

SUPPORT FOR UNIVERSITIES

Australia Has Wrong Basis

PROGRESS NEED

NEED for Australian people to be better informed of the great contrast between the appreciation of, and expenditure on, universities in Australia and America and Great Britain was emphasised by the new vice-chancellor of the University of Melbourne (Dr. Priestley) at the recent "chancellors' conference" in Melbourne. The vice-chancellor of the University of Adelaide, Sir William Mitchell, who returned in the express today after having attended the annual conference, said that Dr. Priestley had spoken very strongly on the comparative lack of support for Australian universities. "My own opinion," said Sir William, "is that we in Australia are not to compare our standards with what they were 20 years ago, instead of comparing them with what is happening in universities in other parts of the world. "It would be just as well to compare the progress that has been made in aviation in the same way."

SERVICE APPOINTMENT

The conference further considered machinery by which 10 per cent of appointments to the Federal Public Service is allotted to university graduates. This law has been in operation for two years, but one weakness is that the appointments are not made to definite posts in definite departments.

Candidates are chosen on somewhat similar lines to Rhodes scholars, but the uncertainty of their post defers some from entering the service.

The present arrangement is that a small committee of university men with authority to the Federal Public Service Commissioner place the candidates in order of merit, and the Federal Commissioner and vice-chancellors meet in Melbourne to make the final selection. An imperial conference will be held in London in July, at which the vice-chancellors of Melbourne and Sydney will probably be present. Agenda items were considered by the recent conference.

It was decided to seek from the Oxford and London Universities similar treatment regarding Australian qualifications, as is given by Cambridge University.

MEDICAL EXHIBITS FOR JUBILEE

At the end of next week the jubilee celebrations of the School of Medicine of the Adelaide University will begin with an exhibition at the University to show the progress made in medicine and surgery in 40 years.

A program containing a full list of the exhibits and a short historical sketch of each section will be made available to the public. A series of exhibits will be explained by lantern slides and films. Distinguished members of the medical profession in Great Britain and Australia will attend the celebrations.

Because of the conference of the Medical Association in Melbourne there will be an interval in the celebrations in Adelaide until September 14.

HOSPITAL STAFF DIFFICULTIES

Endeavors to Get Student Aid

ADELAIDE Hospital and University authorities are co-operating in trying to draw up a scheme whereby advanced medical students at the hospital. The minimum resident medical staff of the hospital is 16, but there are only 12 students at present.

Students nearing graduation augmented the resident medical staff of the hospital last year when it was seriously depleted, but difficulties have so far prevented a repetition of this arrangement. Under the present form of the curriculum of the university it is considered that students' attendances at lectures would meet with interference if they were performing hospital work.

Means of overcoming this difficulty are now being discussed. If a satisfactory scheme is formulated, it would not follow that student aid would be available as there is no obligation for students to enter the hospital. But it is felt that such a scheme of practical experience would obviate this. The medical superintendent of the hospital said today that even if students were not available, the services of the hospital would not suffer in any way.

SALARY QUESTION

Commenting on the statement of Mr. Robinson (Ind., Wooroola) in the Assembly yesterday that the remuneration should be given to the resident young doctors, a medical authority said today that this would not overcome the shortage of available medical men were not available in sufficient numbers in Australia.

There was a similar difficulty in the United Kingdom, English medical journals now carried more advertising, inviting applications for resident medical posts.

He did not consider patients in the Adelaide Hospital had been affected at all by the difficulties of building and maintaining an adequate resident staff. The honorary staff had helped considerably, and the residents had been obliged to work long hours.

While Mr. Robinson contended that the young doctors were bound up with routine, and so missed essential experience, the authority pointed out that, when the hospital was understaffed, the residents had opportunities in several directions of gaining experience that otherwise would have been available with a full staff.

It did not necessarily follow because a hospital was fully staffed that resident medical officers would gain more experience. This was decided by the senior surgeons, who might not always be so ready to operations other than by experienced men. The Children's Hospital has a full medical staff.

CHAOTIC CONDITIONS IN EUROPE

Hitler And Nazis Essential To Peace

"Whatever people's private opinions on dictators are, it is to be hoped that nothing occurs to wreck Hitler's influence before the German house is laid in ruins," said Professor Hicks, of the Adelaide University, who returned this week from Europe, where he was engaged in clinical and pharmacological research. The continuance in power of Hitler and the Nazis, he said, depended upon the ability to maintain his influence and discipline now in operation in Germany. If Hitler were to go, something terrible would happen to Europe. The only way to maintain his influence was to feed the people with enthusiasm. Professor Hicks said that to live in Central Europe today with a foreigner is to have an acquaintance of long standing was a remarkable experience. Many newspapers devoted most of their space to anti-Nazi and anti-Semitic propaganda. A Viennese Jewish newspaper had produced the startling news that France had mobilised, that Germany was massing enormous bodies of troops in the Rhineland, that England had protested, and that Sir John Simon, sitting with him, the Cabinet, had fallen.

Influence of Hitler

In Germany, however, there was nothing suggestive of the cause for the external press attacks. The explanation for personal injustice, and it seemed to him that the remarkable psychological change which was obvious in Germany, was due to the influence of Hitler. They could have something infinitely worse in Europe should Hitler's influence be wrecked. Anti-Nazi feeling in Germany, where it existed among educated people, had reasons other than might be expected. For instance, it was found on an ancient Bavarian grudge against Prussia.

In an endeavor to retain oil in Germany and preserve the national economy, the Government of Hitler had been resorted to, and many of the exporters bartered their goods for vital requirements. In one instance a steamer was bartered for a large quantity of oil, in another pigs were exchanged for Lancashire yarn, and German, Swiss and Austrian had given locomotives to another country in exchange for tobacco.

Interest In Australian Aborigines

Referring to the scientific side of his visit, Professor Hicks said that the new Government of the University of Adelaide had been doing among the aborigines had created much interest both in England and in Germany. It would appear that information had been gained about the control of heat production and heat loss in the human subject which could not have been secured except by the experiments made with the much neglected aborigines. It was pointed out that with the result of the experiments made on a people who wore no clothes, and yet were exposed to remarkable variations in temperature with no ill effect.

Vice-Chancellors Discuss University Problem

The Vice-Chancellor of the Adelaide University, Sir William Mitchell, returned from Melbourne by the express yesterday after having attended the annual conference of Vice-Chancellors of Australian Universities.

Sir William Mitchell said that the conference had dealt with standards whereby students moving from one university to another could have their status determined. The Empire Universities' Conference would be held in London, and topics from Australian universities to be discussed there were considered by the conference. The problem of issuing financial aid and other matters on a common scheme was carried further, and would be completed in November, after it had been discussed by the registrars of the University of London.

Discussion took place on the necessity for acquainting Australia how far it had gone in the American and Great Britain in the support of its universities, added Sir William Mitchell. It was felt that in Australia there was a feeling of inferiority, but that what it had been and not with the advance made elsewhere. For many years no university college in Great Britain was allowed to call itself a university or grant degrees unless it could be shown that its income was not less than £100,000. Melbourne and Sydney had been able to show this amount since the war. Adelaide had done so for several years on account of the War Relocation Institute, but today it was falling behind.

STUDENT DOCTORS AT ADELAIDE HOSPITAL

Acting Premier Explains Misunderstanding

The Acting Premier (Sir George Ritchie) said yesterday that a slight misunderstanding had occurred in connection with the appointment of student doctors at the Adelaide Hospital, in that he had mentioned that he understood with the help of senior medical staff that the hospital authorities were endeavoring to overcome the shortage of students acting as house surgeons at the Adelaide Hospital, the work will go on a very satisfactory way, and with sufficient students available to obviate the question of overtime work, which undoubtedly should not be undertaken.

At a meeting of the Medical Board yesterday, the following were registered as legally qualified medical practitioners: Thomas Kilgus, James Allen, M.B.S., Meib., 1924; John B. Oversted, L.R.C.P.; Edna L.R.C.S., Edin., L.R.P.P. and S. Glas, 1927; John McLaughlin, F.R.C.S., Edin., 1934, was added to the name of Christopher Barot Sangster.

TOLERANCE OF SAND DRIFT

Action By Council 1935

Scientific Research PASTURE DIFFICULTIES

Coast Disease In Sheep

When the full Council for Scientific and Industrial Research met at the University of Adelaide for the first time yesterday, Sir George Julius presided, and a number of reports on matters of great interest to all the Australian States and several other countries were submitted. The council will sit again today.

The Council has included in its draft budget for 1935-36, £500 to investigate the problem of sand drift, at the request of the Federal Government, the Council considered whether any action could be taken to combat the drift of soil in the arid and semi-arid parts of Australia. Various methods of different States, who had been consulted, agreed generally that soil drift was due to a combination of factors, particularly the destruction of pasture by rabbits, overstocking and drought. They also agreed that the matter was one which, in recent years, had reached alarming proportions. In some instances, the drift of country had already been abandoned owing to soil drift; in others, there had been a very marked decrease in stocking capacity and production, particularly the case in the north-eastern parts of South Australia, where hundreds of thousands of country, which formerly carried sheep and cattle, had been abandoned and pastures destroyed. Drought and rabbits prevented any regeneration. It was possible to exclude herbivorous animals from the area, and to sow dormant seeds night, with propitious seasons, vegetate, reclothe the country and control the drift. Before any complete reversion to the original pasture might be overcome, and by the institution of a system of soil conservation, regeneration might be possible. Mr. F. N. Ratcliffe is in South Australia investigating the problem.

Grasshopper Plague

In a report submitted to the Council, it was stated that the Australian Council of Agriculture had adopted a resolution requesting the C.S.I.R. to undertake investigations into the habits and ecology of the grasshopper, and also decided to recommend that £1,000 a year for five years should be allocated to the work, in addition to a capital outlay of £500.

Mr. A. L. Tonnoir, senior entomologist on the staff of the C.S.I.R., recently led a visit abroad, and has obtained the most recent information regarding steps for combating the grasshopper plague in Egypt, Algeria, and other nations in the course of 1931 an International Commission was established to co-ordinate research in the field. It had its headquarters in London, and its secretary, Mr. Tonnoir, would be able to obtain valuable information from that source.

Weed Pests

It was reported that the Council's investigations into weed problems were continuing, and that the following control measures, namely, the introduction and distribution in insect pests which are the cause of the weeds, and the report of 1931 an International Commission was established to co-ordinate research in the field. It had its headquarters in London, and its secretary, Mr. Tonnoir, would be able to obtain valuable information from that source.