

Adv. 4-1-33

DOCTORS TO STUDY ABORIGINES

Party To Go To Alice Springs Tomorrow

To ascertain how Australian aborigines are able to exist on small supplies of water in arid areas a party of scientists from Sydney University will leave Adelaide tomorrow morning for Central Australia, where they will remain for six weeks. The party will consist of Professor H. W. Davies, professor of physiology at Sydney University, Dr. H. S. H. Wardlaw, lecturer in physiology at Sydney University, and Messrs. Joseph Barry, Peckley, and A. March, of the Society of Artists, Sydney. Professor Davies is a son of Professor Harold Davies, director of the Elder Conservatorium.

The party will go to Alice Springs, and to Hermannsburg Mission Station, if necessary. It will be financed from funds provided by the Rockefeller Foundation.

Professor Davies said yesterday that the investigations would be new to science, and should yield valuable results in the direction of ascertaining how human beings and animals existed in desert areas on little water. The party will report results to the anthropological department of the Sydney University, under the auspices of which it will work. Mr. T. Strehlow, a son of the Rev. C. Strehlow, formerly a school teacher at Hermannsburg Mission, who carried out valuable research work among the natives for many years, has been doing research among the natives on behalf of the Adelaide University for some months, and Professor Davies said his party hoped to link up with Mr. Strehlow.

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WORK OF SCIENCE THIS YEAR

More Powerful X-Rays

Discussing the prospects of scientific development this year, Professor Kerr Grant said yesterday that in the field of physics a matter of outstanding importance was the rapid progress being made in the methods of disintegrating the atom artificially. In England, especially at the Cavendish laboratory, Germany and America, new methods of producing high speed atomic projection were being found, and the effect of bombarding atoms of various kinds was being studied intensively. Dr. Marcus Olliphant, a graduate of the University of Adelaide, and an old assistant of Professor Kerr Grant, was engaged at present in this field, with Lord Rutherford at Cambridge, and the results obtained were very remarkable.

Progress was also being made, said Professor Kerr Grant, in the production of more powerful and more penetrative X-ray apparatus. Millions of volts were now being developed, whereas until recently scientists talked in hundreds of thousands of volts at the most. This development would probably be of great help in the treatment of cancer and other diseases.

An interesting development in the production of power was the use of a 20 horsepower machine using mercury vapor instead of steam.

University's Programme

Referring to the work to be undertaken by the University this year, Professor Kerr Grant said an important development was the erection and equipping of a new building for chemistry. In the physics department Mr. R. S. Burdon would probably continue the survey of the tensions of liquids. Mr. R. Bosworth had been attempting to develop new methods of observation of the infra ray, and Mr. G. R. Fuller would probably work on the precise measurement of gravity with a new type of pendulum.

Professor Kerr Grant said that with the assistance of Mr. M. Iliffe he was attempting the development of a new type of magnetometer for geo-physical measurements, and if time permitted experiments would be tried in the field of atomic physics.

Poisonous Plants

Professor C. S. Hicks said that in the department of physiology and pharmacology one research student would be engaged on the problem of poisonous plants used by the natives in Central Australia, and another, a medical student, would conduct research on diseases of the kidneys.

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BLOWFLY PROBLEM AMONG SHEEP

Scientist Examines Effect Of Wool Grease

LONDON, January 4.

Mr. M. R. Freney, representing the Commonwealth Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, who has been working on the blowfly problem with the British Wool Industries' Research Association at Leeds, is now concentrating on the chemical aspect of the problem, and especially is seeking to discover whether the natural wool grease provides the blowfly food.

COMMITTEE'S REPORT OUT SOON

[Much research, both by scientists and laymen, has been undertaken in Australia on the blowfly problem, which involves a loss of £4,000,000 annually to the pastoral industry. The Joint Blowfly Committee of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, and the New South Wales Department of Agriculture, has prepared a report, to be issued soon, dealing with all aspects of the problem, such as biological control, trapping flies, dipping, swabbing, and jetting sheep, and breeding for resistance.]

So far, Australian pastoralists, in an endeavor to find a repellent against blowfly, have used various malodorous preparations, including fish and other oils, without much success.]

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Dr. R. C. Bald, lecturer in English at the Adelaide University, spent Christmas in Melbourne. He will leave on Tuesday for the United States. He expects to be abroad for about 12 months, and will spend most of his time in Shakespearean research in English and American libraries.

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EXHIBITIONS AND BURSARIES

Awards Announced By Minister

The Acting Minister of Education (Mr. McInnes) has awarded Government bursaries to the undermentioned candidates, provided that they have passed the examinations of the Public Examinations Board in the subjects specified as necessary by the Faculty in which they desire to study, and on the production of satisfactory proof of age:—

Archibald Henry Peake Bursary.—Campbell, Alan G. (St. Peter's College), medicine.
Government Bursaries.—De Voeas (Jack) (Prince Alfred College), medicine; Sandford, Alastair W. (St. Peter's College), law; Miller, Ian L. (Adelaide High School), medicine; Arden, Donald S. (St. Peter's College), arts; Mills, John B. (St. Peter's College), science; Blaskett, Donald E. (Adelaide High School), engineering; Jansow, Eric H. M. (Adelaide High School), arts; Dibden, William A. (Prince Alfred College), medicine; Shortridge, Dennis T. (Adelaide High School), science; Kelly, John E. (Christian Brothers' College), law; Cherry, Edward P. (St. Peter's College), science.

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ADELAIDE DOCTOR'S PROGRESS

Successful Student And Lecturer

Writing from Sydney to a friend, Sir William Sowden, who will return to Adelaide from a world tour on Thursday gives details of the success in England of a former Adelaide University student, Dr. William D. Walker. He says that there are several young South Australian students in England who are advancing well in their University and medical work. A notable medical man is Dr. Walker, whom he met when he opened the annual exhibition of the Royal Photographic Society in London.

Dr. Walker has been elected F.R.G.S., F.Z.S., F.R.P.S., and F.R.A.I., says Sir William Sowden. As a sideline he has developed great skill as a photographer. He gives numerous lectures, and provides his own illustrations for his lectures, pamphlets and other publications on Australia and Australian conditions.

He has had about 50 photographs hung at international exhibitions of the Royal Photographic Society. In 1931 he was awarded the society's medal for a series illustrating "The Life History of the Kangaroo." It was the first time the award had been made to an Australian.

His lectures furnish evidence of his versatility. He has lectured at the Imperial Institute on "Glimpses of Australia and its Wild Life," and "The Romance of the Wool Industry in Australia," at the Anthropological Society of University College, and the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, on "Anthropological Observations in Central and North Australia," at the Royal Photographic Society on "Some Experiences in the Australian Interior," and at the Zoological Society of London on "The Life History of the Kangaroo." When Sir William Sowden left England Dr. Walker had been engaged to give an address at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine on "The Australian Aerial Medical Services."

Sir William Sowden's letter adds that Dr. Walker has done post-graduate work at King's College and University College, London, and at Middlesex, St. Mary's, University College, and St. Bartholomew's hospitals. Recently he held a resident surgical appointment for nine months at the Royal Northern Hospital, London.

Adv. 9-1-33

RESEARCH WORK AMONG BLACKS

Sydney University Party At Alice Springs

ALICE SPRINGS, January 8. The expedition of seven Sydney University physiologists, under the leadership of Dr. H. Whitridge Davies, which intends to conduct research work among the natives of Central Australia, arrived at Alice Springs on Saturday, and will proceed almost immediately to the Finke River Mission.

The scientists, all of whom are strangers to the interior, have spent the first day at Alice Springs photographing camels and the picturesque MacDonnell Ranges, and in the afternoon, after a swimming party at Simpson's Gap, they wandered in the hills in bathing suits in pursuit of lizards and other specimens of biological research.

As soon as it is possible to unload the two tons of scientific apparatus from the train, and arrange for its transmission to Hermannsburg, the party will leave for the Finke, in company with the Rev. F. Albrecht, superintendent of the mission, who has made a special journey of 20 miles to Alice Springs to welcome the party.

Mail #17-12-32

S.A. SURGEON HAILED IN LONDON

Brilliant Brain Operation

SIGHT RESTORED

("Mail" Special Representative)

LONDON, Saturday.

A remarkable brain operation which restored the sight of a patient has been performed by Dr. H. W. B. Cairns, a former Adelaide Rhodes scholar.

Dr. Cairns is now a staff surgeon at the London Hospital.

In the operation he employed a new technique, revealing a marvellous progress in brain surgery.

The patient, a schoolteacher, was suffering from a pituitary tumor. Before the discovery of the new technique an operation would probably have proved fatal, because of the difficulty in preventing hemorrhage, but the new method enabled the diathermic current gradually to break through the brain cells, healing them again as it passed to the tumor.

This part of the operation occupied several hours, because of the inaccessibility of the tumor. The whole operation lasted a day, and necessitated the presence of an eye specialist and four doctors.

It is anticipated that the perfection of the technique will save many lives.

"It is a very successful application of Prof. Cushing's discovery," said Dr. L. C. E. Lindon, of North Adelaide, tonight. Dr. Lindon, who is also a former Adelaide Rhodes Scholar, was at the Adelaide University with Dr. Cairns, and was stationed at London Hospital with his friend until two years ago.

In 1927 Dr. Cairns spent a year with Prof. Cushing, of Boston, who is regarded as the world's greatest authority on surgery of the brain. Since his return to London Dr. Cairns has made a name for himself in this work.

"The method Dr. Cairns used is evidently that which Prof. Cushing originated," said Dr. Lindon. "Simply, it is a method of cutting the tissues by an electric current instead of with a knife, so that they do not bleed much. This operation is one in which hemorrhage used to be the great obstacle to success. A tumor in this situation generally results in blindness unless it is successfully treated."

"Some of Prof. Cushing's patients have been practically blind, but have recovered a certain amount of their sight. The tumor presses on vital nerves, but the removal of the tumor allows the nerves to recover. The operation on the schoolteacher must have been a grave one, and its success is evidence of Dr. Cairns' undoubted ability."

Dr. Cairns was a pupil at the Adelaide High School before going to the University, and was awarded the Rhodes scholarship in 1918 when he was still at the war. Dr. Lindon was the Rhodes Scholar for 1919.]