

Adv 37725

ATTACK ON HOSPITAL POLICY BY M.P.

Mr. Lacey And Solution ADEQUATE PAY

WHILE the Acting Premier (Sir George Ritchie) was replying to a fire of questions about the alleged inadequate treatment of patients and adverse working conditions in the Adelaide Hospital in the Legislative Council this afternoon, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lacey) launched a strong attack in the Assembly on the Government's handling of the problem.

In attacking the Government in the Assembly for its apathy towards the hospital staff, Mr. Lacey pointed out that the adjournment of the House was sought only on urgent matters. Nothing could be more urgent than the state of health of the people.

"In spite of the reassuring nature of Government replies to the questions of

Sir George Ritchie's reply on Page 5.

the Opposition, he said a serious state of affairs has existed in the hospital for 1933. A year ago almost the same replies were given to questions about conditions in the hospital as were given a week ago. If the Government policy was sound, there was no effective then it would not be effective now.

"In spite of Government promises, conditions are worse than when Mr. Lacey. "If the present answer be final and no solution is forthcoming, unnecessary pain and suffering must continue.

WERE INCREASES RECOMMENDED?

"The solution is adequate payment of the resident medical staff. Salaries must be sufficient to prevent other States getting the men trained here.

"I definitely ask the Ministry—is it a fact that the Adelaide Hospital Board recommended increases in salaries to the house surgeons first 18 months ago, and again eight months ago?"

"If this be so, will the Government say who rejected these recommendations?"

"The recommendation is understood to have been for salaries of £150 a year with bonuses of £50 at the end of a year's service. It cannot be too strongly emphasized that this coincides with the view of the dean of the faculty of medicine.

"The Government must consider the posts more attractive. The bonus of £50 to the present doctors at the hospital is only a stop-gap. I am not surprised that they have considered rejecting it as not being a permanent solution.

HISTORY OF PROBLEM

"A leading medical authority told me that the Government had grossly mismanaged the problem of understaffing since its inception.

"In 1933, when there was first a shortage of graduates and the resident medical staff was working considerable overtime, the remaining doctors asked, not unreasonably, that the services of the departed doctors, whose work they were doing, should be divided between them. They were met with what, in the circumstances, was an unnecessarily curt refusal.

"This gave the doctors a grievance which they passed on to the students who were working with them, and the result was the house surgeons of 1934. Because of short staff in 1934 the doctors found that they were missing opportunities for study and their health was suffering, but they got no help from Government action.

"At the end of 1934 a clumsy attempt was made to solve the medical staff problem this year. The Government just before the present staff's final examinations, practically demanded that the young men should go to other hospitals where they would give their services to the hospital for a year."

Adv 9135

FEES FOR PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

4 SEP. 1935
Award Regulations Revised

The announcement was made at the Adelaide University yesterday that following a special meeting of the University of Adelaide Senate, the fees for the intermediate and leaving public examinations and certain regulations, had been revised.

The new fees will operate immediately, and for the forthcoming examinations in November they will be as follows:

Intermediate, intermediate (commercial), and intermediate (technical) examinations—£1 for five subjects, and £/ for each additional subject up to a total of £1 10/. No candidate shall enter for more than eight subjects in any one year. Candidates entering for five or six subjects will pay 7/6 for each, but not more than a total fee of £1.

Leaving and leaving (commercial) examinations—£1 10/ for four subjects and 5/ for each additional subject to a total fee of £2 5/, provided that if the candidate enters for more than seven subjects there shall be an additional fee of 1/6 for each subject exceeding seven. Candidates entering for fewer than four subjects will pay 7/6 for each subject.

Under the revised regulations governing the award of the intermediate and leaving certificates, candidates who are admitted must pass in three subjects from arithmetic, geography, bookkeeping and shorthand, and two additional subjects to qualify for the intermediate (commercial) certificate. Under the old regulations a candidate was required to pass in arithmetic, in two subjects from geography, bookkeeping and shorthand, and in two additional subjects.

To obtain the leaving (commercial) certificate, a candidate under the revised regulations must pass in four subjects, including arithmetic in two subjects, and one subject from economic history, economics, geography, bookkeeping and shorthand, but a candidate who has passed the corresponding subject at the intermediate examination

Under the old regulation, to obtain the leaving (commercial) certificate a candidate was required to pass in bookkeeping, in two subjects from economic history, economics, geography, and bookkeeping, and in one additional subject from arithmetic, but arithmetic must have been passed in one subject not already read in intermediate arithmetic.

No alteration was made in the process of awarding the qualification in the English literature.

Adv 4935

LISTER PRIZE AWARDED TO MR. JOHN RAY

4 SEP. 1935
Proficiency in Medical Investigation

The examiners in the faculty of medicine at the University of Adelaide yesterday recommended that the Lister Prize for 1935 should be awarded to Mr. John Ray, and that Miss Day and Roslyn Ambrose be awarded proxime accessit. Mr. Ray, who is the only son of Dr. and Mrs. William R a y, Portrush, was a fifth year medical student. In his third year he passed with a first class in the Lister Prize.

Mr. John Ray was also done well at St. Peter's College. He was captain of the school eleven. Since entering the University he has been a member of the cricket and basketball teams. He has represented the State at baseball, and on several occasions has played both inter-University cricket and basketball.

The Lister Prize has been provided by an anonymous donor in memory of the late Lord Lister, and is awarded to the medical undergraduate who is awarded the termination of his office of surgical dresser for six months, is deemed after examination to be the most proficient in the investigation of cases in the surgical wards of the Adelaide Hospital in the knowledge of practical surgery. Last year Mr. John Ray, the Barr Smith scholarship awarded by St. Andrew's College, Mitcham.

Naval Examination.—Examinations for entrance to the Royal Australian Naval College, Flinders Base, Victoria, were begun at the University of Adelaide yesterday. The candidates are 29 students, mostly from the boys' public schools. Mr. W. Ham is conducting the examination.

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CARE OF PATIENTS AT ADELAIDE HOSPITAL

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Opposition Leader Moves Adjournment of Assembly ASSURANCES OF MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT

Further assurances by the medical superintendent of the Adelaide Hospital (Dr. Sleeman) regarding the care of patients at the hospital were read by the Attorney-General (Mr. Jeffries) in the Assembly yesterday, when the adjournment of the House was moved by the leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lacey). The Attorney-General said that Dr. Sleeman's letter, dated Monday, stated that no treatment necessary for the relief of any urgent symptoms had been deferred, and no patient could truthfully say that he had been neglected.

The matter was also raised by questions in the Legislative Council, when the Acting Premier (Sir George Ritchie) informed members of steps being taken by the Government to relieve the hospital.

Mr. Lacey said a shortage had existed practically since 1933, and he wondered how much pain had been suffered unnecessarily during that period.

Mr. Anthony (L.C.)—This is only a stick to beat the Government with, and the hospital is not short of house surgeons at the hospital, Mr. Lacey said he thought that they had given the matter more attention because it was the only way of getting attention for the patients.

Mr. Crosby (L.C.)—Are you aware that the St. George's Hospital could not confirm the statement about patients not receiving attention?

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