mount Stromlo are puzzled at the non-appearance of the brilliant display of Leonid meteors which normally can be relied upon to occur between November 14 and 17, regularly every 33 years.

Since Monday the Observatory staff has kept a faithful vigil in the early hours each morning, in the hope of detecting the meteors, but their only reward was a few stray phenomena sighted between 2.30 and 3.30 a.m. today.

The greatest display on record occurred on November 13, 1866, when the meteors were so numerous that astronomers at the Royal Observatory in London counted nearly 5,000 in an hour. The sky literally teemed with them.

The second failure in succession at the 33-year period has caused keen disappointment at Mount Stromlo, where the explanation suggested is that apparently the earth's path around the sun does not at present intersect the orbit of the main swarm of the Leonid meteors. The only alternative seems to be that, in the course of some cosmic catastrophe, the Leonids have become lost in the vastness of space.

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"BREAKING DOWN PRINCIPLES"

"A BREAKING down of the principles under which examinations are conducted by University examiners," was the way in which the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Butler) today described the Dental Bill, which has been passed by Parliament.

Discussing the threatened resignation of two members of the Dental Board, Mr. Butler said that their protest was fully justified.

"The Bill before the Assembly was based on the assumption that the examination held some time ago was not a bonafide one, and that there had been victimisation," he said.

"There was not a tittle of evidence submitted in support of this very grave reflection on highly reputable citizens and fully qualified examiners."

"The Bill was much modified from that first introduced. For instance, the original measure provided for the registration of 19 operative dentists who failed to pass the examination. The amendment in the Legislative Council provided for 14, but the Bill as passed will register only two."

"REFLECTION ON PARLIAMENT"

"However, the Bill does provide that where operative dentists secure 40 per cent. of the maximum number of marks in any particular subject this will be taken as a pass."

"This, I think, is a breaking down of the principles under which examinations are conducted by University examiners, and is a grave reflection on Parliament."

"The attitude of the Chief Secretary (Mr. Whitford) is particularly open to condemnation. He should have called for a report from the Dental Board on the serious charges made, and that report should have been made available to Parliament before any legislation was passed."

"I hope that soon Parliament will rectify the obvious mistake that has been made," said Mr. Butler.

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DEATH OF DR. J. R. MUIRHEAD

Specialist With Notable War Service

Dr. John R. Muirhead, one of Adelaide's leading ophthalmic surgeons, died at his home, Kirkecaldy, yesterday, after a short illness. He was the eldest son of Mr. C. M. Muirhead, an Adelaide barrister, and was born at Glenelg 48 years ago. He was educated at St. Peter's College and the Adelaide University. Having qualified, he practised at Maldon (Vic.), and he practised at Kadina, where he was associated with Dr. H. A. Powell. When war broke out he was practising at Laura, and he enlisted with the A.I.F., being with the R.A.M.C. at Gallipoli, and in France and Belgium. In the third battle of Ypres, in 1917, while medical officer of the 24th Battalion, he was severely wounded, and spent five months in hospital in London. On his recovery he returned to France, and was actively engaged at the front until the Armistice. He was awarded the D.S.O. for his services.

Dr. Muirhead then went to London, where he made a special study of the eye. He was appointed resident medical officer at a leading hospital devoted to treatment of diseases of the eye. He married while in England, and on his return to Australia practised for a time in Jamestown. Then he came to Adelaide, purchased the practice of the late Drs. T. K. and Charles Hamilton, and for many years had been an eye specialist on North terrace.

While at the University he was a prominent oarsman, and twice rowed for South Australia in the inter-university boat races. He was a keen yachtsman, and was the owner of White Cloud when that boat won the Australian dinghy championship in Sydney Harbor. He had lately owned Mirage, which was to have represented Henley in the inter-club dinghy race at Grange tomorrow. He took a lively interest in the Legacy Club. He left a widow and five children and three brothers—Messrs. H. M. Muirhead, S.M., F. C. Muirhead (Melbourne), and Gordon Muirhead (Northern Territory), and one sister, Mrs. K. P. Sawers.

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Youth and Age for Exams

MIDDLE-AGED men and 12-year-old children will sit in seemingly endless rows for the University public examinations which begin on Tuesday.

They will be examined in 22 subjects for intermediate, leaving, and leaving honors standards.

The Exhibition Building, the University, and the School of Mines will be in use. Students will have numerous signposts and notices to guide them to their seats.

Last year 2,900 sat for the intermediate, 1,000 for the leaving, and 330 for the leaving honors. This year 2,820 will sit for the intermediate, 1,570 for the leaving, and the 331 for the leaving honors.

This means that there is a slight decrease in the numbers except for leaving honors.

Apart from the hundreds sitting in Adelaide, many students will take their examinations under supervision in distant country towns. Four children will sit for the intermediate at Hawker in the Far North.

Others will sit as far south as Allandale East, near Mount Gambier, and as far west as Ceduna. Supervisors, who are "responsible persons without any personal interest in the candidates," will have charge of the examinations in these centres.

The question papers are forwarded in sealed envelopes. Most of the big country centres have permanent committees.

The bulk of the students are less than 16 years of age, but each year there is a proportion of adults who are taking the examinations for special reasons.

The biggest day of the examinations will be on November 24, when 1,620 intermediate candidates will sit for English in Adelaide. In one examination, leaving honors physiology, there are no candidates this year.

There are very few entries for the Greek examinations.

One of the most interesting features about the examination census which is taken each year by the University is the steady increase in the number of students taking German. This year it is about the only subject which shows an increase on last year.

Candidates in Adelaide will be under the watchful eyes of 50 supervisors, who

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are more familiarly known as the "bulldogs." They are graduates and undergraduates from the University.

To cater for the students hundreds of chairs and desks have been prepared, ink has been ordered by the gallons, and pens by the gross.

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PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS TODAY

The first of the public examinations of the University will begin in the Exhibition Buildings, School of Mines, and the Adelaide University today, when candidates will sit for the intermediate, leaving, and leaving honors examinations. About 50 supervisors, mostly University undergraduates, will be in charge.

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Ten Years Ago

BY the death yesterday of Mrs. Waite, widow of Mr. Peter Waite, Urrbrae Estate, Glen Osmond, passes into the possession of Adelaide University. It will be used to advance the cause of education and the teaching and study of agriculture, forestry, and allied subjects.

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Professor W. A. Laver, of the Melbourne University Conservatorium, arrived in Adelaide yesterday morning, and left by the express in the afternoon. With Professor E. Harold Davies, he examined candidates in the final year of the bachelor of music and diploma of music courses at the Adelaide University.

News 22-11-32

SIR Henry Newland, who, accompanied by Lady Newland and their daughters Mollie and Helena, is on a world tour, will celebrate his fifty-ninth birthday on Thursday. Sir Henry ranks among the leading plastic surgeons of the world. He left Adelaide in March to attend the centenary meeting of the British Medical Association in London, and has since visited Germany, Vienna, and Scotland. Latest letters received from him were from London. They gave no indication of when he intends to return.

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SUPREME COURT MASTER

Mr. F. B. McBryde Appointed

Mr. F. B. McBryde was appointed Master of the Supreme Court, Registrar of Probates and Registrar in Admiralty by the Executive Council yesterday.

He has been Deputy Master for about seven years and was associate to the Chief Justice (Sir George Murray) before that.

Mr. McBryde was educated at Scotch College, Melbourne, and St. Peter's College, Adelaide, and graduated from the Adelaide University in 1912 at the age of 20. In the following year he was appointed associate to Sir George Murray, a position he resumed when he returned from service abroad with the 50th Battalion in 1919.



Mr. F. B. McBryde

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SHOWER OF METEORS DISAPPOINTS WATCHERS

Minor Display Only

UNCERTAIN PATH

The Leonid shower of meteors disappointed the many people who watched for the brilliant display expected in the early hours of yesterday morning. Their vigil, however, was partially rewarded by four meteors, which illuminated the north-eastern quadrant of the sky with half second intervals of brilliance. Bright moonlight deprived the meteors of the dark background necessary for them to display their greatest wonders.

Although the early morning air was about 20° enthusiasts waited