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**ORGAN RECITAL AT ELDER HALL.**

The fourth organ recital of the series of six being given by Mr. John Horner attracted many persons to the Elder Hall during the lunch hour yesterday. Mr. Horner opened with an impressive Fantasia and Toccata in D minor of Stanford, which demonstrated the fine tone and flexibility of the new instrument. Bach's superb chorale, "Jesus, Joy of Man's Desiring," was beautifully played as a duet for organ and piano, Miss Adele Wiebusch being the pianist. The two instruments were again most effectively combined in Chopin's Grand Polonaise Brillante, Op. 22. The two concluding organ numbers were variations on an old Scots air, "Gala Water" (Stuart Archer), and Introduction and Allegro (Sonata), by Gullmant.

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**EARLY SOLUTION NOT LIKELY**

**Hospital Difficulties**

The difficulty in staffing the Adelaide Hospital at full strength is not likely to be solved for some time.

Nineteen medical students at the University sit for their final examinations this year, but of those who graduate, it is unlikely that a sufficient number will go to the Adelaide Hospital to bring the resident staff to its normal strength of 16.

There was but only eight doctors resident at the hospital when the resignations of four of the present staff take effect on October 16.

Apart from the more attractive terms and greater opportunities for experience said to be offered by hospitals elsewhere in Australia, particularly in Perth, there is a shortage of recent medical graduates in Adelaide and throughout the Commonwealth.

**HARDER EXAMINATIONS**

This is attributed to the increase in the length of the medical course from five to six years, harder examinations, and economic conditions which have prevented parents from sending their sons to the universities.

A few years ago new doctors were anxiously seeking hospital posts to gain experience, but metropolitan hospitals generally are now understaffed.

The honorary medical staff of the hospital, who are doctors in private practice in Adelaide, are doing all they can to aid the Government to meet the difficulty, but it is impossible for them to perform the ward work, that is one of the main functions of the resident staff.

The eight remaining residents will have a tremendous amount of work to do after the resignations have taken effect. It is doubtful if they will be able to cope with it all.

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**Community Singing At University.**  
For the first time community singing, arranged by the Adelaide University Union for student members, will be held in the Lady Symon Hall during the lunch hour on Monday. Popular numbers have been chosen, and Mr. John Horner, of the Elder Conservatorium, will be the accompanist.

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**HOUSE SURGEON VACANCIES**

**Doctors Not Likely To Come From Other States**

Following the resignation of four house surgeons from the Adelaide Hospital, and the resultant shortage of doctors at that institution, the Chief Secretary (Mr. Ritchie) stated in Parliament on Wednesday that efforts were being made to secure men from other States. Enquiries made by correspondents of "The Advertiser" in the other States reveal a little likelihood of the vacancies being filled from outside Adelaide.

There is no surplus of first year men offering in Melbourne, where the demands of public hospitals are only just being met. First year house surgeons in Victoria receive about £100 a year.

Official information from Sydney indicates that there is no dearth of doctors in the hospitals of New South Wales. They are all certificated men, and no medical students are waiting to be accepted out that the denec. It was pointed out that the salaries were on a uniform basis, but varied at the different institutions.

Some hospital medical officers in the Brisbane Government receive £200 for the first year, and £250 for the second. They are all University graduates, and waiting further experience and complete a certificate in all departments, including

general, children's, midwifery, and infectious blocks. After 22 months they are eligible for medical registration or may remain at the hospital. At present there is a shortage of three out of the regular 16, and there are no fresh applications, but it is expected to fill the vacancies with graduates by February.

The medical superintendent of the Perth Hospital (Dr. I. Thorburn) said that the hospital had been experiencing a shortage of first year house surgeons for some time. Because there was no medical college in Perth, and the consequent necessity of filling appointments from the eastern States, any shortage was reflected there. It was unlikely, therefore, that there would be much response from Western Australia to the South Australian Government's appeal. The conditions of appointment for first year house surgeons in Perth were similar to those of the eastern States, and the training included medicine, surgery, casualties, gynaecology, and anaesthetics. The salary was £200 a year.

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**BETTER CONDITIONS WANTED**

Sir—I read with profound regret of the resignation from the Adelaide Hospital of four of Adelaide's rising young doctors, and I think that something should be done to retain their services. Considering the question as a whole, is the remuneration offered young doctors in any way adequate to the service expected of them? Recently I spent two months in the Hospital, and from my own observations, I say emphatically it is not. Some people consider a doctor is in practice, he is expected to give his time and learning to the poor. Is this expected of any other profession in the world? I grant that hospitals are in a bad way financially; but why make the mainstay of them (the house surgeons) carry the burden?—I am, Sir, &c.,  
MAY LITTLE, St. Peters.

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**HOSPITAL SURGEONS "ENTITLED TO SOMETHING ABOVE BASIC WAGE"**

To the Editor

Sir—According to Mr. Ritchie's remarks in the Legislative Council on Wednesday reported in "The Advertiser" it would appear that the resignation of house surgeons at the Adelaide Hospital came as a surprise to him, and in defending his position as Minister of control of that institution, he endeavors to attribute these resignations to results of other long hours and poor remuneration. The medical course in this State is now six years. It was formerly five. At the end of that period, if the student succeeds in qualifying, he should be entitled to at least something above the basic wage. The Minister mentions that at one time these positions were filled in an honorary way, and many of us remember that members of Parliament gave their services under similar conditions; but it must be considered that these house surgeons have already spent six or more years not only without pay, but at great expense in high University fees and living costs in acquiring the necessary qualifications to fit themselves for these positions; and being declared competent by the existing professors in medicine and surgery at the Adelaide University, they are at least entitled to a salary equal to that of a member of Parliament, whose qualifications cost nothing.

Few people are aware that the superintendent of the Adelaide Hospital, who is obliged to be available at any hour day and night, receives a salary of about half that enjoyed by a Cabinet Minister.

The trouble which has arisen has been long in the making, and I am sure the house surgeons will not be without public sympathy in their application for improved conditions. Their loyalty and devotion to duty have never been questioned by the patients. As an instance of a patient who attributed her recovery entirely to the unremitting attention received from these young house surgeons. This woman was in very poor way when I met and said she only hoped she could some day show in some way her gratitude for the wonderful and apparently special attention she received. Such instances as this—and there are many—stand out in refutation of the implication that these young doctors have availed themselves of a time when pressure of work and sickness of staff provided a favorable opportunity to ask for bet-

ter conditions. "They do not seem to realize that they owe something to the State." Mr. Ritchie did not explain what these house surgeons owed. If the sum of \$4,000 a year is provided for all courses at the University, it is a small sum when we consider the conditions of free education which have obtained in this State for many years, and little, if any, of this sum can be allotted to the medical students' training. Their fees are high, and no opportunity to levy charges for extras and examination is allowed to escape. Medical students in W.A. may owe something to their State, where they have no fees to pay. Some other places, such as the Glasgow and Edinburgh Universities, provide the courses of arts, medicine, and engineering free. Those who receive free education may owe something to the State, but medical students in South Australia certainly do not.

The medical profession is a noble one, and patients in the Adelaide Hospital may rest on the knowledge that they will not be neglected by its members, and they will not blame the young surgeons for making an effort to obtain reasonable conditions. It is not fair, however, to expect senior medical men to give an unreasonable part of their time to public hospital work, when in many cases their time is fully occupied by the conditions of the present epidemic, and the necessity could be avoided by the provision of overdue reasonable conditions. The worker is entitled to his hire, and 38/ a week is not enough for men who have spent years in anxious study—day and night—to qualify in their professions and have no time limit to their day's work.—I am, Sir, &c.  
M. A. DWYER, Sturt street, Glenelg.

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**Graduates Working For Caps and Gowns**

THE hunt is on at the Adelaide University—

for undergraduates' caps and gowns. Students who wish to be present when the degree of Doctor of Laws is conferred upon the Duke of Gloucester at the University must equip themselves with correct academic dress—hence the intensive search.

Academic dress for the undergraduate, which must be worn on all ceremonial occasions, consists of a black gown and tasselled "trencher" cap.

It is all laid down in the rules of the Adelaide University. Every undergraduate must wear "a plain black stuff gown," reaching almost to the ankles, neatly pleated at the back, and devoid of sleeves. With it goes the trencher cap, or "mortar board"—seldom worn these days, but nevertheless definitely prescribed.

Caps and gowns are often in use for half a century, being handed down from one generation to another. Ragged and generally dilapidated gowns are no uncommon sight at University functions. Moth holes are "honorable scars."

When the undergraduate becomes a bachelor he is elevated to the dignity of a hood, and the color of this indicates the art or science in which he has taken his degree. Though the colors are variegated, every bachelor's gown is edged with a six-inch border of white silk. If he becomes a master all that he has to do is to remove the silk.

The colors of the rainbow will be seen on Friday, as every branch and degree of the University will be represented. Arts will be there in grey, science in yellow, engineering in light brown, music in green, medicine and surgery in rose, laws in blue, and dental surgery in salmon pink.

Here and there will be seen a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, with two rich stoles of gold reaching almost to the ground. Intermingled with the Adelaide graduates will be members of the faculties, from universities in all parts of the world.

Masters have hoods richly lined with silk of the prescribed colors, though of a darker shade than the bachelors. The hood is a relic of the days when monks and doctors of learning went shrouded in their hoods.

Today masters and doctors no longer pull over their heads, but wear them in negligee style, hanging over their backs and neatly folded, with the colored silk interior exposed.

Those who have acquired the degree of doctor in some branch of learning will come out in a gown of scarlet cloth, faced with silk, with black silk hood, also lined with silk of the correct color, but a lighter shade than either bachelors or masters. They do not wear the plain trencher of the undergraduate, but one of rich black velvet, adorned with a magnificent black silk tassel. They pay their tailor anything from 15 to 20 guineas.