

NEW CHIEF ENGINEER FOR HARBORS BOARD

Mr. H. C. Meyer Appointed

Mr. H. C. Meyer, Assistant Engineer of the Harbors Board, was appointed by Executive Council yesterday to the position of Chief Engineer in succession to Mr. H. T. M. Angwin, who is now Deputy Engineer in Charge in the Engineering and Water Supply Department.

Mr. Meyer has had an unusually wide and varied work in the Military Engineering, and has supervised the recent reconstruction of the wharf at Port Adelaide. He was engaged, upon the installation of the coal handling plant at Osborne.

Mr. H. C. Meyer Born at Kent Town in 1894

Born at Kent Town in 1894, Mr. Meyer was educated at public schools and the Adelaide University and the School of Mines, where he took his B.Sc. degree. He joined the Public Service in 1911 as a junior clerk in the Engineer-in-Chief's Department, and transferred to the Harbors Board upon its establishment in 1914. On the outbreak of the war he enlisted, and was in the landing at Gallipoli as a signaller in the 2nd Brigade the signal section. He served with the unit until 1917, when he was wounded at Passchendaele and invalided home. He resumed his duties with the Harbors Board, but in 1920 went to New Guinea in the survey section of the naval and military expeditionary force. During a period of field work he accepted a two years' engagement with the Civil Administration of New Guinea, and was engineer-in-charge for the whole of the island, from Rabaul and Madang.

When he returned to Adelaide he was assigned to the Harbors Board, in which he has remained since. He received the mariner's certificate at Toroni, and Roy Gilmore Ellis, formerly of Adelaide, and now associate professor at the University of Toronto, to Miss Gertrude Ellis, daughter of Dr. Ellis, who is a son of Mr. Howard Ellis, of the staff of the Royal Agricultural Society, is a graduate of the University of Toronto. University, and receiving an appointment on the staff there.

Organ Recital By John Horner

By H. Brewer-Tonia

It was interesting to note that John Horner, in his opening number at his final midday organ recital in the Elder Street Cathedral, had for his theme the prevailing habit of playing Bach at an excessive tempo. Accordingly, a clean performance of the "Toccata" was the result. The Adagio, almost pastoral in quality, gave the organist excellent scope for contrasting the more rapid and the slower movements, which he swayed himself of most effectively. This movement has a spacious lay-out. A grand recital of the chorale, the most suggesting an extemporisation, leads into the Fugue, which was played with a fine, airy, and light touch, and was neither over-emphasised in the matter of subject-entry, or lacking in tonal variety.

The overture to that delightful opera, "Hansel and Gretel" (Rumperdick) needs skilful use of the "orchestral" resources of the organ; and in it John Horner, by his ingenious, sensitive, and subtle dynamic shading, gave a colorful and expressive exhibition of organ resources.

Wolsteinholme, the blind organist-composer, provided a happily conceived morsel, with no more distinctive title than that of "Allegretto," which was played with an airy, and light touch. Sarabande from "Partita in E," a modern version of a seventeenth century dance form, is an interesting example of legitimate organ-writing for the instrument of today. A grand recital of chorale, in its harmonies lend a poignant quality to this somewhat stately form. In such a composition the organ definitely ceases to be a mere accompaniment, and its musical expression; and under the expert hands of the recital-giver this performance was particularly expressive.

After a short novelty, "L'oiseau des Bois" (Doppler), in which Constantine Delibes and liquid flute passages of a world nature, the organist accompanied the organ, the "Pledge of Resistance" choral improvisation.

The Gates of Hell, which uses the whole vast powers of the full organ in its "chorale" sections, and otherwise makes the most of the organ's accompaniment, was brilliantly played.

In the 10 recitals presented on this season, a wide range of organ music has been traversed, including modern German, Russian, and English examples. These have been included among the classics. Given each Thursday the organist, who has served as a welcome weekly diversion to musically inclined business folk; they have had both an educational and an excellent purpose.

Adm 17-8-35 HOSPITAL SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS

Resident Staff Only Three-quarters of Minimum Need

NO STUDENTS AVAILABLE TO HELP THIS YEAR

Now reduced to 12 house surgeons, four less than the minimum need of 16, and with the Adelaide University refusing to make advanced students available on the lines of the emergency measures last year, the Adelaide Hospital authorities are again facing a perplexing situation, which is under consideration by the Government.

Within the next few months no resignations have been received—that of Dr. Jens, who is going to the Prince Henry Hotel, Melbourne, and Dr. Stewart, a young New Zealand woman doctor, who is going to England. Another doctor has also been negotiating for a position in the country at a salary of £600 a year. Altogether, there have been about half a dozen resignations since the beginning of the year.

Towards the end of last year, when the number of qualified house surgeons was generally reduced to about six through departure to other hospitals, hospitals offering higher salaries and also into private practice, advanced the resignation of Dr. Stewart, who was assisted at the hospital. However, the University authorities have made a reputation of this arrangement as it causes the students to miss the requisite number of lectures. These advanced students could only be obtained by the hospital authorities under the direction of the qualified men as they could not be assigned special responsibilities, such as the administration of anaesthetics and casualty admission.

"Patchwork Arrangement"

It was authoritatively stated yesterday that the schedules for house surgeons working in connection with the dozen or more different groups of honorary doctors attending at four medical clinics, four surgical, two gynaecological, the tubercular, and the eye and ear clinic, and on assignments for casualty admission and the medical clinics, the minimum of 16 house surgeons essential to the satisfactory working of the hospital, is its total of about 580 bed patients. When the number was 40, a patchwork arrangement of duties, entailing overwork, had to be adopted, and it was stated that this was unfair to the patients and to the young doctors, who, deprived of sufficient time to study the cases on which they assisted, the honours were unable to derive the full benefit from their hospital experience.

Remembering that it was generally felt in the Adelaide medical circles that the public hospital system needed revision to meet altered conditions, a leading medical clinic, the Adelaide Hospital, fifteen to 20 years ago about 80 per cent. of the people were able to pay for private medical and hospital treatment, and the remainder applied for free treatment. Through the depression of the last few years this percentage has reversed, say, 60 per cent. now requiring treatment at the public hospital, and about 40 per cent. only paying for private treatment. The number of accommodation at Adelaide's three main public hospitals is about 800—more than that of all the private hospitals put together—of which 140 are at the Children's, and about 30 at the Queen's, Home.

After having worked for several years with overcrowded conditions, and with the heavy demands, the Adelaide Hospital has recently been provided with the necessary extensions, but it appears that even more will be needed.

"Need For Restoring Balance"

"It is obvious, therefore," the doctor continued, "that the need is for some restoration of balance—between the light of doctors in private practice on the one hand, and the shortage of house surgeons at the Adelaide Hospital on the other. The situation is not confined to South Australia, but it is perhaps also the factor that fewer parents have been able to afford medical education in recent years. For some years now there has been a shortage of from 30 to 60 house surgeons annually throughout the Commonwealth, there are only three medical schools (Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney), the Perth, Brisbane, and Hobart hospitals, and various country hospitals, and a very small number of poplar-like game of competitive bidding for the services of young doctors. In the past, the bulk of the house surgeons, especially to Western Australia. It is evident, also, that because of the economic situation, young doctors, whose parents are unable to afford, are expending more than £1,000 on their education, are anxious to earn a reasonable income as soon as possible.

"Possible solutions of the shortage of house surgeons would be,—importing of young doctors from England, as was done in the past, or the adoption of a year, or competitive bidding against other Australian hospitals. The cost of return fares (about £100) from England would be equivalent to paying double salary for first year local house surgeons. Again, some of those imported would probably be unable to remain, intensifying the competition in private practice here.

Confining the problem to South Australia, the children of the Adelaide University is producing about 15 newly qualified doctors a year, a number which is insufficient for the Adelaide Hospital, even if they all wished to serve there.

Present salaries at the Adelaide Hospital are £100 a year for the first year, £100, second year £200; three registrars, £240 a year; two casualty medical officers (new positions not yet filled) £220 a year. If higher salaries were offered for a second or even a third year's service at the hospital, we could probably retain a proportion each year sufficient to assure adequate staffing; and, in addition, this move would help to raise the standard. The present salaries of house surgeons are practically stationary, and the State could not satisfactorily absorb as many as 15 young doctors a year in private practice.

"In England a great number of scholarships and endowments are available to provide young doctors with incomes of from £400 or so while they continue obtaining experience in the big hospitals."

VIENNA BECOMING DEAD CITY

Professor C. S. Hicks On Its Decay

PERTH, August 16. A sad picture of Vienna was painted in an interview at Fremantle today by Professor C. Stanton Hicks, who is lecturing in the departments of Zoology and Pharmacology at the Adelaide University, and who is travelling from Europe to Adelaide as assistant surgeon in the Royal Australian Army returning to Adelaide after a period abroad on working leave, part of which he spent in Vienna as a clinical research student in the first medical clinic there.

In the last few years, he said, the socio-political changes which had taken place in Austria were very striking. Vienna, particularly, was definitely poorer, and the progress of the death of the city was being slow. "We are slowly becoming a provincial town," he had been told by a colleague, "and the city must inevitably become less important in the world of medicine."

Professor Hicks added that he felt that it was very true. The streets of Austrian towns were seldom empty of men in uniform, and their discipline was very striking. Even the German prototypes. Even the standing army of Austria, which he saw in full parade, looked unconvinced and unconvincing. There was a general air of cheerlessness and decay among nearly all classes. In Germany the people were more hopeful.

Medical School Jubilee Publication

The Registrar of the University of Adelaide (Mr. F. W. Eardley) announces that in connection with the medical school jubilee celebrations to be held at the University on August 30 and 31, a special publication has been prepared, and would shortly be available. This publication will include portraits of early professors in the medical school, the first medical graduates, and a photograph of the present staff and present students. It will also contain a directory note to each of the medical sections of the school as giving the history of the developments in recent times.

At the celebration there will be an exhibition of cinema films shown at intervals during the four sessions and a collection of five portrait paintings of early Adelaide University personalities. Professors A. Watson, W. H. Bragg, Sir E. C. Stirling, Sir Joseph L. Verco, and the late Professor Elderling to whose bequest the medical school was founded, and after the death of the Chair of Anatomy was named.

50 YEARS OF MEDICAL PROGRESS

History of University School

JUBILEE THIS MONTH

By A Lecturer In The Medical School.

The Jubilee of the Medical School of the University of Adelaide, which will be celebrated on August 30 and 31, by a conversation and exhibition at the University during the month of August, is an opportunity to illustrate the progress of medicine during the past 50 years, affords us the opportunity to have a brief resume of the history of the school.

Though at the origin of the University it was contemplated that a school of medicine would be founded and that the original plans for the organising of the teaching a chair had been set apart for anatomy, physiology, and medicine, medicine, notwithstanding, was eventually united with Sir Edward Stirling, who had recently returned from England, became a member of the council, and moved that lecturing in physiology should be founded. This the council readily did, and Edward Stirling was given the position which would have been given to having held a similar post at St. George's Hospital, London.

This class of existence for two years, when the need for a medical school became more urgent, and the Council of the University decided that the first two years were necessary to appoint a professor of anatomy, a professor of chemistry, and extend the school to include physiology and biology was already provided for by the chair of Professor Ralph Tate, who at that time was professor of natural history, but who, having been recently died, held the chair of physics.

Professor Of Anatomy Appointed

Edward Stirling went to England to equip his department, and was asked by the first two year students to set up a committee in London for the appointment of a professor of anatomy. Their choice fell upon Archibald Watson, and the first two year students were to appoint a professor of anatomy, a professor of chemistry, and extend the school to include physiology and biology was already provided for by the chair of Professor Ralph Tate, who at that time was professor of natural history, but who, having been recently died, held the chair of physics.

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Horace Lamb resigned his chair of physics, and he was succeeded by a young man of 23, William Bragg, whose subsequent career has been one of the most distinguished in the world of physics. It was fortunate for the school that the first two year students were to appoint a professor of anatomy, a professor of chemistry, and extend the school to include physiology and biology was already provided for by the chair of Professor Ralph Tate, who at that time was professor of natural history, but who, having been recently died, held the chair of physics.

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